

**SILICON VALLEY RAPID TRANSIT CORRIDOR –
BART Extension to Milpitas, San Jose and Santa Clara**

in the Cities of Fremont, Milpitas, San Jose and Santa Clara,
and the County of Santa Clara

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND
DRAFT SECTION 4(f) EVALUATION**

PREPARED PURSUANT TO:

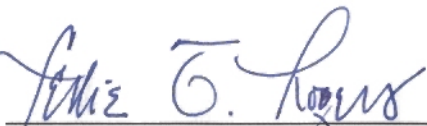
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, §102 (42 U.S.C. §4332); Federal Transit Law (49 U.S.C. §5301(e), §5323(b) and §5324(b)); 49 U.S.C. §303 (formerly Department of Transportation Act of 1966, §4(f)); National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, §106 (16 U.S.C. §470f); 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508; 23 CFR Part 771; Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice); Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands); Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management); and California Environmental Quality Act, PRC 21000 et seq.; and the State of California CEQA Guidelines, California Administrative Code, 15000 et seq.

by the

**FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

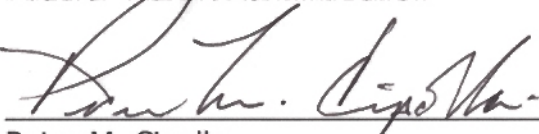
and the

SANTA CLARA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY



Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator, Region IX
Federal Transit Administration

3/2/04
Date of Approval



Peter M. Cipolla
General Manager
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority

1/27/04
Date of Approval

ABSTRACT

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority proposes to construct a 16.3-mile extension of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) rail system from just south of the future BART Warm Springs Station in Fremont to the Cities of Milpitas, San Jose and Santa Clara. The alignment would include seven stations, plus one future station, along the alignment and a maintenance and vehicle storage yard in San Jose/Santa Clara. In addition to the BART Alternative, the EIS/EIR also evaluates the No-Action and "New Starts" Baseline Alternatives, along with two Minimum Operating Segment (MOS) scenarios under the BART Alternative. The project would enhance regional connectivity, alleviate severe and ever-increasing traffic congestion on the freeways between Alameda and Santa Clara Counties, improve regional air quality, provide mobility options, maximize transit usage and ridership, and support local economic and land use plans and goals.

This report evaluates and discloses the environmental impacts of this proposed action including increases in localized traffic; increases in noise and vibration levels; relocation of businesses and residences; and impacts on wetlands, special status species, historic and cultural resources and parklands, among other topics. Best management practices and mitigation measures are detailed in the document.

The financial plan indicates that this extension will need additional revenue in order to be constructed and operated in the time frame described. The Federal Transit Administration is approving circulation of this Draft EIS, with a preliminary financial plan, in recognition of the project's inclusion in the current Metropolitan Transportation Plan financially constrained regional plan and as support for the public dialogue on the project and its financial plan. The financial plan in the Draft EIS is based on financial projections and governmental actions that are not finalized. As part of the New Starts process, a feasible financial plan will need to be prepared to advance the project into Final Design. In addition, the proposed project is dependent on the completion of the BART Warm Springs Extension Project that does not yet have a final financial plan in place.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS DOCUMENT, CONTACT:

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San Jose, CA 95134

Mr. Jerome Wiggins
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Federal Transit Administration, Region IX
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San Francisco, CA 94105

A 60-day review period beginning March 16, 2004 and ending May 14, 2004 has been established for comments on this document. Written comments should be submitted to Mr. Tom Fitzwater at the address above. Comments may also be submitted by fax at (408) 321-5787, by e-mail at SVRTC.DEIS-EIRcomments@vta.org, or by oral testimony at the public hearings noted below. Information can also be obtained from the web site (www.vtabart-vta.org) or from Mr. Fitzwater by calling (408) 321-5789.

The dates, times, and locations of the public hearings are:

Santa Clara Public Hearing
Monday, April 12, 2004
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Santa Clara Senior Center
1303 Fremont Street
Santa Clara, CA

San Jose Public Hearing
Wednesday, April 14, 2004
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
24 North First Street
San Jose, CA

Milpitas Public Hearing
Monday, April 19, 2004
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Joseph Weller Elem. School
345 Boulder Street
Milpitas, CA