

BOARD MEMORANDUM

Date: October 31, 2007
Committee Meeting Date: November 15, 2007
Board Meeting Date: December 13, 2007
ACTION ITEM

TO: Administration and Finance Committee
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: John H. Ristow
Chief CMA Officer

SUBJECT: Caltrans' Planning Grant for the Eastridge Transit Center Access Plan

Policy-Related Action: No

Government Code Section 84308 Applies: No

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the filing and execution of an Environmental Justice Planning grant application for the Eastridge Transit Center Access Plan and authorize the General Manager to enter into a fund transfer cooperative agreement with Caltrans.

BACKGROUND:

In response to Caltrans' call for applications, staff submitted a grant application to prepare an Eastridge Transit Center Improvement and Access Plan in the Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive program. The objective of this program is to award projects that have a clear focus on transportation and community development issues that address the interests of low-income, minority, Native American, and other high transit user communities. Caltrans recently notified VTA of the award of the grant in the amount of \$159,200. The total project cost is \$199,000 including the required local matching funds.

DISCUSSION:

The Eastridge Transit Center is in a community of mixed income and cultures that is experiencing rapid growth in the outlying areas. The Eastridge Transit Center area has higher-than-average percentages of minorities and households in poverty. The area's minority and low-income residents are more likely to be transit dependent. Transit services and access improvements at the

Eastridge Transit Center will greatly benefit the under-represented population in the study area. The Eastridge Transit Center, with 2,172 daily boardings, is the second busiest transfer point in the VTA system. Currently there are 10 bus routes serving the transit center. With the planned Bus Rapid Transit services and the Capitol Expressway Light Rail extension, there will be additional usage and activity at the transit center.

The Eastridge Transit Center Improvement and Access Plan will identify projects that will improve access to the transit center from neighboring Environmental Justice communities. Secondly, the study will identify strategies for raising the awareness of the Center's transit services, particularly in communities where English is not the primary language spoken at home. VTA is currently engaged in final design and construction activities for the redevelopment of the Eastridge Transit Center as part of the Capitol Expressway Light Rail Extension project. Finally, the plan will seek community input for how to improve access to the Transit Center in preparation for the reconstruction of the facility.

The City of San Jose's Department of Transportation expressed support for this grant application. VTA staff will proceed with the study in consultation with City of San Jose staff.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board can elect not to pursue this funding opportunity and not to fund this activity.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If VTA accepts this grant, it will be responsible for providing \$19,900 in non-Federal matching funds and staff time equivalent to \$20,500, for a total of \$40,400 (20.3% of total project cost). The matching funds are included in the 2000 Measure A - Downtown East Valley project budget. Budget appropriation for the work is included in the approved FY 08/09 VTA Transit Capital Budget.

Attachment: Resolution

Prepared By: Ying Smith, Senior Transportation Planner

Resolution No. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (VTA)
AUTHORIZING THE FILING AND EXECUTION OF A GRANT WITH THE
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR FUNDING
UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: CONTEXT-SENSITIVE
PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) provides transportation planning grants; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans invited applications for Fiscal Year 2007 – 2008 programs; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) submitted an application for financial assistance to fund the Eastridge Transit Center Improvement and Access Plan; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans selected VTA's grant application for funding in the amount of \$159,200; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the VTA Board of Directors does hereby approve the filing of the above referenced application, and authorizes the General Manager to execute a contract with Caltrans to aid in the preparation of the Eastridge Transit Center Improvement and Access Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Manager is authorized to:

1. Execute and file all assurances or any other document required by Caltrans; and
2. Provide additional information as Caltrans may require in connection with the Environmental Justice: Context-Sensitive program contract; and
3. Submit and approve the request for reimbursement of funds from Caltrans for the Eastridge Transit Center Improvement and Access Plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)
Board of Directors on _____.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Dean J. Chu, Chairperson
Board of Directors

Attest:

Maria Marinos, Secretary
Board of Directors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Counsel