

2000 Measure A Transit Improvement Program

Citizens Watchdog Committee Report on Fiscal Year 2016



BENEFITS AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Citizen Watchdog Committee (CWC) provides this report to inform the community on the status of 2000 Measure A (“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 2016 (FY16: the period of 7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016), 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. Although most of the ballot-defined projects are massive and complex, requiring years to plan, design and construct, numerous accomplishments have occurred during the first 10 years of the 30 year Measure A program. A few key milestones that occurred during FY16 are:

VTA’S BART EXTENSION TO SILICON VALLEY

VTA continues to efficiently deliver this massive project to extend BART service to the Santa Clara County cities of Milpitas, San José and Santa Clara, which will increase transportation options, reduce congestion, and bring commuters and other passengers to/from Silicon Valley.



The Phase I extension to Milpitas and the Berryessa area of San Jose (Berryessa Extension) is ahead of schedule and under budget. During FY16, significant infrastructure construction was completed including elevated track structures, bridges, track work, stations, parking facilities, train controls and traction power substations, and roadway modifications. Presently, construction is mostly complete (over 90%), system testing is underway, and VTA sights are set on early 2018 for the initiation of BART service.

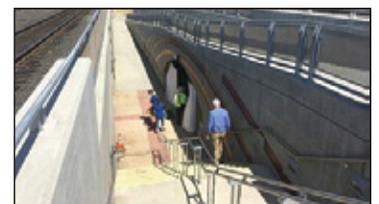


CALTRAIN SERVICE UPGRADES

Electrifying the Caltrain system will increase speed, capacity and reliability while reducing emissions and noise. VTA partners with Caltrain on implementation. During FY16, the bid process for contracts for design and construction of the electrification infrastructure and procurement of electric trains was initiated and completed. In July 2016, the Caltrain Board of Directors awarded the design and construction contract to Balfour Beatty Infrastructure, Inc. and the contract for manufacture of high-performance electric trains to Stadler US, Inc.



Santa Clara Station Pedestrian Underpass Extension provides an extended pedestrian tunnel under the Caltrain/ACE/Capital Corridor/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. During FY16, final engineering was completed and the construction contract awarded. Construction was initiated during fall 2016, and the project completed and opened to the public in summer 2017.



BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT)

Alum Rock/Santa Clara BRT enhances the county's highest transit ridership corridor by providing limited-stop rapid bus 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 includes median lane features and was designed in an alignment consistent with light rail stations, enabling potential future conversion. During FY16, significant construction progress was made on Alum Rock Avenue roadway, busway, and BRT stations. Since then, project was completed and service initiated in mid-2017.



Stevens Creek Rapid 523 P roject is focused on providing enhanced service that will serve the Berryessa BART Station when it opens and, in coordination with VTA's BART Transit Integration Plan, create a service plan between Berryessa BART and De Anza College. Design for new shelters, seating, lighting and other associated bus stop improvements was conducted during FY16. The construction contract was awarded in April 2017. Construction is currently underway, with completion expected late 2017. Service implementation is projected for early 2018.

LIGHT RAIL EFFICIENCY PROJECTS

Mountain View Double-Track Project, completed in December 2015, allows enhanced service to Mountain View, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara. It added a second light rail track between the Mountain View and Whisman stations, which required shifting the Caltrain tracks. Project benefits include better on-time service for commuters transferring between Caltrain and VTA Light Rail at the Mountain View Station and capacity for additional service to Mountain View. This project, combined with other improvements, enables VTA to establish a new light rail corridor from Mountain View to Alum Rock to accommodate the dramatic increase in public transit ridership projected for North County when BART service to Milpitas and Berryessa begins the first half of 2018.

Additional information and the status of individual Measure A projects is contained in the CWC Annual Report on FY16 available at: <http://www.vta.org/projects-and-programs/Programs/2000-Measure-A-Citizens-Watchdog-Committee>.



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 May 10, 2017 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 2016, 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

Charlotte B. Powers
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City of San Jose
West Valley Cities
Disabled Persons
Environmentalists
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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REPRESENTS

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North County Cities
County of Santa Clara
Mass Transit Users
Senior Citizens
Disabled Community
Bicyclists and Pedestrians