

From: VTA Board Secretary

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 3:55 PM

To: VTA Board of Directors

Cc: Smith, Patrice

Subject: From VTA: Talking Points in Response to Opportunity Now Blog

Board of Directors:

Please find the attached memo and taking points in response to a recent blog post.

Please respond to this email if you have any questions.

Office of the Board Secretary

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MEMORANDUM

TO: VTA Board of Directors

FROM: Patrice Smith, Chief Communications Officer 

DATE: May 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Talking Points in Response to Opportunity Now Blog

Earlier this month, the [Opportunity Now](#) blog published an opinion piece criticizing public transit. I have prepared the attached talking points addressing the comments raised in the piece by Randal O'Toole. The talking points emphasize the importance of VTA to mobility in Santa Clara County and address the themes and criticisms in the blog.

These talking points may be used up to the day that the citizen's initiative qualifies for the ballot. Once it does, please do not use these talking points to avoid any appearance of advocacy or campaigning in favor of the measure.

Thank you.

Talking Points
Opportunity Now Opinion Piece
May 26, 2026

These talking points may be used up to the day that the citizen's initiative qualifies for the ballot. Once it does, please do not use these talking points to avoid any appearance of advocacy or campaigning in favor of the measure.

- **VTA is about opportunity, access, and regional connectivity.**
Reliable public transportation connects people to jobs, schools, healthcare, and essential services while supporting the economic vitality of Silicon Valley. Transportation choice strengthens economic opportunity for everyone in our region.
- **A modern economy requires a multimodal transportation system.**
Silicon Valley cannot rely on one mode of travel alone. Roads, transit, biking, walking, and emerging mobility options must work together to move people efficiently and keep our economy competitive.
- **The goal is not to force anyone out of cars; it is to provide reliable transportation choices.**
Transit is infrastructure that benefits the entire region, including people who never ride it, by reducing congestion, improving mobility, and supporting a more resilient transportation network.
- **VTA is committed to responsible stewardship of public resources.**
VTA works to maximize the value of taxpayer investments by delivering essential transportation services, maintaining critical infrastructure, and planning for the region's long-term mobility needs. Investments in transit support the public good by strengthening economic competitiveness, improving access and opportunity, and creating a more efficient transportation system for Santa Clara County.
- **A growing Silicon Valley cannot pave its way out of traffic.**
The solution to congestion is not more congestion. Investing in transit allows more people to move efficiently, affordably, and sustainably while reducing pressure on crowded roadways.
- **Transit is a long-term investment in Silicon Valley's future.**
Reliable transit supports workers, businesses, students, seniors, and families alike. Transit and clean vehicles are complementary, not competing solutions, that help build a more sustainable, connected, and economically competitive region.