



BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING

Friday, August 15, 2014

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Special Meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority’s (VTA) Board of Directors was called to order by Chairperson Kalra at 10:10 a.m. in the VTA Auditorium, 3331 North First Street, San José, California.

1.1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jason Baker	Alternate Board Member	Present
Xavier Campos	Board Member	Present
Larry Carr	Alternate Board Member	Absent
Cindy Chavez	Board Member	Absent
Dave Cortese	Alternate Board Member	Absent
Jose Esteves	Board Member	Present
Rose Herrera	Board Member	Absent
Ash Kalra	Chairperson	Present
Johnny Khamis	Board Member	Present
Rich Larsen	Alternate Board Member	Absent
Sam Liccardo	Ex-Officio	Absent
Jamie Matthews	Alternate Board Member	Absent
Joe Pirzynski	Board Member	Present
Gail A. Price	Board Member	Present
Donald Rocha	Board Member	Present
David Whittum	Board Member	Present
Perry Woodward	Vice Chairperson	Present
Ken Yeager	Board Member	Absent

* Alternates do not serve unless participating as a Member.

A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no Public Presentations.

3. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chairperson Kalra thanked the Board Members for attending the meeting, and noted the importance of having the full Board of Directors participate in the initial discussion about a potential ballot measure in 2016. Chairperson Kalra stated the main focus of the sub-committee will be to provide recommendations to the Board in several key areas during the development of a ballot measure such as communications, community engagement

strategies, criteria development, and evaluation. Chairperson Kalra emphasized that it is the full Board who will make the final decision on if, when, and what will be included in the ballot measure.

Nuria I. Fernandez, General Manager, noted that VTA serves the growing population of Santa Clara County (County) with over 313 directional miles of freeways and 62 miles of expressways that travel through 11 cities. On the transit side, VTA has 70 bus routes traveling 3,646 trips per weekday. Light Rail has 42.2 miles of track and travels 405 trips per weekday. Ms. Fernandez stated VTA needs a new funding source to address the increasing growth and congestion, and this is why VTA wants to formulate an inclusive process to frame the future ballot measure. VTA is committed to partnering with the community and stakeholders to ensure that any potential ballot measure is fully vetted and widely supported.

Introductions

Chairperson Kalra introduced Carl Guardino, President and CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, who discussed working with VTA to bring forth a potential ballot measure in 2016. Mr. Guardino noted the lessons learned from previous transportation sales tax initiatives. He noted the importance of: 1) the effort must be driven by good policy; 2) listening to transportation professionals and urge them to think regionally; 3) looking for what is truly going to make a difference for the people who work and live in the County; 4) listening to the policy professionals who help guide you to what voters will support; 5) continuing communication with voters to determine support for a ballot measure, and; 6) continuing working together as policy makers to ensure we are creating a climate leading to on-going job growth.

Members of the Board queried about: 1) the Valley's future job growth outlook, and; 2) VTA's vision for additional modern and effective transit.

Board Member Campos requested that staff provide the Board with an update on the Capitol Corridor Extension Project which provides service to Salinas.

4. Receive Report Depicting Current Conditions of Santa Clara County's Transportation Network

Ms. Fernandez, introduced John Ristow, Director of Planning and Program Development, and Chris Augenstein, Planning Deputy Director.

Staff provided a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting: 1) Development Trends Snapshot; 2) Roadway Network; 3) Bicycle Network; 4) Transit Network; 5) Transit Rail Network; 6) 2013 Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Jobs; and 7) 2013 ABAG Workers.

Mr. Ristow outlined the entire transportation network including freeways, highways, bike and pedestrian networks, light rail and bus noting where the stress points are and which areas are in need of immediate improvements.

Mr. Augenstein outlined the bike path network system, highlighting: 1) Class 1 paved bikeways; 2) Class 2 on-street bikeways, and; 3) designated bike routes by signage with no facilities. Mr. Augenstein noted there are segments of the bike path network system that need to be built to complete the system.

Mr. Augenstein noted current trends for land use including job growth clustering and disbursement as well as worker location. He stated VTA is focused on improving connections in this suburban like environment, and discussed the importance of increasing density around the transit network.

Board Member Khamis left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Mr. Ristow provided a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting: 1) Origin Counties of Commuters Who Work In Santa Clara County Year 2009; 2) Local Roads Pavement Condition Index; 3) Pavement Condition Index – Santa Clara County & Cities; 4) Pavement Condition Index – Bay Area Counties, and 5) Major Developments in Santa Clara County. Mr. Ristow outlined operations and maintenance including the annual funding needed for pavement, and noted VTA is currently preparing the Short Range Transportation Plan (SRTP) which will be presented to the Board of Directors.

5. Discussion on the Draft Process and Framework for a Potential Ballot Measure

Ms. Fernandez provided a handout entitled “30 in 15 – Moving Silicon Valley Forward” and highlighted the importance of delivering projects while maintaining financial sustainability. She noted the tasks listed will help VTA craft a measure that can address the congestion and service gaps within the first 15 years of the 30-year measure. Ms. Fernandez introduced Eileen Goodwin, Consultant and President of Apex Strategies.

Ms. Goodwin referenced the graphic “30 in 15 – Moving Silicon Valley Forward,” highlighting the recommended timeline for public meetings, communications and community outreach development and approval of projects list.

Ms. Fernandez noted VTA will conduct polling to ensure there is voter support.

Board Member Whittum requested that VTA regularly update the Board on strategic plans and priorities based on current conditions.

Board Member Campos noted the importance of communicating and coordinating Level of Service (LOS) with cities.

Board Member Price expressed support and encouraged flexibility in the language of the ballot measure itself to allow for changing circumstances. She commented on the following: 1) suggested VTA consider experts outside traditional transportation planning and political constraints to capture innovative transportation thinking; 2) encouraged VTA to include the transit dependent user in the planning process; 3) queried about the Caltrain modernization project, and; 4) encouraged leadership to consider appointing an individual from the northern section of Santa Clara County to chair a standing committee.

Ms. Goodwin noted that flexibility can be a goal. One option is to have a voter-approved flexible plan that is transparent.

Board Member Pirzynski recommended that the first slide “Origin Counties of Commuters Who Work in Santa Clara County Year 2009” be updated to reflect contemporary actual numbers.

Vice Chairperson Woodward expressed concern with the safety issues that exist in Gilroy and around Highway 152 and requested further clarification.

Mr. Ristow noted most of California State Route 152 as it comes into US 101 is currently a two lane country road which carries mostly commercial trucks, commuters and recreational vehicles. The route has a high accident and fatality rate. VTA has a new alignment planned for the east/west corridor.

Board Member Whittum suggested providing the Board Members adequate notice to encourage a more robust discussion.

Public Comment

Chris Lepe, Interested Citizen, expressed support for the proposed 2016 ballot measure planning process, encouraged VTA to connect local goals to regional and state objectives, and suggested VTA take a look at Level of Service (LOS) for buses.

Colin Heyne, Interested Citizen, thanked the Board for the planned engagement of community partners and stakeholders, and encouraged the direct and significant role of advocacy groups to help develop a well-crafted plan which is supported by voters.

Roland Lebrun, Interested Citizen, informed the Board of the San Francisco developed outreach tool “Budget Czar” www.sfbudgetczar.com and encouraged VTA to consider developing a similar tool for polling and outreach. Mr. Lebrun suggested VTA focus on the Capitol Corridor segment from Diridon Station to Great America.

Leah Toeniskoetter, Director of SPUR San Jose, expressed support and indicated the agency looks forward to working with VTA to determine projects that will improve the transportation system in Santa Clara County.

Ms. Fernandez noted all handouts will be posted on the VTA website.

6. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Kalra and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anita McGraw, Board Assistant
VTA Office of the Board Secretary