



April 17, 2009

Eugene Bradley  
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Mr. Bradley:

At the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Board of Directors you inquired about some agenda items.

Item 7 Report from the General Manager: You inquired about the cost and justification of our federal lobbyist program. As you may be aware from your prior inquires on this subject, we employ the firm of Akin, Gump, Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP to provide federal lobbying services to VTA. The actions of the federal government have significant impact on both the policies and the revenue VTA operates under. It is the Board's judgment that having a skilled and effective lobbying team in the nation's capitol assists the Board in understanding developments at the federal level helps to craft local policy in light of these developments and enables us to compete more effectively in the intense competition for federal funds. The cost of this service is \$18,000.00 per month. This investment is returned many times over through the money we receive from various federal funding sources to operate our services.

Item 25 Proposed Joint Development Policy: You inquired what other organizations similar to VTA have Joint Development policies. In the list of transportation agencies with Joint Development Programs shown in the presentation, three are similar to VTA in that they also develop highway projects. Those three are SANDAG, OCTA and LA Metro. All of the agencies listed in the agenda item have Joint Development Programs.

You also inquired after the possibility of a trip calculator on our web site to demonstrate the potential savings a person could achieve by taking public transit. Our new website "Healthier Planet Healthier You" contains a calculator to show the cost savings of taking public transit. You can access this site at <http://www.healthierplanethealthieryou.com>.

I trust this answers your questions.

Yours truly,

Jim Lawson  
Senior Policy Advisor

cc: Board of Directors