

## Capitol Expressway Corridor Project Alum Rock Light Rail Station to Eastridge Transit Center

**November 1, 2013**

### **SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A SUBSEQUENT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

#### **Project Description and Location**

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is proposing to improve public transit service by extending light rail along Capitol Expressway between the Alum Rock Light Rail Station and the Eastridge Transit Center, a distance of approximately 2.3 miles, in the City of San Jose. Light rail will operate primarily in the median of Capitol Expressway within exclusive and semi-exclusive rights-of-way. Property acquisition for the project will be minimized through the removal of two HOV lanes on Capitol Expressway. The alignment will include an elevated section that will extend north of Capitol Avenue to south of Story Road and an elevated crossing of Tully Road. New light rail stations will be located at Story Road (aerial) and Eastridge Transit Center (at-grade). At Eastridge Mall, the Park-and-Ride lot will be expanded to accommodate increased demand. The project will also include traction power substations at Ocala Avenue and Eastridge Transit Center. Approximately five 115-kilovolt electrical transmission towers and two tubular steel poles will require relocation from the median of Capitol Expressway to the east side of Capitol Expressway in order to accommodate the project.

This project is estimated to cost \$310 million and to be funded by a combination of local, state, and federal sources. If approved, construction of this project would begin in 2015 and end in 2018.

#### **Hazardous Waste and Substances Statement**

As required by the California Environmental Quality Act, the lead agency is disclosing that the project is located in an area where there are numerous sites within a 1-mile radius where hazardous materials are generated, used, or stored and/or where some type of spill/leakage/contamination has occurred.

#### **Contents of the Environmental Document**

A Draft Subsequent Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (SMND) has been prepared to address changes to the project, changes to circumstances, and introduction of new information since the certification of the 2005 Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the 2007 Final Supplemental EIR. The proposed changes to the project include:

- Elimination of the Ocala Avenue Station. VTA is proposing to eliminate the Ocala Avenue Station because it does not meet VTA's Transit Sustainability Policy's criteria of 600 boardings per station, and it requires property acquisition and roadway realignment in

order to meet the geometric requirements for a station. In 2035, the estimated boardings for the Ocala Station are expected to be 250

- No sidewalk widening between Foxdale and Ocala Avenues. The project is no longer proposing to widen the sidewalk into a multi-use path and add landscaping on the west side of Capitol Expressway between Foxdale Drive and Ocala Avenue because these improvements would require the relocation of an existing sound wall and the partial acquisition of the backyards of nine residences along Brownstone, Pinkstone, and Silverstone Courts.
- Expansion of Eastridge Park-and-Ride Lot from 250 spaces to 417 spaces because of concerns that as long-term parking demand approaches capacity that VTA patrons will park at Eastridge Mall.

The SMND concludes that the project would not result in new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects if specified mitigation measures are implemented.

## Public Review

There will be no public meeting to receive comments on the adequacy of the environmental document. Comments can be submitted in writing via mail or e-mail (preferred):

**Mail:** Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority  
Environmental Programs and Resources Management  
3331 North First Street, Bldg. B  
San Jose, CA 95134-1927  
Attn: Christina Jaworski

**Email:** [Christina.Jaworski@vta.org](mailto:Christina.Jaworski@vta.org)

**Phone:** 408.321.5751

Comments will be accepted between **November 1, 2013, and December 2, 2013.**

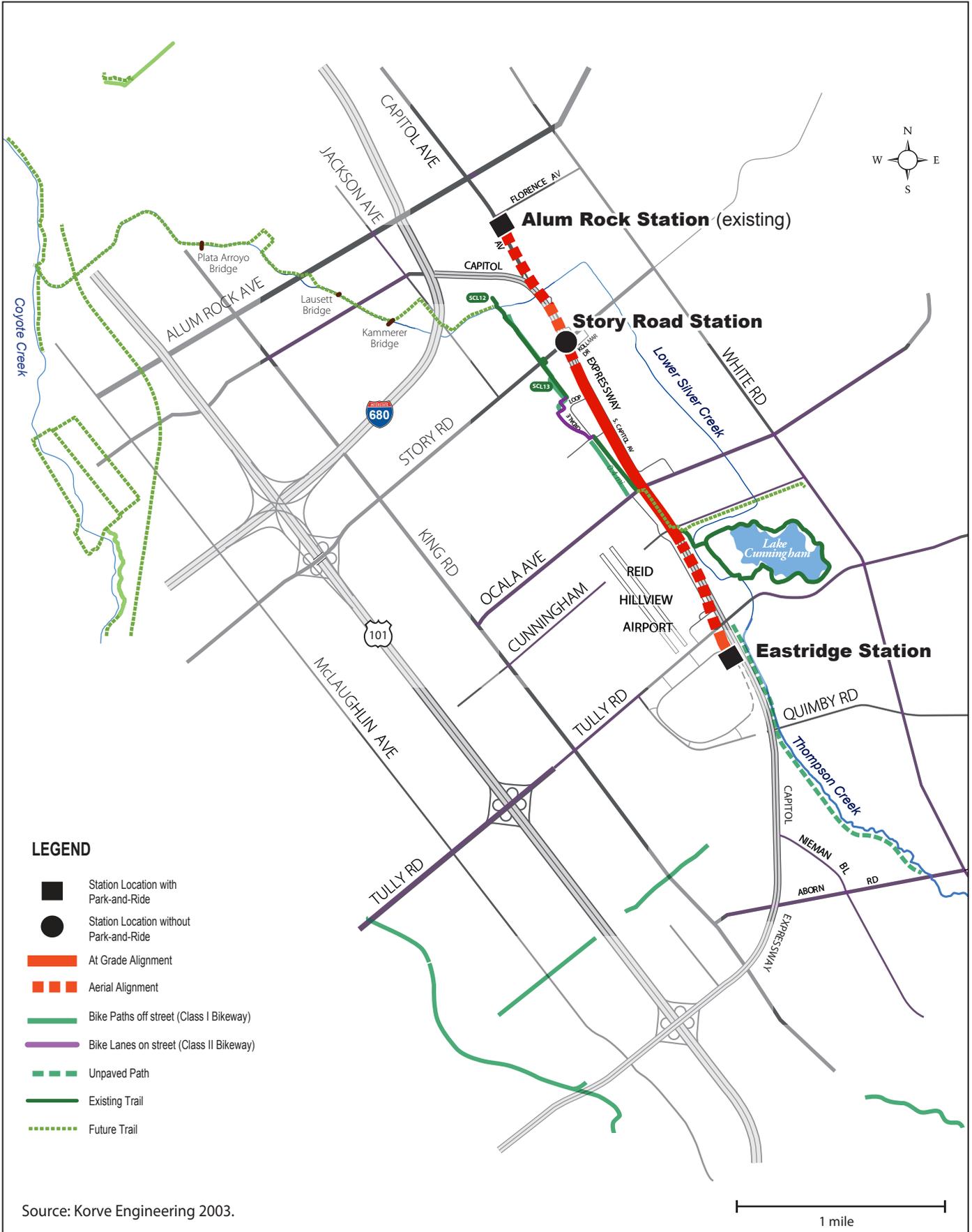
The environmental document can be viewed online at [www.vta.org/projects/capitol\\_rail\\_project](http://www.vta.org/projects/capitol_rail_project) and at the following locations:

Valley Transportation Authority  
Building B – Lobby  
3331 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95134

San Jose Public Library, Hillview Branch  
1600 Hopkins Drive, San Jose, CA 95122

For additional information on the environmental document or to obtain a copy in Braille, large print, audiocassette or computer disk, please contact VTA Environmental Planning at (408) 321-5751. For the hearing impaired/TDD, please call (408) 321-2330.





Source: Korve Engineering 2003.

### Light Rail Alternative

