

Date: _____ November 19, 2007

Committee Meeting Date: _____ N/A

Board Meeting Date: _____ December 13, 2007

BOARD MEMORANDUM

ACTION ITEM

TO: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: John H. Ristow
Chief CMA Officer

SUBJECT: 2007 Congestion Management Program

Policy-Related Action: Yes

Government Code Section 84308 Applies: No

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the 2007 Santa Clara County Congestion Management Program (CMP).

BACKGROUND:

State law requires that urbanized counties biennially adopt a Congestion Management Program (CMP) containing specified elements. The intent of the CMP is the development of a comprehensive program that will monitor and mitigate traffic congestion, improve air quality, better integrate land use and transportation decision-making, and work to integrate transportation systems planning and development activities. The 2007 Santa Clara County Congestion Management Program is defined in terms of nine elements that logically structure the program: 1) transportation system definition; 2) traffic level of service standards; 3) multimodal transportation performance measures; 4) transportation demand management; 5) countywide transportation model; 6) community form and land use impact analysis; 7) capital improvement program; 8) annual monitoring and conformance requirements; and 9) deficiency plan requirements.

The CMP is submitted to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for an evaluation of its consistency with MTC's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Following MTC's evaluation, the responsibility to implement the CMP rests with VTA and local jurisdictions.

DISCUSSION:

As Silicon Valley emerges from the previous recent economic downturn, Santa Clara County is projected to rebound with significant job and population growth over the coming decades. The economic improvements brings with it increased concerns about congestion, environment and community livability which are expected to become a significant transportation planning and implementation challenge. The CMP provides practical options for managing our region's traffic congestion today and provides a framework for developing preventative and innovative planning options for the future. The CMP also serves as a short-term element of Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2035 by focusing on congestion management strategies that can be implemented in advance of the longer-range transportation solutions contained within these plans.

The 2007 update signifies an evolving and more active role for the CMP in our region's future. The 2007 CMP revisions include:

- An updated Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Element reflecting the most current information available regarding VTA's programs, operating revenues, and information resulting from the latest updates to the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP 2030) and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The CIP identifies programmed projects as well as future transportation projects and programs identified in VTP 2030 and the 2007 Short-range Transit Plan (SRTP).
- An updated Traffic Level of Service Element, reflecting monitoring results from the 2005 and 2006 Annual Monitoring Program.
- An updated Countywide Transportation Model and Database Element to reflect the new countywide transportation model and enhanced GIS/Land Use Analysis capabilities and applications.
- A discussion of the development and implementation of Community Design and Transportation (CDT) Program Planning and Capital Grant Fund Programs. These programs help support the continued implementation of VTA's land use program to better integrate transportation and land use.
- The development of a Transit Sustainability Policy (TSP) and transit Service Design Guidelines (SDG) to assist VTA with planning, designing, implementing and monitoring VTA-operated transit services.

Areas that VTA CMP will address over the next two years include:

- Revisions to the CMP Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) Guidelines.
- Revision to CMP Guidelines for Preparing Deficiency Plans.
- Discussion of developing an integrated multimodal "systems" approach to planning and designing transportation programs, projects and services.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board may request staff to make changes to the 2007 Congestion Management Program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact on the VTA enterprise account.

Prepared by: Chris Augenstein, Transportation Planning Manager