

From: VTA Board Secretary

Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 4:50 PM

To: VTA Board of Directors

Subject: VTA Information: City of Saratoga Letter of Support for SR85

VTA Board of Directors:

Attached is a letter from Saratoga Mayor, Howard Miller, on behalf of the Saratoga City Council re: State Route 85 Transit Guideway Study.

Thank you.

Office of the Board Secretary
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
3331 North First Street, Building B
San Jose, CA 95134-1927
Phone [408-321-5680](tel:408-321-5680)





CITY OF SARATOGA

13777 FRUITVALE AVENUE • SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95070 • (408) 868-1200

Incorporated October 22, 1956

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mary-Lynne Bernald

Rishi Kumar

Howard Miller

Yan Zhao

September 17, 2020

VTA Board of Directors
3331 N. First Street
San Jose, California 95134

Re: State Route 85 Transit Guideway Study

Dear Chair and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Saratoga, I urge you to adopt the recommendation of the State Route 85 Policy Advisory Board and move forward with a public transit lane on the State Route 85 median. This project has the potential to be transformative for the South Bay, reducing vehicle miles traveled, greenhouse gas emissions, and serving as a test case of a private/public partnership that can leverage the innovation of the region in building transportation infrastructure. It is the solution that will most benefit all commuters regardless of income or occupation.

Since its inception, Measure B has recognized the key importance of transit in addressing our region's transportation challenges. Measure B sets forth a clear objective for the SR 85 Corridor: "to fund new transit and congestion relief projects on SR 85, including a new transit lane from SR 87 in San Jose to US 101 in Mountain View". Measure B provided an estimated \$350 million in funding and called for a study of a potential transit lane on State Route 85. Based on that study (the State Route 85 Transit Guideway Study) VTA's State Route 85 Policy Advisory Board recommended that your Board fund a public transit lane project on SR 85 between US 101 in Mountain View and SR 87 in San Jose. The Saratoga City Council strongly supports that recommendation.

During the PAB's public meetings one alternative emerged as the clear choice for the public as well as the PAB members. The Study's "Alternative 3.2 Long Median Transit Lane," calls for the creation of a transit guideway, or transit lane, in the median of the freeway. This alternative most closely matches the stated objective of the Measure B funding for SR 85 Corridor. The PAB made clear its support for public transit in the corridor and noise mitigation together with its opposition to using the median for an express lane, and the City of Saratoga shares that view.

The SR 85 corridor is ripe for a transit investment and VTA Board should move forward into the preliminary engineering phase for Alternative 3.2 Long Median Transit Lane as soon as possible. We strongly urge you to move this project forward to bring long-awaited transit service and attendant noise mitigation to the West Valley and the SR 85 corridor.

Sincerely,

Howard A. Miller, Mayor

On Behalf of the City Council of the City of Saratoga

cc: Members of the Policy Advisory Board

From: VTA Board Secretary

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 4:59 PM

To: VTA Board of Directors

Subject: VTA Information: Board of Directors Agenda Packet for October 1, 2020

VTA Board of Directors:

You may now access your VTA Board of Directors Agenda packet for the **Thursday, October 1, 2020, Meeting** on our [agenda portal](#).

Board Members will receive a unique Panelist link for Zoom via email on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, from VTA Board Secretary. The email will provide instructions on how to join the meeting.

Thank you,

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