

Transit Planning & Operations Committee

Thursday, March 18, 2010

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Transit Planning and Operations (TP&O) Committee was called to order at 4:44 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Larsen in Conference Room B-104, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Margaret Abe-Koga	Member	P
Ash Kalra	Chairperson	A
Rich Larsen	Vice Chairperson	P
Sam Liccardo	Member	P
Nora Campos	Alternate Member	A
Jamie Matthews	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

Vice Chairperson Larsen recommended moving Agenda Item #9, Receive the Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Demonstration Program Final Report, before Agenda Item #7, Receive information on the Transit Shelter Advertising Program request for proposals.

M/S/C (Liccardo/Abe-Koga) to approve the Orders of the Day.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Minutes of February 18, 2010.

M/S/C (Liccardo/Abe-Koga) to approve the Minutes of February 18, 2010.

REGULAR AGENDA

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

There was no report from the Committee for Transit Accessibility Activities.

6. El Camino Bus Rapid Transit – Conceptual Engineering Contract Award Authorization

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager, provided background information about the project. He reported on the following: 1) scope elements; 2) criteria used to evaluate the proposals; 3) timeline; 4) design decisions; and 5) connection of the Santa Clara/Alum Rock (SCAR) Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to the El Camino BRT.

Member Liccardo inquired on the difference between the SCAR and El Camino corridors by calendar year 2013. He also inquired about the build up between El Camino and Stevens Creek in relation to BRT.

Mr. Connolly responded the concept plan for the El Camino BRT project includes two options: 1) dedicated BRT lanes; and 2) mixed traffic flow lanes. If dedicated lanes are selected, facilities for the project would not be ready by 2013.

Mr. Connolly stated the El Camino corridor is ahead of the Stevens Creek corridor in planning because of the complexity of the El Camino project. He noted the El Camino corridor involves six cities with different levels of development and Caltrans has ownership on SR82 which is part of the El Camino corridor.

Member Abe-Koga expressed support for the project and is eager to see the positive impacts BRT would bring to the El Camino corridor.

Vice Chairperson Larsen inquired about the thinking behind having two separate contractors.

Mr. Connolly responded the two BRT projects are in different phases of development. He added that awarding the two projects to one contractor would over task the firm's capacity. He noted that having two contractors provided a competitive process for the benefit of the project.

M/S/C (Liccardo/Abe-Koga) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Parsons Transportation Group to complete conceptual engineering for the El Camino Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. The contract shall be for a period up to three years and for a total value not to exceed \$4,850,000.

OTHER ITEMS

The Agenda was taken out of order.

9. Zero Emission Bus Demonstration Program Final Report

Mike Hursh, Deputy Director for Operations, provided a report on Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Demonstration Program highlighting the following: 1) California Air Resources Board (CARB) Requirements for ZEB; 2) Fuel Cell Bus; 3) Fuel and Fueling Facility; and 4) CARB ZEB Demonstration Program II.

Vice Chairperson Larsen inquired on other zero emission initiatives.

Mr. Hursh responded VTA has been working with the Air Resources Board to recognize the transit system as a means to get people out of automobiles. He noted that VTA will also this year purchase hybrid vehicles with engines that are 2010 EPA compliant. He added VTA have numerous sustainability efforts.

Michael T. Burns, General Manager, stated staff continues to look at battery-power as an option for buses and is involved in discussions with the California Transit Association.

On Order of Vice Chairperson Larsen and there being no objection, Zero Emission Bus Demonstration Program Final Report was received.

7. Transit Shelter Advertising Program

Jim Unites, Deputy Director for Operations, provided background information on the program and enumerated features included in the Request for Proposals (RFP).

Member Liccardo expressed concern about the timing of the program in relation to the fiscal crisis the organization is facing. He recommended rejecting the proposals if they will not be beneficial to VTA and divert the funding to help with operations.

Mr. Unites responded the proposals can be rejected if they are not beneficial, the current contract can be extended.

Chairperson Larsen recommended deferring the replacement of shelters or establishing a system that would grade the condition of the shelters with only shelters having a low grade replaced.

Mr. Unites responded the shelters will not be replaced immediately as the process to replace the shelters will take four years to complete. He added staff will explore establishing a grade system for the shelters.

On Order of Vice Chairperson Larsen and there being no objection, the Transit Shelter Advertising Program was received.

8. April 2010 Service Changes

Jim Unites, Deputy Director for Operations, provided background information about the service changes. He also specified the Bus and Light Rail service changes that will take effect on April 5, 2010.

Member Liccardo expressed concern about City of San Jose budget cuts and the impact on the airport route.

Mr. Unites responded staff has met with airport staff to discuss options that could make the airport route more cost effective.

On Order of Vice Chairperson Larsen and there being no objection, the April 2010 Service Changes was received.

10. February 2010 Monthly Ridership and Fare Revenue Performance

Joonie Tolosa, Manager for Operations Analysis and Systems, provided a report highlighting the following figures: 1) System Ridership; 2) BUS Ridership; 3) Light Rail Ridership; 4) Fare Revenues; and 5) Average Fare per Boarding.

The Committee expressed concern about the continuous decline of ridership and provided the following recommendations to help improve ridership: 1) start charging for parking; and 2) explore different marketing strategies to promote the transit system.

On Order of Vice Chairperson Larsen and there being no objection, the February 2010 Monthly Ridership and Fare Revenue Performance report was received.

11. Items of Concern and Referral to Administration

Chairperson Larsen expressed concern about articles in newspapers that are anti-VTA.

Michael T. Burns, General Manager, responded that in recent polls, VTA tracks well, at this time there is no need to change strategy.

12. Committee Work Plan

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

13. Committee Staff Report

Dan Smith, Chief Operating Officer and Staff Liaison, provided a handout highlighting the following: 1) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding; 2) Series of Follow-up Arrests; 3) Vandalism Citation; 4) Fare Inspection Enforcement Operations; 5) California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) Audit; 6) Elevators; 7) Field Supervision; and 8) Line 34 Stakeholders Meeting.

Michael T. Burns, General Manager, reported on the following: 1) capacity of Board of Directors to divert ARRA funding to use for the operating budget deficit is on the April

Board Agenda; 2) second quarter sales tax revenue was four percent below last year; and 3) Governor Schwarzenegger has said that he will veto the transportation swap bill.

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

Member Liccardo left the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

14. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Larsen expressed appreciation for staff's support and for the Board Member Orientation. He looks forward having a tour of the Guadalupe yard.

15. Determine Consent Agenda for the April 1, 2010 Board of Directors Meeting

Consent Agenda:

Agenda Item #6, Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Parsons Transportation Group to complete conceptual engineering for the El Camino Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. The contract shall be for a period up to three years and for a total value not to exceed \$4,850,000.

Agenda Item #7, Receive information on the Transit Shelter Advertising Program request for proposals.

Agenda Item #8, Receive report on Service Changes effective April 5, 2010.

Agenda Item #9, Receive the Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Demonstration Program Final Report.

Regular Agenda:

None

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kevin D. Allmand, General Counsel, informed the Committee about the Board Member Orientation regarding fiduciary responsibility scheduled on April 1, 2010, 4:30 p.m., at the County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street – Room 157.

17. ADJOURNMENT

On Order of Vice Chairperson Larsen and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Diaresco, Board Assistant
Office of the Board Secretary