

2000 Measure A Transportation Improvement Program

Annual Report from the Citizens Watchdog Committee

BACKGROUND

Measure A, approved by Santa Clara County voters in 2000, is a 30-year half cent sales tax devoted to improvement projects for the area's public transit network. The Measure A ballot specified that the Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) must review all 2000 Measure A expenditures, have an independent audit conducted each fiscal year, hold public hearings and issue reports at least annually to inform Santa Clara County residents how the funds are being spent, and publish the results of the independent audit and the annual report in local newspapers and make them available to the public.

The VTA Board of Directors is responsible for implementation of the 2000 Measure A Program and for all policy-related decisions including the composition, implementation schedule and funding level of projects. The Citizens Watchdog Committee's responsibility is limited to reviewing 2000 Measure A expenditures to ensure funds are being spent in accordance with the intent of the ballot.

Among the projects specified in the ballot are:

- Extend BART to Silicon Valley.
- Extend Light Rail from Downtown San Jose to the East Valley.
- Improve bus service in major bus corridors.
- Purchase zero-emission buses and construct service facilities.
- Provide connections from Mineta San Jose International Airport to BART, Caltrain and VTA light rail.
- Construct a new Palo Alto Intermodal Transit Center.
- Increase Caltrain service and electrify from Palo Alto to Gilroy.
- Upgrade Altamont Commuter Express (ACE).

STATUS

This report summarizes the status of the 2000 Measure A Program for FY06 (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006). During that period, approximately \$104 million was expended towards delivering 2000 Measure A projects, with significant progress being made on or the following projects being completed:

- Substantially completed 35% (preliminary) engineering on the BART project.
- Continued development on land-use studies for areas surrounding future BART stations.
- Completed Preliminary Engineering on the Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project to Nieman Station.
- Operated zero-emission buses on VTA bus lines.
- Continued design for Caltrain double-track improvements in South County.
- Completed the study identifying future capital needs for local Caltrain improvements.

Since the close of FY06, significant additional progress has been made on:

- Implementing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), including the 522 and undertaking studies for other BRT improvements in 2000 Measure A corridors.
- Completed 35% (preliminary) engineering on the BART project.
- Developing the final design of Capitol Expressway Light Rail to Eastridge.
- Developing the final design of the Caltrain Double Tracking project to Gilroy.

CONCLUSION

The CWC reviewed expenditures for the period, evaluated the results of the independent audit it commissioned of the 2000 Measure A financial statements and records (available at VTA's website: www.vta.org), and conducted a public hearing on April 11, 2007 to receive input from the community.

After thorough and careful consideration of all information and input received,

It is the conclusion of the Citizens Watchdog Committee that, for FY06, 2000 Measure A tax dollars were spent in accordance with the intent of the measure.

Sincerely,



Martin B. Schuler
Chairperson, Citizens Watchdog Committee

CITIZENS WATCHDOG COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

MEMBER	REPRESENTS	MEMBER	REPRESENTS	MEMBER	REPRESENTS
Noel Tebo	City of San Jose	Connie Rogers	South County Cities	Sally Probst	Senior Citizens
Charlotte B. Powers	City of San Jose	Roberta H. Hughan	County of Santa Clara	Martin B. Schuler	Disabled Persons
Margaret Okuzumi	North County Cities	Laura Stuchinsky	Silicon Valley Leadership Group	Stephen C. Blaylock	Mass Transit Users
Donald R. Burnett	West Valley Cities	Ray Hashimoto	Building Industry Association	Ellen Fletcher	Bicyclists
Gaye Morando	Santa Clara County Chamber of Commerce Coalition	Robert Jacobvitz	Building Owners and Managers Association-Silicon Valley	Chris C. Elias	Environmentalists
				Luis Pavel Mendez	Pedestrians