

# 1996 Measure B Transportation Improvement Program

# FACTS

## Background

In November 1996, Santa Clara County voters overwhelmingly approved Measures A and B, an ambitious program of transportation improvements for Santa Clara County and a funding source making them possible. The Measures were created by the Citizens Coalition for Traffic Relief, a broad-based community group established by the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group. 1996 Measure A was an advisory measure that listed specific transportation improvements voters would like to be implemented if funds were available.

## Projects

### 1996 Measure A projects include:

- Fixing streets and potholes
- Linking with the BART system in Alameda County
- Synchronizing traffic lights on all County expressways
- Building the Tasman East, Capitol, and Vasona light rail projects
- Widening Highways 880, 101, 87, and 17
- Increasing Caltrain service
- Upgrading 237/880, 85/101, and 85/87 interchanges
- Improving safety on Route 152
- Mitigating noise along the Route 85 corridor
- Expanding bicycle routes
- Improving senior and disabled transit services

## Implementation

1996 Measure B authorized the County Board of Supervisors to collect a 9-year, 1/2-cent sales tax for general County purposes. This sales tax was identified as a potential funding source for the 1996 Measure A projects. The entire list of projects and their funding is referred to as the 1996 Measure B Transportation Improvement Program.

Collection of the sales tax began in April 1997; however, use of the revenue was suspended pending the outcome of litigation challenging the legal validity of the sales tax. In August 1998, the California courts upheld the tax allowing the 1996 Measure B Transportation Improvement Program to move forward.

In January 1999, the VTA Board of Directors and the County Board of Supervisors approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formalizing the partnership to implement the 1996 Measure B Transportation Improvement Program. The MOU called for the County to develop a formal Transportation Project Base Case Expenditure Plan with substantial participation from VTA. The partnership continues with the County assuming responsibility for program fiscal management and implementing selected projects. VTA is responsible for delivering the transit and highway projects, and will assist in the administration of the pavement management and bicycle elements of the program.

With this partnership in place, the County and VTA are undertaking a transportation program valued at \$2.0 billion. As a result of 1996 Measure B, Santa Clara County residents will benefit from reduced traffic congestion, more transit alternatives, and safer driving conditions.

## How to Reach Us

For more information on the projects or existing bus and rail transit service, call VTA Community Outreach at (408) 321-7575; TDD only (408) 321-2330 or visit us on the web at [www.vta.org](http://www.vta.org).

MeasB 7/11/05-F



Measure B  
Transportation Improvement Program  
County of Santa Clara



SANTA CLARA  
Valley Transportation Authority