

Transit Planning & Operations Committee

Thursday, April 15, 2010

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Transit Planning and Operations (TP&O) Committee was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by Chairperson Kalra 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	P
Rich Larsen	Vice Chairperson	P
Sam Liccardo	Member	P
Nora Campos	Alternate Member	NA
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

Chairperson Kalra recommended moving Agenda Item #11, Authorize the General Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Milpitas which conditions the use of City facilities for the Wrigley Creek Improvement Project, to the Consent Agenda.

M/S/C (Larsen/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 March 18, 2010

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

5. Kato Road Flood Control Improvements

M/S/C (Larsen/Abe-Koga) to authorize the General Manager to amend a construction contract with Gordon N. Ball Inc. to accommodate scope additions and construction change orders on the Kato Road Flood Control Improvements contract in the amount of \$645,000 for a new authorized amount of \$2,741,031. This contract is 100% funded by the 2000 Measure A Program.

The Agenda was taken out of order.

11. Wrigley Creek Improvement Project

M/S/C (Larsen/Abe-Koga) to submit a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Milpitas which conditions the use of City facilities for the Wrigley Creek Improvement Project.

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Chairperson Kalra provided a report from CTA Chairperson, Aaron Morrow, which highlighted; 1) Action taken by the CTA on the Light Rail Systems Analysis Final Plan, noting members did not support of phase two of the project, 2) A Presentation by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) noting members concerns with expressway and pedestrian safety, and bus accessibility 3) CTA members concerns with the low participation and overall cost of the Mobility Options Travel Training program, and their request to reconvene the Mobility Options Task Force, and 4) Action taken by the CTA to reject any proposal to rebid the current paratransit contract as outlined in the proposed recommendations from the Ad-Hoc Financial Recovery Committee.

On order of Chairperson Kalra and there being no objection, the Committee received a report from the Committee for Transit Accessibility (CTA) Activities.

7. Transit Service Modifications

Jim Unites, Deputy Director Operations, provided an overview of the staff report contained in the Agenda packet, highlighting the proposed modifications to Community Bus Lines 11 and 34, continuation of service for Community Bus Line 45, public outreach, and community input.

Member Larsen questioned if Community Bus Line 76 would be reinstated when school resumes. Mr. Unites indicated the route was scheduled for cancellation in January but was extended to give time for students and parents to plan travel options for next year.

Member Abe-Koga thanked staff for their community outreach efforts. She shared the concerns of the residents of Japantown in San Jose with regards to service modifications of Community Bus Line 11 and questioned if it would be reevaluated in the future. Mr. Unites indicated development patterns are followed for the better connections with bus stops, and routes are constantly evaluated to achieve productivity goals.

Member Liccardo disclosed he resides in within 500 feet of Community Bus Line 11 and noted the amount of seniors in the area who use public transportation. He questioned if a looping trip up Taylor to 6th Street had been considered. Mr. Unites indicated several options were considered, but the route is underutilized due to access to regular bus service.

M/S/C (Larsen/Liccardo) to submit a recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the proposed transit service modifications to Community Bus Lines 11 and 34 to take effect on July 12, 2010.

8. Light Rail Transit (LRT) System Analysis Improvement Plan

Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager, provided an overview of the staff report contained in the Agenda packet and a PowerPoint presentation highlighting; 1) Phases 1, 2, and 3, designed to make service faster and more user friendly, 2) Project background, 3) Outreach, 4) Peer comparison, 5) Population and job growth projections, 6) Transit competitiveness, 7) Improving the system and travel times 8) Guadalupe Express, 9) Tasman line independent system improvements service package comparison, and, 10) Next steps.

Member Larsen questioned the additional ridership numbers and the historical accuracy of the projections. Mr. Connolly noted a travel demand model was used and has been relatively accurate, especially with short term numbers.

Chairperson Kalra commented on the amount of time it takes to get to the courthouse area from South San Jose using light rail and noted he is in favor of downtown express service. He questioned the basis of ridership increase by removing the Almaden transfer.

Mr. Connolly indicated surveys and the marketing analysis shows Almaden branch to Guadalupe and downtown is a strong travel pattern in all areas of transportation.

Member Abe-Koga questioned if the intent of improvements is that more funds will be recovered by increasing ridership and expressed the importance of the improvements to be at least cost neutral.

Mr. Connolly indicated the Board policy on cost recovery is 20 percent and current recovery is 14 percent. He noted the Light Rail Transit (LRT) project could be less expensive to operate than current service and could therefore obtain more recovery.

Member Abe-Koga questioned the Mountain View double tracking and how it will be impacted by the High Speed Rail (HSR).

Mr. Connolly indicated the coordination with High Speed Rail is yet to be determined, but staff is working with rail designers to ensure flexibility in the future.

Member Liccardo commented on the semi-express route on the Long T where some stops west of Old Ironsides are eliminated and questioned if stations to the east had been considered.

Mr. Connolly indicated ridership at each stop on the East side is healthy and in the study, riders were lost mainly due to lack of proper park and ride access at some of the stations.

Member Liccardo questioned the impact on ridership with a Mountain View to Eastridge Express.

Mr. Connolly indicated an Eastridge extension with the proposed improvements would boost ridership but there the federal funds are not available at this time.

M/S/C (Larsen/Liccardo) to submit a recommendation to the Board of Directors to adopt the Light Rail System Analysis Improvement Plan.

9. Santa Clara - Alum Rock Bus Rapid Transit Project

Member Larsen commented the Board approved \$4.5 million for the project and questioned if the \$152,000 for the services is being subtracted from those funds. Michael T. Burns, General Manager, indicated it has already been taken out of the consultant's scope.

M/S/C (Abe-Koga/Larsen) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the City of San Jose for design services for traffic signals and street lights on the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. The agreement shall be for a period of one year and for a total value not to exceed \$152,000.

10. Capitol Expressway Pedestrian Improvement Project

Member Larsen questioned if are the private industry is being shorted by contracting with the City of San Jose.

Michael T. Burns, General Manager indicated the city traffic engineers control this type of work. Consultants have been used in the past, but it requires city review and approval. This will streamline the process.

M/S/C (Larsen/Abe-Koga) to submit a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the City of San Jose for street lighting and landscape design services for the Capitol Expressway Pedestrian Improvement Project. The agreement shall be for a one year period for a total value not to exceed \$375,000, and is 100% funded by the 2000 Measure A Program.

12. Engineering Design Consultant Services

Mark Robinson, Chief Engineering and Construction officer, briefly noted the program of improvements in the short term ahead and the systems engineer firms listed that will complete design projects.

Member Larsen inquired about the overall process.

Mr. Robinson explained qualified vendors from the list are chosen when there are projects in scope. Proposals are solicited from three of the more qualified firms in that particular area and the best one is negotiated.

M/S/C (Larsen/Liccardo) to submit a recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve sixteen engineering firms for Engineering Design Consultant Services and authorize the General Manager to execute contracts with some or all of the selected firms to perform systems design services for light rail, facilities renovation and bus rapid transit projects. The list will be valid for a five-year period. The total amount of all contracts shall not exceed \$5,000,000.

13. BART Silicon Valley Project – City of San Jose Agreement

Carolyn Gonot, Chief SVRT Officer, provided a brief overview of the staff report in the Agenda packet noting the item is for the approval of the master agreement, and lays the foundation between VTA and the City of San Jose for cooperation with the BART Silicon Valley project. She indicated sub-agreements will be brought forward in the future which will include fiscal impacts.

Member Liccardo inquired about the agreement with the City of Milpitas. Ms. Gonot indicated there are design issues concerning impacts on new developments in the city which are in the process of being resolved.

M/S/C (Liccardo/Larsen) to submit a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to enter into a master agreement with the City of San Jose in support of the BART Silicon Valley Project. This agreement will include provisions to ensure a commitment of cooperation from both parties.

OTHER ITEMS

14. March 2010 Monthly Ridership and Fare Revenue Performance

Jim Unites, Deputy Director Operations, provided an overview of the monthly ridership and fare revenue performance reporting a decrease in average weekday for the system as a whole, continuing a 12-month decline, however, productivity is improving. Due to the increase in fares, the average fare per boarding was significantly above budgeted goal, but revenues overall remain slightly lower.

Chairperson Kalra questioned if the decline in ridership was based on fare increase.

Mr. Unites listed several factors for the decrease in ridership including service cuts, fare increase, unemployment, and weather trends.

Member Larsen questioned if models used for the Light Rail Systems Analysis can be used to project a leveling off or increase in ridership.

Mr. Unites indicated the model used does not work well with projecting monthly levels.

Michael T. Burns, General Manager, indicated several strategies are being considered to generate additional ridership, including, special passes, services, and sales, for example a “two for one” ticket.

Member Liccardo noted a 2.4 percent decrease in ridership was projected with service cuts in January, and questioned if that number is still the same.

Mr. Unites indicated they are still within range.

15. Items of Concern and Referral to Administration

Member Larsen requested further explanation of the Design Build Program.

Michael T. Burns, General Manager, indicated contractors bid a fixed price on a project before it is 100 percent designed. He noted the risk and control are transferred to the contractor to accomplish project goals within that fixed price. Action by Board allowed a best value process in selecting a contractor and not the lowest bid. Mr. Burns indicated his willingness to further explain the process with Member Larsen.

Member Kalra indicated having the same contractor build and design can speed up the process bringing costs down. He noted using design build for larger projects is especially beneficial and indicated the success of the San Jose Airport project as an example.

16. Committee Work Plan

Dan Smith, Chief Operating Officer and TPO Staff Liaison, indicated May’s schedule is very robust and staff will work to streamline the Agenda.

17. Committee Staff Report

Dan Smith, Chief Operating Officer and TPO Staff Liaison, provided a written report.

Member Liccardo questioned if the number of fare evaders is increasing.

Mr. Smith indicated as fare enforcement improves, the number seems to increase. The Sherriff’s unit is involved and officers have been assisting VTA staff.

Member Liccardo questioned if VTA gets revenue from the citations. Mr. Smith indicated it goes to Santa Clara County.

18. Chairperson’s Report

There was no Report from the Chairperson.

19. Determine Consent Agenda for the May 6, 2010 Board of Directors Meeting

Consent Agenda:

Agenda Item #5, ACTION ITEM - Authorize the General Manager to amend a construction contract with Gordon N. Ball Inc. to accommodate scope additions and construction change orders on the Kato Road Flood Control Improvements contract in the

amount of \$645,000 for a new authorized amount of \$2,741,031. This contract is 100% funded by the 2000 Measure A Program.

Agenda Item #7, ACTION ITEM - Recommend that the VTA Board of Directors approve the proposed transit service modifications to Community Bus Lines 11 and 34 to take effect on July 12, 2010.

Agenda Item #9, ACTION ITEM - Authorize the General Manager to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the City of San Jose for design services for traffic signals and street lights on the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. The agreement shall be for a period of one year and for a total value not to exceed \$152,000.

Agenda Item #10, ACTION ITEM - Authorize the General Manager to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the City of San Jose for street lighting and landscape design services for the Capitol Expressway Pedestrian Improvement Project. The agreement shall be for a one year period for a total value not to exceed \$375,000, and is 100% funded by the 2000 Measure A Program.

Agenda Item #11, ACTION ITEM - Authorize the General Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Milpitas which conditions the use of City facilities for the Wrigley Creek Improvement Project.

Agenda Item #12, ACTION ITEM - Approve sixteen engineering firms for Engineering Design Consultant Services and authorize the General Manager to execute contracts with some or all of the selected firms to perform systems design services for light rail, facilities renovation and bus rapid transit projects. The list will be valid for a five-year period. The total amount of all contracts shall not exceed \$5,000,000.

Agenda Item #13, ACTION ITEM - Authorize the General Manager to enter into a master agreement with the City of San Jose in support of the BART Silicon Valley Project. This agreement will include provisions to ensure a commitment of cooperation from both parties.

Regular Agenda:

Agenda Item #8, ACTION ITEM - Recommend the Board of Directors adopt the Light Rail System Analysis Improvement Plan.

20. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith, Chief Operations Officer and Staff Liaison, announced the suspects from the Tamien Station stabbing have been identified and one arrested.

21. ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

Menominee L. McCarter, Board Assistant
Office of the Board Secretary