

Downtown East Valley Transit Improvement Plan

Overview

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) completed a Major Investment Study (MIS) in the Downtown East Valley area of the City of San Jose to identify transportation needs within the area and to develop a plan for major transit investments that would meet those needs. Following this intensive 18-month study process and public involvement program, the VTA Board of Directors approved a Preferred Investment Strategy in August 2000. The Downtown East Valley Transit Improvement Plan consists of the following elements:

- Light Rail Transit (LRT) in the Santa Clara /Alum Rock Corridor from the San Jose Diridon Station in Downtown San Jose to the Alum Rock Station on the Capitol LRT line. Two alignment options in Downtown San Jose are being evaluated west of 10th Street. **(4.3 miles, 11 stations, \$286 million)**
- LRT along the entire length of Capitol Expressway from the Alum Rock Station on the Capitol LRT line to Eastridge Mall and continuing to the existing Guadalupe LRT line. **(8.0 miles, 10 stations, \$523 million)**
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on Monterey Highway from the San Jose Diridon Station in Downtown San Jose to the Santa Teresa Station on the Santa Teresa–Baypointe (Guadalupe) LRT line. **(9.6 miles, \$38 million)**

The entire project is in the conceptual engineering (design) phase to further define station, track and street improvements.

Total project funding from 2000 Measure A is **\$500 million**. Other funding sources will need to be investigated for the remainder of the project.

Objective

To improve mobility, increase transit ridership, serve the high commute corridors, and promote livable neighborhoods.

Conceptual Engineering

The project is currently in the conceptual engineering phase; conceptual engineering results in approximately a 10% design. During this phase, the project definition and design is further refined. Various elements are addressed, including station locations, design elements and configuration; an operating and transit service plan, including links between bus and other rail services; analysis of existing and future traffic conditions, including recommendations for grade separations; existing and future transit ridership; identification of right-of-way needs; development of a project implementation and phasing plan and more refined cost estimates. Community outreach is a key element throughout the conceptual engineering phase. The conceptual engineering phase began in January 2001 and will be completed during 2002.

Environmental Review

The Downtown East Valley environmental review process consists of preparing a report called an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR). An EIS/EIR is conducted to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA) respectively. Both NEPA and CEQA requires the identification and evaluation of the resources potentially affected by a project. A separate EIS/EIR is being prepared for the Santa Clara/Alum Rock and the Capitol Expressway Light Rail projects.

The EIS/EIR process began in Summer 2001 and should be completed in Summer 2003. Environmental scoping meetings for the two Downtown East Valley Light Rail projects were held in Fall 2001. During the environmental scoping meetings, the public made comments about project alternatives and possible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate the environmental impacts of the project.

Disabled Access

The light rail extensions and Bus Rapid Transit line would be fully accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The light rail extensions and bus service would operate low-floor vehicles.

Project Schedule

	Begin	Complete
Conceptual Engineering	2001	2002
Environmental Review	2001	2003
Preliminary and Final Design	2003	2005
Right-of-Way Acquisition	2003	2005
Construction	2004/2005	2007/2008

How to Reach Us

For more information on the Downtown East Valley Transit Improvement Plan 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.

Please send written comments about the project to:

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