

2000 Measure A Transit Improvement Program

Annual Report from the Citizens Watchdog Committee Fiscal Year 2007

BACKGROUND:

Measure A, approved by Santa Clara County voters in 2000, is a 30-year half-cent sales tax devoted solely to improvement projects for the area's public transit network. The Measure A ballot specified that the Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC), comprised of VTA's Citizens Advisory Committee members, must:

- Review all 2000 Measure A expenditures.
- Have an independent audit conducted each fiscal year of 2000 Measure A financial statements and records.
- Hold public hearings and issue reports at least annually to inform Santa Clara County residents how the funds are being spent.
- 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:

- Extending BART to Silicon Valley.
- Providing connections from Mineta San Jose International Airport to BART, Caltrain and VTA light rail.
- Extending light rail from downtown San Jose to the East Valley.
- Constructing a new Palo Alto Intermodal Transit Center.
- Increasing Caltrain service and electrifying the system from Palo Alto to Gilroy.
- Improving bus service in major bus corridors.
- Purchasing zero-emission buses and constructing service facilities.
- Purchasing low-floor light rail vehicles.
- Upgrading Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) service.
- Improving Highway 17 Express bus service.
- Developing new light rail corridors.

STATUS:

This report summarizes the status of the 2000 Measure A Program for FY 2007 (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007). During that period, approximately \$137 million of Measure A funds were expended towards delivering 2000 Measure A projects, with significant progress being made on or completion achieved on the following projects:

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Rapid bus service along VTA's busiest corridor, providing service to the HP Pavilion



Highway 17 Express





Proposed conceptual BART station design in Santa Clara County



Zero-Emission Bus (ZEB) at hydrogen fueling station



Low-floor Light Rail vehicle



Caltrain Baby Bullet



Enhanced bus and light rail station



Proposed conceptual design of Eastridge Transit Center and Light Rail Station

- **BART Extension to Silicon Valley**
 - Completed Preliminary Engineering (35%) and began the 65% design phase.
 - The final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) was approved by the VTA Board of Directors in June 2007.
- **Capitol Expressway Light Rail Project**
 - The Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) was prepared for the Eastridge extension to address changes identified during Preliminary Engineering.
 - Preparation of the Final Design Review submittal (65%) was started.
- **Caltrain Service Improvements**
 - Began conceptual engineering of the Blossom Hill Pedestrian Overcrossing through a cooperative agreement with the City of San Jose.
 - Undertook a study to identify and prioritize safety enhancements along the corridor.
 - Began conceptual engineering and environmental review of the Mountain View Parking Structure.
- **Caltrain Double-Track Improvements in South County**
 - Continued 65% design on Phase I from Coyote to San Martin.
 - Began preliminary engineering on Phase 2 from San Martin to Gilroy.
- **Palo Alto Intermodal Transit Center**
 - Continued technical studies, environmental analysis, and conceptual engineering to support preparation of an Environmental Impact Report/Statement for a new transit center.
- **Zero-Emission Buses (ZEBs)**
 - Continued operating three ZEBs on VTA bus lines.

Since the close of FY 2007, significant additional progress has been made on:

- Completing the 65% design phase on the BART project.
- Partnering with Mineta San Jose International Airport on a feasibility study examining both design and business planning issues associated with an airport people mover from the airport to BART, Caltrain and VTA light rail.
- Continuing development of the Capitol Expressway Light Rail to Eastridge project, including certification of the Supplemental Environmental Document (SEIR) by the VTA Board of Directors in August 2007 and completion of the Final Design Review submittal (65%) in November 2007.
- Continuing development of the final design for the Caltrain Double Tracking project to Gilroy.



Palo Alto Intermodal Transit Center (PATR)



Architectural model of one proposed scheme for a public park and El Camino Real Undercrossing at PATC



Photo simulation of Capitol Expressway Light Rail at Story Road



View of Dumbarton Bridge from the west



Altamont Commuter Express (ACE) train

- Continuing development of the Santa Clara/Alum Rock Transit corridor, including VTA Board approval of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) alternative as the preferred near term development strategy, pending environmental analysis. Significant progress has also been made on Conceptual Engineering plans for BRT facilities in this corridor.

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 May 7, 2008 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 the period of FY 2007, 2000 Measure A tax dollars were spent in accordance with the intent of the measure.

Sincerely,

Noel Tebo
Chairperson, Citizens Watchdog Committee

Citizens Watchdog Committee members:

MEMBER	REPRESENTS
Noel Tebo	City of San Jose
Charlotte B. Powers	City of San Jose
Margaret Okuzumi	North County Cities
Donald R. Burnett	West Valley Cities
Connie Rogers	South County Cities
Roberta H. Hughan	County of Santa Clara
Norman Kline	Pedestrians
Sally Probst	Senior Citizens
Martin B. Schulter	Disabled Persons
Stephen C. Blaylock	Mass Transit Users
Ellen Fletcher	Bicyclists
Chris C. Elias	Environmentalists
Ray Hashimoto	Home Builders Association of Northern California
Gaye Morando	Santa Clara County Chamber of Commerce Coalition
Robert Jacobvitz	Building Owners and Managers Association – Silicon Valley