

Date: _____ April 18, 2008

Committee Meeting Date: _____ April 17, 2008

Board Meeting Date: _____ May 1, 2008

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: Transportation Advisory Measure for November 2008 Ballot

Policy-Related Action: Yes

Government Code Section 84308 Applies: No

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution calling for a special election on November 4, 2008 to submit to the voters an advisory measure regarding the comprehensive transit program identified in Valley Transportation Plan 2035 scheduled for adoption on November 6, 2008 or amended thereafter.

BACKGROUND:

When the Santa Clara County Transit District sales tax was approved by the voters in 1976, a second measure was also approved which required the District to “submit to the voters every five years a comprehensive transit program for an advisory vote.”

Subsequently, advisory votes were held in 1981, 1986, 1990, 1996 and 2002 and each was approved by a wide margin. In conjunction with the 1990 vote, a measure was approved by the voters which amended the advisory vote interval to six years so as to coincide with general elections. The advisory measure requires a comprehensive transit program to be submitted to voters.

DISCUSSION:

As the Congestion Management Agency for Santa Clara County, VTA is responsible for preparing and adopting the countywide, long range transportation plan for the County. Projects and programs included in the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) serve as recommendations for submittal to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for inclusion in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) which covers all nine Bay Area Counties. A draft list of projects was approved by the Board of Directors for submittal to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission on March 6, 2008.

The existing plan, Valley Transportation Plan 2030 is currently in the process of being updated and is scheduled for adoption by the VTA Board of Directors on November 6, 2008. VTP and the

Regional Transportation Plan are updated on four to five year cycles. The proposed VTP 2035 update will cover years from 2009 through 2035. The final draft version of the VTP 2035 will be referenced in the ballot language.

The program of projects and initiatives presented in VTP 2035 includes the following categories of transit projects and programs:

- (a) continuing the ongoing program for improving bus and light rail vehicles, equipment and facilities;
- (b) continuing to provide comprehensive transit services;
- (c) completing and placing into operation the Bus Rapid Transit Corridors;
- (d) continuing the development of the Downtown East Valley and the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Project to Milpitas, San Jose and Santa Clara projects;
- (e) planning for future rapid transit service and other transit projects;
- (f) participating in the continuing operation and improvements of Caltrain service, Altamont Commuter Express Service and Capitol Corridor Commuter Rail Services; and
- (g) promoting transit oriented development near major transit facilities.

Following approval by the Board, this resolution will be submitted to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the County Registrar of Voters to request the proposed measure be placed on the November 4, 2008 ballot. The resolution must be submitted to the Board of Supervisors and the Registrar of Voters by August, 2008.

ALTERNATIVES:

The language in the ballot measure can be modified. However, the measure must be submitted to the voters in November in order to comply with the ordinance enacted by voters in 1976.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed ballot measure is advisory only and does not legally affect the continuing receipt or expenditure of sales tax funds.

VTA will be required to compensate the County Registrar of Voters for a proportional share of the costs of the election to place this ballot question before the voters. The actual costs will not be known until the number of measures to be included on the November 2008 ballot is established. The VTA cost for the same ballot measure in 2002 was \$402,277.

STANDING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATION

The Administration & Finance Committee considered this item on April 17, 2008 and requested clarification on the resolution statement regarding implementation of transit being contingent on available financial resources.

The Committee unanimously recommended that the Board approve this item.

Prepared by: John Ristow, Chief CMA Officer