

Date: July 6, 2007Committee Meeting Date: July 19, 2007Board Meeting Date: August 2, 2007**BOARD MEMORANDUM**ACTION DISCUSSION INFO

TO: Committee of the Whole
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: John Ristow
Acting Chief Congestion Management Agency Officer

SUBJECT: Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans for Environmental, Design, Right of Way, Construction and Landscaping Phases of VTP 2030 and CMIA Highway Projects

Policy-Related Action: Yes**Government Code Section 84308 Applies: No****RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the General Manager to execute Cooperative Agreements with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), covering environmental, design, right of way, construction and landscaping phases of projects listed in Table A of the memorandum.

BACKGROUND:

The VTA Board of Directors adopted the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2030 in February 2005. VTP 2030 included 40 highway projects anticipated to be funded through the State Transportation Improvement Program over the next 25 years. At its March 30, 2005 meeting, the VTA Board approved a shorter-term implementation plan of ten high-priority projects to move into initial project development phases over the next two years.

The voters of California approved Proposition 1B in November 2006 which provided approximately \$20 Billion in funding for transportation improvements in California. One of the categories of the proposition is the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA). The California Transportation Commission approved three projects for which VTA was the project sponsor. The approved projects include I-880 Widening, US 101 Improvements from

Embarcadero Road to Route 85 and US 101 Improvements from I-280/I-680 to Yerba Buena Road in San Jose.

In addition, the cities of San Jose, Milpitas, Sunnyvale and Mountain View have partnered with VTA to begin preliminary phases of several highway projects within their jurisdictions.

Table A of the memorandum lists the highway projects that VTA is acting as project manager and sponsor. Through previous actions, the Board of Directors has approved each of the projects on the list and provided direction to VTA staff to begin development of each of the projects.

Caltrans requires that sponsors of highway improvements enter into cooperative agreements with the State of California in order to establish roles and responsibilities and set parameters for fund reimbursement, if applicable.

DISCUSSION:

The staff recommendation is to authorize the General Manager to execute cooperative agreements for highway improvement projects with Caltrans. The cooperative agreements will cover all of the phases of projects including environmental, project approval and design, right of way acquisition and transfer, construction, landscaping and project closeout. The agreements establish the role and responsibilities of VTA as project manager and Caltrans as oversight and in some cases project manager. Caltrans is currently proposing that they perform project management of the construction phase of three CMIA projects. The final determination of which agency will manage construction of the three CMIA projects will be decided based upon overall work load and staffing availability prior to completion of the project design. The agreements also establish grant funding reimbursement parameters, if applicable.

Table A lists the projects which VTA is currently acting as project manager and sponsor and require cooperative agreements with Caltrans.

The agreements will be drafted by Caltrans following a standard template used statewide. The agreement will specify that VTA will perform all planning, environmental, design and right of way services necessary for the project and Caltrans will oversee document preparation and perform final approval of the Project Report, Environmental Document, Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E), Right of Way and construction administration.

ALTERNATIVES:

If VTA is to act as a sponsor and project manager for the highway projects, VTA is required to enter into agreements with the State of California. An alternative to the recommendation is to have Caltrans or another party, such as a city, perform the role as the project manager. In this case, VTA would not be required to enter into these agreements. The result of that action could be a delay in project development and potentially a loss of funding if project delivery deadlines are missed.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Although there is no direct fiscal impact as a result of this action, funding reimbursement for grants dedicated to projects will be covered in the cooperative agreements, as necessary.

Prepared by: Margaret Simmons-Cross, Highway Program Manager

Table A

<p>I-880 Improvements – SR 237 to US 101 (CMIA Project)</p>	<p>The project limits on I-880 generally extend from SR 237 to US 101. This project will widen I-880 to add a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction.</p>
<p>US 101 Improvements – Route 85 to Embarcadero Road (CMIA Project)</p>	<p>The project proposes to add one lane in each direction in this congested segment of the freeway. This project would construct lanes between interchange on- and off-ramps, widening the freeway to a 10-lane cross section between interchanges, but would maintain only 8 through lanes running continuously throughout the segment.</p>
<p>US 101 Improvements – I-280 to Yerba Buena Road (CMIA Project)</p>	<p>This project will construct an additional lane in the southbound direction from south of the Story Road interchange to south of the Capitol Expressway interchange; modify the US 101/Tully Road interchange; replace the existing Tully Road Overcrossing.</p>
<p>US 101 Widening (Monterey to State Route 129)</p>	<p>The project will upgrade the final portion of Route 101 in the south county from expressway to freeway standards and will add additional lanes in each direction. SR 25 will be widened within Santa Clara County increasing capacity and improving operations. The SR 25/US 101 Interchange will be reconstructed to accommodate the freeway improvements.</p>
<p>I-280/I-880/Stevens Creek Boulevard Interchange</p>	<p>The I-280/I-880/Stevens Creek Boulevard Interchange project includes relieving the merge and weave problems at the northbound I-880 and northbound I-280 collector-distributor road exiting to Stevens Creek Boulevard and traffic proceeding to northbound I-880. The project also includes a new off ramp from Northbound 280 to Winchester Boulevard.</p>
<p>Calaveras Boulevard Improvement</p>	<p>The project includes widening the existing four-lane facility from four lanes to six lanes beginning at Town Center Drive in the east to Abel Street on the west. In addition, the work assumes auxiliary lanes will be added to the current six-lane facility between Abel Street and Abbott Avenue. The proposed widening will require widening/replacement of the bridges over Main Street, the UPRR and the proposed BART extension.</p>
<p>El Camino Real / SR 85 & SR 237 / Mathilda Ave. Improvements</p>	<p>The project includes reconfiguration of the SR 237/SR 85 interchange through addition of lanes on the freeway to freeway ramps, addition of auxiliary lanes on SR 85 in both northbound and southbound directions, and conversion of the existing full cloverleaf interchange to a partial cloverleaf at SR 85 and El Camino Real (ECR). For the SR 237 / Middlefield location, a new loop on-ramp from westbound Middlefield Road to westbound SR 237 is anticipated, as well as reconfiguration of Ferguson Drive.</p>
<p>I-880 / Coleman Ave</p>	<p>The project will install the landscape, planting and irrigation</p>

Interchange Highway Planting Project	systems for the interchange project.
Route 87 Widening Highway Planting Project	The project will install the landscape, planting and irrigation systems for the widening project from Route 85 to Julian Street in Downtown San Jose.
Route 237/880 Interchange Highway Planting Project	The project will install the landscape, planting and irrigation systems for the interchange project.
US 101/De La Cruz Blvd/Trimble Road Interchange	The project will improve the Route 101 De La Cruz Boulevard/Trimble Road interchange by converting it to a partial cloverleaf interchange. The project includes widening or replacing the existing overcrossing across Route 101, widening of De La Cruz Blvd/Trimble Road to six travel lanes, reconstruction of the southbound exit loop to a partial cloverleaf design and incorporation of a new intersection on De La Cruz Blvd, and the addition of a southbound auxiliary lane from De La Cruz Blvd. to Route 87 exit ramp.
Charcot Avenue Extension	The project proposes to construct a two lane street crossing over I-880 to provide a reliever route to Montague Expressway and Brokaw Road. The project includes an overcrossing of I880, on-street parking, bike lanes, and standard sidewalks.
Mary Avenue Extension	The Mary Avenue Extension project proposes to extend Mary Avenue across US 101 and SR 237 via an overcrossing in the City of Sunnyvale. Mary Avenue Extension will connect to the existing City of Sunnyvale roadway network at Moffett Park to the west of the US 101.
152 Alignment	The 152 Alignment project proposes a realignment of the existing SR-152 from the SR152/156 interchange to SR25. The project will provide safety improvements and increased capacity.