

Date: October 26, 2007

Committee Meeting Date: November 14, 2007

Board Meeting Date: December 13, 2007

BOARD MEMORANDUM

ACTION ITEM

TO: Transit Planning and Operations Committee
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
Board of Directors

THROUGH: Michael T. Burns
General Manager

FROM: John H. Ristow
Chief CMA Officer

SUBJECT: 2008 Short Range Transit Plan

Policy-Related Action: Yes

Government Code Section 84308 Applies: No

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the 2008 Short Range Transit Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) is a ten-year projection of transit capital and operating expenses and revenues, along with supporting information about the operator's services and programs. The 2008 SRTP is a "Full" SRTP as defined by Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), which requires Full SRTP documents to be submitted every four years as opposed to a "Mini" SRTP which only provides limited updates in the intervening years. The Mini SRTP presents only the Operations and Capital Improvement Program modifications and updates of the most recent Full SRTP.

The Full SRTP provides a more significant level of explanation and detail. The full document consists of five chapters:

1. Overview of Transit System
2. Service Evaluation
3. Operations Plan
4. Capital Improvement Program
5. Other Requirements

DISCUSSION

The 2008 SRTP provides a significant amount of detailed information about planned transit services within Santa Clara County. The overview of transit services in the first chapter is an introduction to VTA's own operations and also describes partner services such as Caltrain, Altamont Commuter Express and the Highway 17 Express. Chapter 2 includes a significant addition since the last Full SRTP document, which is an evaluation of VTA bus and light rail services. The evaluation uses recently completed Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) standards for measuring the productivity and effectiveness of VTA services. Chapter 5 presents an overview of VTA's many public outreach, marketing and promotion programs.

The most noteworthy information is presented in the Operations Plan (Chapter 3) and Capital Improvement Program (Chapter 4). Both of these chapters present 10-year projections of both revenues and expenses for operating and capital projects. The SRTP requires that planned transit services must identify the sources of operating revenues to match those services in order to be included in the Plan.

The 2000 Measure A Program of projects is included as an appendix to the document since a fully funded operating plan for the program has not yet been established. As projects are prepared for implementation and operating revenues are established the projects will be added to future SRTP documents.

It must be emphasized that while the projections contained in the SRTP are the most up-to-date information as currently understood by VTA staff, they are subject to change particularly in the out years of the plan as more information is gathered and financial conditions change over subsequent updates of the SRTP.

Key elements of the Operations Plan are as follows:

- Overall bus service and light rail service remains at current levels throughout the SRTP period.
- Based on language contained in the 2000 Measure A ballot, revenues equaling 18.5 percent are dedicated to funding increased operations for bus, paratransit and light rail extensions funded through the 1996 Measure B program: Tasman East, Vasona (to Winchester) and Capitol Avenue (to Alum Rock).
- The Community Bus Program, begun in Fiscal Year 2007 in Morgan Hill and Gilroy, will continue to expand as a result of recommendations in the COA and procurement of more vehicles.
- Caltrain service levels, budgeted at \$16.1 million in Fiscal Year 2008 and \$16.9 million in Fiscal Year 2009 are escalated at 3 percent annually, based on an existing negotiated agreement with Caltrain. Caltrain operating funding needs remain relatively static despite requests for a significant increase in capital funding (see item below).
- Identification of operating revenues for specific Measure A projects such as those discussed in Section 3.3 Resolution 3434 Expansion Projects is still under development and therefore, the projects are only included in the appendix of document. These projects include Silicon Valley Rapid Transit, Capitol Expressway and Vasona Light Rail extensions, Dumbarton Rail and the Bus Rapid Transit Program.

Key elements of the Capital Improvement Plan are as follows:

- The \$800 million Capital Improvement Program is focused on keeping VTA transit assets in a state of good repair.
- VTA's Caltrain capital annual local match contribution totals \$31.4 million for the SRTP period. This is markedly different than Caltrain's own assumption for VTA capital match contributions as presented in the Caltrain 2007 Mini SRTP, which assumes \$82.9 million in VTA funding for the ten-year period beginning in 2007.
- Replacement and expansion of VTA's vehicle and equipment assets is the largest cost category in the CIP with \$371.0 million required over the ten-year period. This cost includes expansion of the Community Bus fleet but the largest single item is the replacement of the existing diesel bus fleet, which is estimated to cost \$152.2 million.
- Revenues from the Proposition 1B Transit Modernization (Infrastructure Bond) program are proposed to be used to help to fund the CIP.

ALTERNATIVES

The Committee can direct staff to modify the document and recommend Board adoption pending the incorporation of changes. Alternatively, the Committee can direct staff to modify the document and return in December for recommendation at the January Board.

FISCAL

There is no fiscal impact to the VTA Enterprise Fund with approval of the Short Range Transit Plan. The SRTP presents updates to VTA's Operations Plan and Capital Improvement Program, which may indicate future expenditures for transit operations and capital improvements. Approval of the SRTP document makes VTA eligible for federal transportation grants.

Prepared by: Kevin Connolly, Transportation Planning Manager