

2000 Measure A Transit Improvement Program

Citizens Watchdog Committee Summary on Fiscal Year 2015



BENEFITS AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Citizen Watchdog Committee (CWC) provides this report to inform the community on the status of 2000 Measure A projects and how they are enhancing the quality of life for residents, commuters, businesses and workers in Santa Clara County. This summary report is a snapshot of Measure A projects completed or significant milestones achieved during Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15; the period of 7/1/2014 – 6/30/2015), how these projects benefit the community, and the CWC's conclusion that during this period Measure A tax dollars were spent as intended by the ballot.

In November 2000, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure A, a 30-year half cent sales tax dedicated to enhancing the county's public transit system. Revenue collection did not begin until 2006 upon expiration of a previous sales tax measure. Numerous Measure A accomplishments have occurred during the first nine years of the program. A few key milestones that occurred during FY15 are:

VTA's Extension of BART to Silicon Valley – Berryessa Extension

VTA continues to efficiently deliver this project, which will increase transportation options and reduce congestion, ahead of schedule and under budget. VTA sights are set on late 2017 for initiation of BART service that will bring commuters and other passengers to/from Silicon Valley. The largest public works project in Santa Clara County continues with bridge construction, roadway modifications, construction of elevated track structures, excavation, and construction of stations and parking facilities during FY15 along the 10-mile corridor from Fremont south through Milpitas to the Berryessa area of north San José.



Light Rail Efficiency Projects

Mountain View Double-Track Project allows for increased light rail service and reliability by adding a second light rail track between the Mountain View and Whisman stations and involves shifting the existing Caltrain. Project benefits include: (1) better on-time service for commuters transferring between Caltrain and VTA Light Rail at the Mountain View Station; (2) capacity for additional service to Mountain View as ridership increases and BART Silicon Valley service is initiated in late 2017; and (3) a direct connection to Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara. Project was completed in

late 2015 and was fully operational for Super Bowl 50 at Levi's Stadium in February 2016.

Caltrain Service Upgrades

Santa Clara Station Pedestrian Underpass Extension provides an extended pedestrian tunnel under the Caltrain and freight railroad tracks at the Santa Clara Caltrain Station. This project improves safety and mobility by providing a grade-separated crossing for pedestrians and bicycles that connects Benton Street, Brokaw Road, and the station's center-boarding platform. Final engineering was initiated in June 2015. Construction is scheduled to begin summer 2016, with project completion projected for early 2017.



Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

- Alum Rock/Santa Clara BRT will enhance the county's highest transit ridership corridor by providing limited-stop rapid transit service from the Eastridge Transit Center to the Arena Station in downtown San Jose using Capitol Expressway, Alum Rock Avenue and Santa Clara Street. Project is being designed in an alignment consistent with light rail stations, enabling a potential future conversion. Significant progress was made during FY15 including street widening, pavement reconstruction and sanitary sewer relocation along the north side of Alum Rock mostly completed. Traffic was shifted to the north side of the roadway to allow construction to commence on the south side. Project completion is now projected for December 2016.



- Stevens Creek Rapid 523 Planning was initiated in early 2015. Project team and city staff are evaluating bus stop placement, shelter options, and bike and pedestrian improvements.
- De Anza College Transit Center Improvements will make improvements at De Anza College to accommodate additional buses. Initial planning started in fall 2015.
- King Road Bus Stop Improvement project will include upgrading the bus stop at King Road/Alum

Rock Ave. to accommodate the 523 extension through downtown San Jose.

- Procurement of Articulated Buses. All buses have been accepted.



Additional information and the status of individual Measure A projects is contained in the CWC Comprehensive Annual Report on FY15 available at: www.vta.org/cwc-reports.

CITIZENS WATCHDOG COMMITTEE FINDING:

The CWC appreciates the importance of the role entrusted to us by voters in Santa Clara County to provide oversight for the tax collected under Measure A and for keeping county residents informed. To that end, we reviewed expenditures for the subject period, evaluated the results of an independent audit we commissioned of Measure A expenditures, and conducted a public hearing on September 7, 2016 to obtain input from the community on the Measure A Program. After thorough review and careful consideration of all information and input received:

It is the conclusion of the Citizens Watchdog Committee that, for the period of FY 2015, 2000 Measure A tax dollars were spent in accordance with the intent of the Measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Herman H. Wadler
Chairperson, Citizens Watchdog Committee

Citizens Watchdog Committee members:

MEMBER

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West Valley Cities
Disabled Persons
Environmentalists
Bicyclists and Pedestrians
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council
Home Builders Association of Northern California
Santa Clara County Chamber of Commerce Coalition
Building Owners and Managers Association – Silicon Valley

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Mass Transit Users
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