

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 18, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Congestion Management Program & Planning Committee (CMPP) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Pirzynski in VTA Conference Room B-104, 3331 North First Street, San Jose, California.

1. ROLL CALL

| Attendee Name | Title | Status |
|----------------|------------------|---------|
| Rose Herrera | Vice Chairperson | Present |
| Joe Pirzynski | Chairperson | Present |
| David Whittum | Member | Present |
| Ken Yeager | Member | Present |
| Dave Cortese | Alternate Member | N/A |
| Jamie Matthews | Alternate Member | N/A |
| Jason Baker | Alternate Member | N/A |

* Alternates do not serve unless participating as a Member.

A quorum was present.

2. ORDERS OF THE DAY

There were no Orders of the Day.

3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Roland Lebrun, Interested Citizen, made the following comments: 1) expressed concern on Caltrain capacity issue and Caltrain's plan to remove restroom facilities in some of their vehicles; and 2) noted a 1996 Joint Powers Agreement pertaining to appointment of Managing Agency.

The Agenda was taken out of order.

6. Valley Transportation Plan 2040: Final Document

Members of the Committee inquired on the status of the following projects: 1) Lawrence Expressway/Wildwood Avenue intersection improvement project; and 2) Vasona Corridor Light Rail Extension.

Nuria I. Fernandez, General Manager, responded that the Envisioning Silicon Valley process will be an opportunity to evaluate and prioritize projects for the potential ballot measure and other funding sources. She added that development of the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2045 will begin in tandem with the Envisioning Silicon Valley process.

M/S/C (**Yeager/Whittum**) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve the Valley Transportation Plan 2040 (VTP 2040) as Santa Clara County's long-range countywide transportation plan.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Regular Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2014

M/S/C (**Yeager/Whittum**) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2014.

5. Regular Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2014

M/S/C (**Yeager/Whittum**) to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2014.

6. (Removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda.)

Approve the Valley Transportation Plan 2040 (VTP 2040) as Santa Clara County's long-range countywide transportation plan.

7. I-280 Ramp Metering After Study

M/S/C (**Yeager/Whittum**) to receive an update on the I-280 ramp metering study.

8. Programmed Project Monitoring - Quarterly Report

M/S/C (**Yeager/Whittum**) to receive the Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for April to June 2014.

REGULAR AGENDA (continued)

9. Adopt the Updated VTA Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) Guidelines

Robert Swierk, Sr. Transportation Planner, provided the staff report highlighting: 1) brief background and executive summary; 2) update process and outreach efforts; 3) themes and major changes in the guidelines; 4) key comments on draft documents; 5) key comments and recommendations from Advisory Committees, noting follow-up with Member Agencies at the TAC who abstained on the approval vote; and 6) benefits of the updated guidelines.

Member Yeager queried how the updated guidelines may help a situation where multiple development projects in an area are causing increased congestion that may not be feasible to mitigate.

Staff responded that the TIA Guidelines include tools that can aid local jurisdictions in analyzing cumulative conditions. Cities may also consider voluntary contributions from developers for regional projects as a way to mitigate freeway impacts.

Member Whittum commented/queried on the following: 1) noted the need for transit improvements to follow land use intensification; 2) queried on how the TIA Guidelines can help cities provide recommendations on reasonable trip reduction requirements; and 3) timeline and uncertainty of approval may be of greater concern for developers than permitting costs.

NOTE: M/S/C MEANS MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED AND, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Staff noted that, over time, the new Auto Trip Reduction Statements from Member Agencies should help provide comparison points for setting trip reduction goals. VTA also added a specific timeline for reviewers to respond to the Lead Agency when a TIA is proposed.

Public Comment

Mr. Lebrun made the following comments: 1) referenced page 37 of the TIA Guidelines and commented on the trip reductions for housing and employment proximity to rail; and 2) examine San Francisco's Transbay Transit Center funding structure and zoning policies.

Chairperson Pirzynski noted the importance of educating the public of transit options or encouraging a multimodal approach to transportation.

Vice Chairperson Herrera arrived at the meeting and took her seat at 10:43 a.m.

M/S/C (**Yeager/Herrera**) to approve submitting a recommendation to the Board of Directors to adopt the updated VTA Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) Guidelines.

10. Update on SB 743 Changes to CEQA Transportation Analysis

Ying Smith, Transportation Planning Manager, provided an overview of the staff report, noting: 1) use of level of service (LOS) in transportation analysis and arguments for and against use of LOS; 2) preliminary discussion draft analysis of land use projects, transportation projects, and mitigations and alternatives; 3) implications for VTA and Member Agencies; and 4) Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) adoption schedule and proposed phased implementation process.

In response to comments from Members of the Committee, staff noted the following: 1) Senate Bill (SB) 743 update only applies to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and does not change local LOS policies; 2) under the new CEQA guidelines, a project will not be able to look at LOS impact on freeways, however, there are tools that can define the study area; and 3) trip lengths are considered in the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) formula and preference would be given to projects near housing.

Member Yeager expressed concern that VMT may be impacted by the lack of affordable housing in Santa Clara County.

Ms. Fernandez commented that VTA, as the Congestion Management Agency for Santa Clara County, is gathering feedback from Member Agencies as it prepares to respond to the OPR's request for comments.

Member Whittum expressed concern that abandoning LOS would increase congestion.

Chairperson Pirzynski offered the following comments: 1) school districts should address school-related traffic; 2) expressed concern on the elimination of LOS as a tool to address congestion; and 3) encouraged VTA to work with other agencies to mitigate traffic impacts and be inclusive of alternatives.

On order of Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee received a staff presentation on the Preliminary Discussion Draft of Updates to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Implementing SB 743 by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

11. **SPUR Report: VTA - "Freedom to Move"**

John Sighamony, Sr. Transportation Planner, provided brief remarks and introduced Ratna Amin, SPUR Transportation Policy Director.

Ms. Amin provided a brief background of SPUR and its report on VTA and proceeded with the presentation, highlighting: 1) overview of transportation choices over time; 2) forces expanding and limiting transportation choices; and 3) SPUR's seven strategies to create better transportation options in the South Bay.

Member Yeager queried about the following: 1) how can VTA integrate SPUR's strategies in terms of increasing ridership; and 2) how do we address out-of-county commuters.

Ms. Fernandez noted that the introduction of VTA's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service can be an opportunity to highlight the overall connections within the transit network.

Ms. Amin noted the following: 1) increasing service frequency may increase ridership; and 2) charging for parking, building housing near jobs, and providing transportation alternatives may change how people commute.

Chairperson Pirzynski commented on the importance of working with other agencies to ensure an efficient transportation solution for all users.

Member Whittum made the following queries/comments: 1) how should transit service for school children be addressed; 2) growing the farebox recovery rate may be a way to increase funding; and 3) what can we learn from private bus services offered by major private companies.

Vice Chairperson Herrera made the following queries/comments: 1) asked for an example of a city or agency with best practices that VTA can look into; 2) the Capitol Expressway Light Rail Extension project can provide a connection between VTA's BART Extension to Silicon Valley project and the Eastridge Transit Center; 3) explore development opportunities around a potential Eastridge light rail station; and 4) transit should support the demographics and needs of the community.

Ms. Amin noted that Denver may be an example that VTA can examine. She added that light rail investments need to be justified and BRT may be a way to build up a corridor before moving on to a larger capital investment.

Public Comment

Mr. Lebrun provided a comment on how some European nations have sold their freeway system to the private sector to fund major transportation infrastructure and stressed the importance of efficient use of funding.

Chairperson Pirzynski expressed his appreciation to SPUR for their engagement with VTA and expressed support in more partnerships between VTA and the private sector.

John Ristow, Planning & Program Development Director and Staff Liaison, noted that VTA is in the process of preparing a response to SPUR's recommendations and will bring the report forward to the Committees. Some ideas may require approval from the Board of Directors or partnering with Member Agencies upon implementation.

On order of Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee received the report from SPUR on VTA entitled "Freedom to Move."

12. Update on Regional Tolling Policies on Express Lanes

Murali Ramanujam, Transportation Engineering Manager, provided an overview of the staff report and highlighted key changes to express lanes operations and next steps.

Staff noted timeline for the opening of other regional express lane projects and roll out of new switchable toll tags.

Upon query of Members of the Committee, staff clarified the following: 1) associated costs for California Highway Patrol (CHP) monitoring; 2) toll violation fees collected will go back to the toll operator; and 3) new switchable toll tags can be used on tolled bridges and on all express lane facilities throughout California.

Public Comment

Mr. Lebrun expressed support on revenue collected from toll violations going back to the appropriate toll operator or transportation agency.

On order of Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee received an update on regional tolling policies on express lanes.

OTHER ITEMS

13. Items of Concern and Referral to Administration

There were no Items of Concern and Referral to Administration.

14. Committee Work Plan

On order of Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee reviewed the Work Plan.

15. Committee Staff Report

Mr. Ristow provided a written report to the Committee containing information on Local Events; MTC/ABAG, State and Federal; and VTA CMA.

On order of Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the Committee received the Committee Staff Report.

16. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Pirzynski reiterated his concern on freeway litter and graffiti throughout Santa Clara County. He urged staff to coordinate with Caltrans to address this issue.

17. Determine Consent Agenda for the October 2, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting

CONSENT:

Agenda Item #6. Approve the Valley Transportation Plan 2040 (VTP 2040) as Santa Clara County's long-range countywide transportation plan.

Agenda Item #7. Receive an update on the I-280 ramp metering study.

Agenda Item #8. Receive the Programmed Projects Quarterly Monitoring Report for April to June 2014.

Agenda Item #9. Recommend that the VTA Board of Directors adopt the updated VTA Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) Guidelines.

Agenda Item #10. Receive a staff presentation on the Preliminary Discussion Draft of Updates to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Implementing SB 743 by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research.

Agenda Item #11. Receive the report from SPUR on VTA entitled “Freedom to Move.”

Agenda Item #12. Receive update on regional tolling policies on express lanes.

REGULAR:

None.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Whittum expressed his appreciation to staff for conducting the September 9, 2014, community workshop on the North Central County Bus Improvement Plan held at the Sunnyvale City Hall.

19. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Pirzynski and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Oblena, Board Assistant
VTA Office of the Board Secretary