

# 2000 Measure A Transit Improvement Program

## Citizens Watchdog Committee Report on Fiscal Year 2017



### 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 2017 (FY 2017: the period of 7/1/2016 – 6/30/2017), 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 began in 2006. Most of the ballot-defined projects are massive and complex, requiring years to plan and construct. Numerous accomplishments have occurred during the first 11 years of the 30-year Measure A program. A few key milestones that occurred during FY 2017 are:

#### VTA’S BART SILICON VALLEY EXTENSION

VTA made significant progress on the planned 16-mile, six-station extension of the existing San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) system into Santa Clara County. The project will provide an environmentally friendly transit alternative to the congested I-880/I-680 commute corridor, increase job access for Santa Clara County residents and increase access to and from major educational institutions. Furthermore, the project has already spurred transit-oriented development and economic benefits.



Substantial progress was realized in FY 2017 on the first 10 miles of the project, BART Silicon Valley Phase I, the Berryessa Extension. Track installation, completion of the power network and contact rail energization at all locations were completed. Road reconstruction projects at Capitol Avenue and Dixon Landing Road were finished. Work commenced Montague Expressway/South Milpitas Boulevard. Improvement Project improving station access as well as adding flood control and traffic relief. The Milpitas and Berryessa stations and associated parking structures were substantially completed. VTA and BART continue to work together to complete the testing phase to enable passenger service in 2019.



During FY 2017, the Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR)/ Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was released for Phase II (the last six miles that extend the project to the city of Santa Clara). Since then, the VTA Board of Directors certified the SEIR and approved the single-bore tunneling methodology for the 5-mile subway through downtown San Jose. VTA is working diligently to seek federal funding to augment the 2000 Measure A dollars allocated for the project. In 2016, Santa Clara County voters passed Measure B by nearly 72%, which will provide \$1.5 billion for Phase II.

#### CALTRAIN SERVICE UPGRADES

**Electrifying the Caltrain system** will increase speed, capacity and reliability while reducing emissions and noise. VTA partners with Caltrain on implementation and reimburses Caltrain for its share of the project related costs. In June 2017, a full Notice to Proceed was issued to Balfour Beatty Infrastructure to begin work on the design-build electrification project and Stadler US for the manufacture of the high-performance electric trains.





**Santa Clara Station Pedestrian Underpass** provides an extended pedestrian tunnel under the Caltrain/ACE/Capitol 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. In FY 2017, the project was constructed. The project opened to the public in summer 2017 and since then received several accolades.

**BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS**

Alum Rock/Santa Clara BRT revenue service began in May 2017. This project enhanced 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. The project includes median lane features and was designed in an alignment consistent with light rail stations, enabling potential future conversion.



Stevens Creek Rapid 523 project is focused on providing an 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. The construction contract was awarded in April 2017. Since then the roadwork was completed, bus stops are now operational and passenger amenities upgrades are underway. The Rapid 523 line will begin revenue service once BART is operational.

The De Anza College Stelling Road Bus Facility improvements contract was awarded in June 2017. This bus facility services VTA bus routes 25, 53, 55 and 323. Since its completion in February 2018, passengers enjoy a cleaner bus stop, multiple bus shelters, new lighting, and new WiFi hotspot.

Additional information and the status of individual Measure A projects are contained in the CWC Annual Report on FY 2017 available at: [www.vta.org/cwc](http://www.vta.org/cwc).

**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 9, 2018, 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 2017, 2000 Measure A tax dollars were spent in accordance with the intent of the Measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Elias  
Vice Chairperson, Citizens Watchdog Committee



**Citizens Watchdog Committee members:**

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Noel Tebo.....	City of San Jose
Matthew Quevedo .....	Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Chris C. Elias.....	Environmentalists
Martin B. Schulter .....	Disabled Persons
Aboubacar Ndiaye .....	South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council
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William Hadaya .....	Santa Clara County Chamber of Commerce Coalition