

Transit Planning & Operations Committee

Thursday, November 19, 2009

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Transit Planning and Operations (TP&O) Committee was called to order at 4:37 p.m. by Chairperson Sellers in Conference Room B-104, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Dominic Caserta	Vice Chairperson	P
Ash Kalra	Member	P
Dolly Sandoval	Member	P
Greg Sellers	Chairperson	P
Chris Moylan	Alternate Member	NA
Nora Campos	Alternate Member	NA
Chuck Page	Alternate Member	
Bob Livengood	Alternate Member	NA

***Alternates do not serve unless participating as a Member.**

A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

3. ORDERS OF THE DAY

Chairperson Sellers requested the following Agenda Item be moved to the beginning of the Agenda; **Item #10**, Receive Information on the Light Rail System Analysis – Cost Benefit Overview.

The Agenda was taken out of order.

OTHER ITEMS

10. Light Rail Systems Analysis – Cost Benefit Overview

Andrew Ittigson, Senior Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Light Rail System Analysis Cost/Benefit Overview highlighting: 1) Background; 2) Project Context; 3) Public Outreach; 4) Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) forecast model projections regarding light rail growth through 2035; 5) Market Analysis and Transit Competitiveness; 6) Existing light rail networks; and 7) Proposed light rail networks.

Mr. Ittigson reviewed individual light rail components, improvements, and discussed capital costs and ridership projections. Mr. Ittigson commented that the Light Rail Analysis focuses on making the system as efficient and productive as possible given the existing and potential travel market out to the year 2035. He noted the Analysis represents the second phase of the Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) for the transit system.

Mr. Ittigson commented that staff has presented the key project milestones to VTA's Advisory and Standing Committees and staff has met with the affected cities, providing general briefings. Specific concerns from those cities have been addressed.

Members Kalra and Sandoval inquired about the accuracy of forecast models for transit trends. John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer, commented ABAG projections for population and jobs growth drives the light rail growth projections. He clarified the data is combined with the affected cities projected development and general plans before the VTA travel demand model is determined.

Mr. Ittigson discussed proposed route alternatives for the existing Light Rail network, and capital cost estimates. He commented the projects would be built in phases based upon need and funding. Mr. Ittigson noted proposed next steps include comparisons of scenarios and a presentation to the full Board February 2010.

Member Kalra recommended scheduling public outreach meetings for residents in South San Jose.

Member Sandoval inquired about funding for proposed projects. Mr. Ristow replied that a Board approved plan and strategy must be proactively in place so at the time funds are made available criterion has been met. Michael T. Burns commented some of the projects could qualify for Measure A funds.

Member Sandoval recommended staff include engineering costs for the proposed projects when the Board of Directors hears this item at its February 2010 meeting.

On Order of Chairperson Sellers and there being no objection, the report from the Light Rail System Analysis – Cost Benefit Overview was received.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Minutes of September 17, 2009

M/S/C (Caserta/Kalra) to approve the Minutes of September 17, 2009.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Report from the Committee for Transit Accessibility (CTA) Activities

There was no report from the Committee for Transit Accessibility (CTA).

6. Caltrain Safety Improvements – JPB Crossings Contract Award

Mark Robinson, Chief Construction Officer, reviewed the Caltrain Safety Improvements – JPB Crossing Contract Award. He stated Shimmick Transit was the lowest responsible bidder at \$5,833,770.

Mr. Robinson clarified the contract is 100 percent Measure A funded and the improvements will enhance safety at various at-grade crossings along the Caltrain Corridor in Santa Clara County.

M/S/C (Sellers/Sandoval) to authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Shimmick Transit, the lowest bidder, in an amount of \$5,833,770 for the construction of the Caltrain Safety Improvements – JPB Crossings. This contract is 100% measure A funded.

OTHER ITEMS

7. Fiscal Year to Date 2010 First Quarter Transit Operations Performance Report

Joonie Tolosa, Operations Analysis, Reporting and Systems Manager, reported on the continual decline of ridership. He provided the following figures: 1) Bus average weekday ridership declined 8.3 percent; 2) Light Rail average weekday ridership declined 8.5 percent; 3) FY2010 first quarter system average weekday ridership (bus and rail) decreased by 8.1 percent; and 4) Average weekday ridership declined 8.4 percent from the first quarter of last year to the first quarter of this year.

Mr. Tolosa noted key performance indicators continue to demonstrate improvements. Service reliability performance during the first three months of FY2010 was 99.76 percent, higher than last year's 99.69 percent. Bus miles between major mechanical schedule losses recorded an 11 percent improvement compared to the same period in FY2009, and Light Rail miles between major mechanical schedule losses increased by 36.3 percent. Although FY2010 first quarter light rail performance was 89.6 percent, lower than last year's 90.8 percent, bus on-time performance was up primarily due to the decline in ridership.

NOTE: M/S/C MEANS MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED AND, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Paratransit ridership for the first quarter FY2010 has declined by 5.8 percent from the same period last year. Mr. Tolosa noted requests to apply for paratransit eligibility has also declined by 4.4 percent.

On Order of Chairperson Sellers and there being no objection, the Committee received the Fiscal Year to Date 2010 First Quarter Transit Operations Performance Report

8. October 2009 Monthly Ridership and Fare Revenue Performance

Joonie Tolosa, Operations Analysis, Reporting and Systems Manager, reported on the continuous decline of ridership.

He provided the following highlights: 1) Bus average weekday ridership is down 13.4 percent; 2) Light Rail average weekday ridership is down 12.4 percent; 3) System average weekday ridership fiscal year to date is down 13.2 percent; 4) Fare revenues are flat; 5) Average fare per boarding is up 17.5 percent; and 6) Fare increases became effective October 1, 2009.

Mr. Tolosa stated the increasing rate of unemployment and the downturn in the economy has directly impacted ridership.

On Order of Chairperson Sellers and there being no objection, the October 2009 Monthly Ridership and Fare Revenue Performance report was received.

11. Quarterly Marketing Report

Dino Guevarra, Sales and Promotions Supervisor, reviewed the Quarterly Marketing Report and highlighted the following activities: 1) Marketing provided support for three major outreach efforts; 2) VTA participated in six partnerships; and 3) Embarked on two online promotions.

He provided a presentation highlighting the Marketing Department's efforts to provide public outreach to riders notifying them of the October 1, 2009 fare increase implementation. The marketing materials supporting this effort included, carcards, station posters, decals on the doors of bus and rail, and information to our consignees was provided.

Mr. Guevarra commented on the successful outreach efforts provided to riders impacted by the Rock & Roll Half Marathon, as well as riders affected by the weekend light rail closures during rail repairs.

Mr. Guevarra reviewed the marketing campaign to support the Lifeline program funding received by VTA. The campaign promoted VTA services specifically in South County. Mr. Guevarra clarified the campaign focused on reaching Spanish speaking/limited english proficient individuals to increase their awareness of VTA services.

Mr. Guevarra commented that marketing partnerships have been established between VTA and the San Jose Civic Auditorium, Opera San Jose, Walk for Aids, and the American Cancer Society. Member Kalra recommended staff explore the possibilities of utilizing the online websites of Facebook and Twitter to advertise and promote VTA.

On Order of Chairperson Sellers and there being no objection, the October 2009 Monthly Ridership and Fare Revenue Performance report was received.

12. Items of Concern and Referral to Administration

Member Sandoval expressed concern with the impact of the January 2010 service reductions to Paratransit services and the three-quarter mile preclusion requirement.

13. Committee Work Plan

The Committee reviewed the Committee Work Plan.

On Order of Chairperson Sellers and there being no objection, the Committee Work Plan was reviewed.

14. Committee Staff Report

Dan Smith, Chief Operations Officer and Staff Liaison, provided a handout highlighting the following: 1) The Rail Replacement and Rehabilitation Program. The Program assists in maintaining the light rail system at optimum levels. He stated in Downtown San Jose, at Almaden and Market Streets the rail was worn and has been replaced. The removal and replacement of the rails was done on weekends to minimize the impact to riders and traffic in the Downtown area; and 2) Distributed copies of the, "Operations Update – November/December 2009."

On order of Chairperson Sellers and there being no objection, the Committee received the Committee Staff Report.

15. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Sellers thanked staff for their diligence and hard work.

16. Determine Consent Agenda for the December 10, 2009 Board of Directors Meeting

Consent Agenda:

Agenda Item #6, Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Schimmick Transit, the lowest responsible bidder, in an amount of \$5,833,770 for the construction of the Caltrain Safety improvements – JPB Crossings. This contract is 100% Measure A funded.

Agenda Item #9, September 2009 Facilities Semi- Annual Report.

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

18. ADJOURNMENT

On Order of Chairperson Sellers and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline F. Golzio, Board Assistant
Office of the Board Secretary