



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: James R. Helmer

**SUBJECT: BART TO SAN JOSÉ
COMPLETION**

DATE: 09-14-09

Approved

Date

9/18/09

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 3, 4, 6

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution affirming City Council support for the completion of the entire BART extension project to Downtown San José and Santa Clara.

OUTCOME

The recommended action confirms the City's commitment to ensure delivery of the entire BART extension project from the City of Fremont, through the cities of Milpitas and San José, to the City of Santa Clara, and including service Downtown San José and in the vicinity of Mineta San José International Airport.

BACKGROUND

The City of San José, in cooperation with Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) has been actively engaged in the development of the BART extension to San José/Silicon Valley, also known as the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit (SVRT) project. The scope of the project includes the extending BART into Santa Clara County with six new stations in the cities of Milpitas, San José and Santa Clara. In May 2002, the City Council adopted a preferred alignment and station locations for the BART project which identified the Union Pacific alignment and the location of San José stations including, Berryessa, Alum Rock, Downtown Transit Mall, Diridon Station, and the Santa Clara/Airport station adjacent to Mineta San José International Airport. Attached is a fact sheet and map further describing the project scope.

Completion of the BART extension to San José and Silicon Valley has substantial community benefits related to transit service and ridership, regional connectivity and mobility, economic vitality, air quality and sustainable land development. In addition, the voters of Santa Clara County have overwhelmingly approved local sales taxes to implement the project including in 2000 (70 percent approval for Measure A) and again in 2008 (67 percent for Measure B). The \$6.1 billion project (in 2008 dollars) is expected to be funded by local (\$4.6 billion), State (\$650

million) and Federal (\$850 million) sources. The goal has been to achieve project completion and implementation of revenue service by 2018.

ANALYSIS

In May 2009, the Rules Committee of the San José City Council directed staff to bring forward a recommendation to the entire City Council affirming the Council's support for the completion of the full BART project. The attached proposed resolution describes the City's ongoing commitment.

The VTA's strategy to implement the BART project is to first secure \$850 million in Federal funding for the northern 10-mile portion of the project from Warm Springs in Fremont to the Berryessa Station in San José, including the Milpitas Station with connections to the VTA's LRT system serving the Guadalupe/Tasman/Capitol corridors. This segment best meets the Federal requirements for near-term project funding.

Subsequently, funding will be pursued for completing the southern 6-mile segment from Berryessa Station to Santa Clara, including planned stations at Alum Rock, Downtown San José, Diridon Station, and Santa Clara (adjacent to Mineta San José International Airport). The southern segment has the highest ridership due to the higher density development of Downtown San José and the connections to the regional transportation hubs at Diridon Station and the Airport.

Although the BART project is being financed in segments, the subject City Council resolution is intend to assure a commitment to completing the entire project.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Not applicable.

POLICY ALTERNATIVES

Not applicable.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- Criterion 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criterion 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or

a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

Public outreach for the subject report includes website posting as part of the Council Agenda process. Over the past months the VTA has held community outreach meetings on the BART project. Meetings were held on July 21st (Milpitas Library), July 28th (San José Unified School District Board Room, Lenzen Avenue), August 4th (San José City Hall), August 11 (Berryessa Library), and August 12th (Martin Luther King, Jr. Library).

COORDINATION

This item has been coordinated with the Office of the City Attorney.

FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT

The recommended action that supports implementation of the BART extension to San José is consistent with the City's General Plan policy goals related to transportation service, economic development, and environmental sustainability.

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

BUDGET REFERENCE

Not applicable.

CEQA

The VTA Board of Directors approved a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Project on December 9, 2004 (Agenda Item 10). A Supplemental EIR for the project was approved by the VTA Board on June 7, 2007 (Agenda Item 34). A Federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is currently being prepared by the VTA and is proposed for completion in 2010.

/s/

JAMES R. HELMER
Director of Transportation

For questions please contact Ben Tripousis, Transportation Policy Manager, at 975-3717.

Attachment

FACT SHEET: *BART to Silicon Valley*

Extension to Milpitas, San Jose and Santa Clara

Overview

The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) to Silicon Valley Project consists of an extension of the existing BART regional heavy rail system to San Jose, Milpitas and Santa Clara. The BART Extension to Silicon Valley will extend over 16 miles along the existing Union Pacific Railroad alignment south of the planned Warm Springs Station in Fremont. When completed, this fully grade-separated project will include: six stations – one in Milpitas, four in San Jose and one in Santa Clara; a 5-mile tunnel in downtown San Jose; and a new maintenance and storage facility in Santa Clara.

Project Benefits

- **Improves Connectivity:** VTA's new BART extension will connect Santa Clara County residents to the existing 104-mile BART system servicing major destinations in the Bay Area. The project will provide enhanced commuter connections to VTA Light Rail and Buses, Caltrain, ACE, Capitol Corridor and Amtrak, with potential connections to San Jose Mineta International Airport and High Speed Rail.
- **Supports the Economy:** This project would create over 2,400 temporary and up to 7,000 permanent jobs in the region while supporting local and regional transit-oriented development along the corridor. The project provides a high return on investment: for every dollar spent on construction, operations and maintenance, approximately 4 to 10 dollars would be returned to the region.
- **Enhances the Community:** BART to Silicon Valley creates more options for where we live, work and play. The project will connect Silicon Valley residents to the rest of the Bay Area region and offer a new transit option serving downtown San Jose, San Jose State University, HP Pavilion, Santa Clara University, major employment and shopping centers, and other cultural destinations.
- **Responsible to the Environment:** Taking cars off congested corridors shortens travel times and eliminates 16,000 tons of green house gases per year, decreasing foreign oil dependency and global warming.

Project Support

- In 2000, over 70% of Santa Clara County voters approved a 30-year, half-cent local sales tax measure for transit.
- In 2008, over 66% of Santa Clara County voters approved an additional one-eighth cent sales tax, to cover BART to Silicon Valley's annual operating and maintenance expenses once state and federal funding has been secured.
- Supported locally and regionally by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, San Jose Chamber of Commerce, local governments, and other labor and business organizations.
- The Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the transportation planning and financing agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area, has included the project in the current Regional Transportation Plan.

What's Next

- VTA has established an ongoing working relationship with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to apply for federal grants to support funding needs.
- Federal environmental clearance is expected in 2010.

How to Reach Us

For more information on the BART Extension please contact VTA-BART Community Outreach (408) 934-2662, TTY for the hearing impaired (408) 321-2330. You may also visit us on the web at www.vta.org/bart, or email us at vtabart@vta.org



Congestion relief is on the way!

continued on back

BART to Silicon Valley Extension



LEGEND

- Warm Springs BART Station
- SVRT BART Station
- BART System
- BART Tunnel
- BART to Silicon Valley Extension
- BART to Warm Springs Extension
- Caltrain
- ACE/Capitol Corridor
- VIA Lightrail

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