



DOWNTOWN EAST VALLEY TRANSIT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

**Quarterly Status Report
April 2004**

For more information, please call VTA Planning & Development at (408) 321-5744.



Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project

Conceptual Engineering

Conceptual Engineering (CE) for the Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project, including design options, is approximately 90% complete. The final CE report is in preparation and the technical appendices are being updated to incorporate minor design modifications that have been made over the past several months to support the completion of environmental technical studies. The final CE submittal will include documentation of the approved project (with selected design options); engineering plan, profile, and cross-sections; urban design concepts, with cross-sections and renderings that illustrate urban design features; station plans, including Eastridge Mall Transit Center; structural plan, elevation and cross-sections; utility and right-of-way plans; park-and-ride and storage facility plans; traffic volumes (existing, 2010 and 2025); and cost estimates. The final CE submittal is intended to provide complete documentation of the project development planning process to the 10% design level and is anticipated to be completed in parallel with the Final EIS/EIR.

Environmental Review

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) completed review of the Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on December 18, 2003. VTA submitted a Revised Draft EIS/EIR on February 5, 2004, and received further comments from FTA on March 23, 2004. VTA sent a revised “approval” submittal to FTA on April 2, 2004. On April 16, 2004, FTA signed the Draft EIS/EIR title page, thereby authorizing public circulation of the document. New federal processing requirements effectively extend the public circulation period beyond the required 45 days. The Capitol Expressway Light Rail Corridor Draft EIS/EIR will be circulated for public review beginning on April 28 and closing on June 21. The Draft EIS/EIR will be available in CD ROM and hard copy formats. A condensed “Citizen’s Guide” was also prepared that summarizes the findings of the Draft EIS/EIR and will be distributed with the environmental document.

The *Notice of Availability of Draft EIS/EIR and Public Hearing* will be placed in local newspapers and will be mailed to all names/addresses in the Downtown East Valley database. After the public review period closes on June 21, VTA will prepare the Final EIS/EIR. The Final EIS/EIR will contain responses to comments received during public review, and will identify the “preferred alternative”, including design options.

VTA staff presented *preliminary* staff recommendations regarding design options to the DTEV PAB on March 4 as an informational item, and subsequently presented this information to interested organizations, including the Santa Clara County Roads Commission; the K.O.N.A, East Valley/680 Communities and West Evergreen Strong Neighborhood Initiative (SNI) Neighborhood Advisory Committees (NACs); the Lyndale Neighborhood Association; the Story Road Business Association and the Park Pleasant Neighborhood Association. A report on this public involvement effort will be presented at the DTEV PAB meeting on May 6, 2004. VTA staff will bring *final* recommendations to the PAB on August 5, after the close of the public review period. VTA anticipates public circulation of the Final EIS/EIR in October 2004 and VTA Board approval in November 2004.

Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project

Public Involvement

Staff developed the newspaper advertisement and flyer for the Notice of Availability of Draft EIS/EIR and Public Hearing. The notice was translated into Spanish and Vietnamese for publication and mail-out. The notice will also be posted at VTA facilities, such as bus shelters and the Eastridge Transit Center. The project website, www.dtev-vta.org will be updated to include information on the availability of the Draft EIS/EIR and public hearing.

In addition, staff continued revising the Downtown East Valley Transit Improvement Plan fact sheet to include current project information and are developing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for the Downtown East Valley Transit Improvement Plan for posting on the website. Staff also continues to update the project website (www.dtev-vta.org) to include current project calendar information.

Preliminary Engineering (PE)

On January 30, 2004, the VTA Board of Directors approved a mid-year budget adjustment to add eleven million dollars for PE for the Capitol Expressway Light Rail segment to Eastridge.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for PE for the Capitol Expressway Light Rail Extension was issued on April 12. The solicitation process is intended to cover all segments of Downtown East Valley, with each segment proceeding when funds are appropriated. It is anticipated that a General Design Consultant contract will be taken to the VTA Board for approval in August 2004.

Other current efforts that will support the upcoming PE work include the following:

- Survey tasks have been initiated. Key record monuments are being located in the field and right-of-way documents (i.e., maps, deeds) are being researched and compiled. It is anticipated that a draft copy of the pre-construction Record of Survey map showing project monuments and right-of-way will be completed in August 2004 with the finalized Record of Survey will be submitted for recordation in Fall 2004.
- Aerial photography was flown in late March. Planimetrics (aerial topography) and orthophotos will be delivered in May/June 2004.
- Preliminary utility investigation related to PE has been initiated.

Santa Clara/Alum Rock Corridor

Conceptual Engineering (CE)

Minor refinements have been made to the CE plans for the *Single Car Light Rail* alternative as a result of information generated through the environmental technical studies. Revised CE plans were distributed to technical staff of various agencies including the City of San Jose, San Jose Redevelopment Agency, Caltrans and Santa Clara Valley Water District in March 2004. The project team will use the revised plans during public involvement efforts over the next several months. Work is continuing on several CE elements, such as the revised capital cost report, patronage projections report, and operations and maintenance cost report.

Staff initiated preparation of a combined decision-making/public involvement plan for the selection of the preferred alternative and design options for the Santa Clara/Alum Rock Corridor. A draft framework for this plan will be presented to the PAB for discussion on May 6, 2004. It is anticipated that VTA staff will present preliminary staff recommendations regarding the preferred alternative and design options to the PAB on August 5, 2004.

Environmental Review

The Administrative Draft Transportation Study was circulated to technical staff of the City of San Jose and Caltrans in January 2004. The remaining environmental technical studies are substantially complete; however, there has been a delay in the completion of the cultural resources study. This will result in a corresponding delay of approximate 2 months in submitting the Administrative Draft EIS/EIR to FTA, which will now occur in June rather than April 2004.

Assuming a 60-day period for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) review of the administrative Draft EIS/EIR, public review of the environmental document would begin in September with a public hearing in late October or early November 2004. Under the current schedule, VTA anticipates public circulation of the Final EIS/EIR in early 2005 and VTA Board approval in Summer 2005.

Public Involvement

The latest Downtown East Valley newsletter, which provided a project description for the *Enhanced Bus* and *Single Car Light Rail Transit* alternatives, was circulated to over 5,000 addresses in the Downtown East Valley database. The newsletter is available at the VTA Downtown Customer Service Center and was distributed at the VTP 2030 Spanish public meeting and the Vietnamese-American Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting. The newsletter will also be distributed at future public and stakeholders meetings. Translated versions are now available in Vietnamese, Spanish, and Portuguese. All versions have been made available on the Downtown East Valley website. Supplemental distribution of the translated versions will occur in conjunction with public involvement efforts later this year.

In addition, staff continued revising the Downtown East Valley Transit Improvement Plan fact sheet to include current project information and are developing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for the Downtown East Valley Transit Improvement Plan for posting on the website. Staff continue to update the project website (www.dtev-vta.org) to include current project calendar information.

Santa Clara/Alum Rock Corridor

Preliminary Engineering (PE)

The RFP recently issued for PE for the Capitol Expressway Light Rail extension to Eastridge was written to allow VTA the flexibility to increase the scope of work for the General Design Consultant selected through the solicitation to include other Downtown East Valley segments/projects. Therefore, once the decision is made regarding the preferred alternative (i.e., enhanced bus or single-car light rail) and funds for PE are appropriated, PE for the Santa Clara/Alum Rock Corridor could be initiated quickly.

Monterey Highway Bus Rapid Transit

Conceptual Engineering

Background CE work, for example, mapping and compiling existing traffic and transit use data, was completed early in the CE phase in 2002. At that point, work specifically related to the Monterey Highway BRT project was essentially put on hold as VTA investigated numerous BRT features, for example, communications, effective BRT-related roadway improvements, type of vehicle technology, and station improvements as part of Line 22 BRT project development. The Monterey Highway BRT project will use the work done for the Line 22 BRT project to help determine appropriate project elements for implementation along Monterey Highway.

Substantial progress has been made in defining BRT elements for the Line 22 project; therefore, the Monterey Highway BRT work will be resumed in the next few months and CE is anticipated to be completed in 2005.

Environmental Review

Until the CE work progresses to approximately 65%, it is not possible to determine what type of environmental document (for example, a Categorical Exclusion/Exemption, Environmental Assessment/Initial Study, or EIS/EIR) will be necessary for the Monterey Highway BRT project. This determination will likely be made later this year. It is doubtful that an EIS/EIR will be required; therefore, the environmental review process will require a relatively short time to complete.