

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 20, 2008

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Congestion Management Program & Planning Committee (CMPP) was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chairperson Campos in Room 157, County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose, California.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Nora Campos, Chairperson
Liz Kniss
Yoriko Kishimoto, Vice Chairperson
Sam Liccardo

Members Absent

None

Alternates Present

None

Alternates Absent

David Cortese
Pete McHugh
Chris Moylan

* Alternates do not serve unless participating as a Member.

A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

3. ORDERS OF THE DAY

There were no Orders of the Day.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Minutes of February 21, 2007

M/S/C (Kishimoto/Liccardo) to approve the Minutes of February 21, 2007.

NOTE: M/S/C MEANS MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED AND, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report – October 2007 through December 2007

M/S/C (Kishimoto/Liccardo) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to receive the Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report – October 2007 through December 2007.

REGULAR AGENDA

Chairperson Campos noted the deferral of **Agenda Item #7.**, Approve “Option A” as VTA’s process for selecting project review and scoring committees for VTA Congestion Management Program Discretionary Funding Programs for one month. John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison explained that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) lost the quorum at their meeting last week prior to reviewing this item.

6. South County Circulation Study Report Findings

Murali Ramanujam, Senior Transportation Planner, discussed the South County Circulation Study (SCCS) objectives, stakeholder participation, study area limits, and SCC improvements. The improvements are estimated to cost \$3.59 billion.

Based on the U.S. Department of Treasury projections, there will be a negative balance on the Highway and Transit trust funds by 2009 and 2012 respectively if there are no changes to revenues or program levels. Michael T. Burns, General Manager, explained this represents the negative balance between committed projects and expected revenues.

Member Kniss took her seat at 10:41 a.m.

John Ristow, Chief CMA and Staff Liaison, stated that at the South County Policy Advisory Board’s (PAB) request, staff developed strategies to move forward. Among these are: review of land-use policies, enhance transit and multi-modal opportunities, and develop opportunities that will generate new revenues to fund improvements.

Member Liccardo stated that VTA should explore a car share system that can potentially increase Caltrain’s viability and address the first/last mile problem. Casey Emoto, Acting Project Development Deputy Director, responded that VTA attempted to obtain funding for a first/last mile demonstration project but was unsuccessful. He noted that VTA is currently evaluating other options that may be utilized.

Mr. Burns noted that car sharing is being considered, however, private sharing companies are not very interested in Santa Clara County. Mr. Ristow added that private sharing companies’ business model prefer a 24-hour rental while Santa Clara County’s need is only during the AM/PM peak commute hours.

Upon inquiry of Member Kniss, Mr. Burns responded that VTA has the authorization to implement High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes for two corridors in Santa Clara County. Member Kniss noted the importance of incorporating safety features to HOT Lanes. Mr. Ristow assured that the HOT Lane preliminary engineering updates will be provided to the Committee.

Vice Chairperson Kishimoto inquired if VTA is considering regional impact fees, which could positively influence land-use. Mr. Ristow responded that it has been a topic of discussion but there is no consensus on the strategy to move forward at this time.

Mr. Ramanujam discussed the South County Road Map and stated that pricing is an important tool to control congestion, increase mobility, encourage transit use, and provide revenues for transit. He also discussed the near-term and long-term improvements that could be implemented. Mr. Ristow added that the near-term improvements were included in VTP 2035.

Member Liccardo stressed the need to find solutions that will alleviate the congestion in the South County area, which will also improve the air quality.

Vice Chairperson Kishimoto commented that VTA is in a unique position because it can integrate transit with roadway systems. She advocated for integration of bike facilities, especially for local trips.

Mr. Burns stated that VTA is doing its part to increase transit usage in South County by implementing new express routes. VTA also partners with other agencies (i.e. Monterey County, Caltrain, etc.) in an effort to increase transit usage.

On order of Chairperson Campos, there being no objection, the Committee received the South County Circulation Study Report Findings.

7. (Deferred)

Approve “Option A” as VTA’s process for selecting project review and scoring committees for VTA Congestion Management Program Discretionary Funding Programs.

8. Funding Agreement for Implementation of Ramp Metering

David Kobayashi, Senior Transportation Planner, noted that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) requested VTA to coordinate the ramp metering implementation project in conjunction with Caltrans and affected cities in Santa Clara County. The project scope includes Southbound (SB) State Route (SR) 85 between Almaden Expressway and Cottle Road; Northbound (NB) and SB SR 85 between US 101 and SR 85; and SB US 101 between Embarcadero Road and De La Cruz Boulevard.

Member Liccardo asked if VTA has the assurance that Caltrans will operate and maintain the ramp meters. Casey Emoto, Acting Project Development Deputy Director, responded that this project involves coordination with Caltrans to ensure that ramp meters will be working and that it includes a timing plan that interacts with local roadway systems. After the implementation Caltrans is the responsible agency for operating and maintaining the ramp meters.

Member Kniss expressed support for ramp metering and stressed the need to improve the ramp traffic conditions in Palo Alto.

M/S/C (Kniss/Liccardo) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to authorize the General Manager to execute a funding agreement for \$2,051,000 with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) which specifies the roles and responsibilities to implement ramp metering on three freeway corridors in Santa Clara County.

9. Transportation System Monitoring Program for Santa Clara County

Casey Emoto, Acting Project Development Deputy Director, noted that the purpose of this item is to provide the VTA Advisory Committees and the Board a comprehensive status on current condition and performance of transportation systems in a public and user-friendly format and identify performance measures. Staff is requesting approval to proceed with a development of a draft work plan, schedule, and budget for the development of the monitoring program.

Vice Chairperson Kishimoto expressed support for the development of a monitoring program. She suggested inclusion of Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5, Ozone, BMT, modal split, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as components of the monitoring program.

M/S/C (Kishimoto/Kniss) to direct VTA staff to draft a work plan, schedule, and budget for the development of a transportation system monitoring program for Santa Clara County and return in 60 days for review and approval.

OTHER

10. Report on West San Carlos Joint Venture Public Meetings

John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison, noted the five community meeting schedules for the West San Carlos Joint Venture. Mr. Ristow noted that there was great participation at the At-Large Community Meeting held at Lincoln High School on March 18, 2008. Mr. Ristow noted that it was emphasized at the public meeting that the VTA Board action involves only the sale of the property and the City of San Jose will be the decision maker in terms of the land-use/development.

Member Kniss stated that future VTA Joint Transit-Oriented Development should have a well-defined process. The new process should include early participation of key stakeholders to ensure that VTA objectives will be met.

Michael T. Burns, General Manager, noted the challenges of meeting all the objectives and aligning it with the local jurisdiction goals and the community.

On order of Chairperson Campos, there being no objection, the Committee received a Report on West San Carlos Joint Venture Public Meetings.

11. VTA Strategic Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Planning

David Kobayashi, Senior Transportation Planner, noted that the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) refers to all technology-related systems that are used in transportation.

Vice Chairperson Kishimoto expressed support for technology and commented that VTA should take leadership in using technology to optimize the existing transportation infrastructure. She noted the advantages of using technology for providing valuable real-time information to transit riders. She suggested that VTA allocate more resources into its budget for technology and collaborate with private technological firms. She commented that Translink should be bypassed and switched to a debit card swipe instead.

Mr. Kobayashi noted that VTA currently has transit technology projects that will be implemented soon.

On order of Chairperson Campos, there being no objection, the Committee received a report on VTA Strategic Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Planning.

12. Items of Concern and Referral to Administration

There were no Items of Concern and Referral to Administration.

13. Committee Work Plan

John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison, noted that some items for next month will be deferred due to Committee time constraints.

On order of Chairperson Campos, there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Committee Work Plan.

14. Committee Staff Report

John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer and Staff Liaison, reported that the following:

- California Transportation Commission (CTC) conducted informational hearings for Proposition 1B – Trade Corridor Improvement Fund and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). VTA submitted the 152 Corridor re-alignment study for the Trade Corridor Improvement Fund but did not make it to the staff recommended list at this time.
- MTC is scheduled to review the submittals including the VTP 2035 and discuss the Vision Policy Strategies at their March 28, 2008 meeting.
- VTA will issue a Call-For-Projects for the next round of Community Design and Transportation Grant Cycle.

On order of Chairperson Campos, there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Committee Work Plan.

15. Chairperson's Report

There was no Chairperson's Report.

16. Determine Consent Agenda for April 3, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting

CONSENT: **Agenda Item #5.**, Receive the Proactive CMP Reviewed and Approved Projects Quarterly Status Report – October 2007 through December 2007; **Agenda Item #8.**, Authorize the General Manager to execute a funding agreement for \$2,051,000 with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) which specifies the roles and responsibilities to implement ramp metering on three freeway corridors in Santa Clara County; and **Agenda Item #10.**, Receive a Report on West San Carlos Joint Venture Public Meetings.

REGULAR: None

17. Announcements

There were no Announcements.

18. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Campos, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine F. Baltao, Board Assistant
VTA Board of Directors