

Memorandum

TO: BUILDING BETTER
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

FROM: James R. Helmer

SUBJECT: BART EXTENSION TO
SAN JOSE/SILICON VALLEY

DATE: 05-23-06

Approved

Date

RECOMMENDATION

Accept status report on BART extension to San José/ Silicon Valley

BACKGROUND

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is developing the project to extend BART service to Silicon Valley, with station stops located in Milpitas, San José and Santa Clara. The VTA is completing preliminary project design work that addresses the major scope and cost elements related to alignment, stations, parking, land acquisition, utility relocation, geotechnical conditions, power supply, tunnel ventilation systems, maintenance facilities, and construction operations.

The City has two full-time employees that work together with the BART project staff, and they are co-located at VTA offices to provide close coordination of issues for the San José segment of the project. The VTA conducts regular meetings with a San José Project Development Team (which includes representatives from Transportation, Public Works, Redevelopment Agency, and Planning). Also, the City has a BART Executive Committee that meets to help facilitate issue resolution and “one voice” communications.

This report provides a status update on key project issues.

ANALYSIS

- Preliminary Engineering – The preliminary engineering phase of the project is proposed for completion by December 2006.
- Environmental Clearance – The State environmental clearance was approved in December 2004. A Federal environmental clearance is proposed for completion in summer 2007.

- Funding – The VTA is continuing to pursue funding commitments from State (\$796 million) and federal (\$750 million) sources for the BART project. Opportunities for State funding would be enhanced if State voters approve the State Transportation Infrastructure Bond Measure on the ballot for November 2006. Also, consideration of BART funding from County sources may be possible as part of the Santa Clara County's ½ cent General Tax Measure (Measure A), if approved by a majority of County voters on the June 6th ballot.
- Priority and Schedule – The VTA has formed a Project Advisory Committee to review the proposed 30-year transit expenditure plan. The Committee is composed of 5 VTA Board members and includes San Jose Councilmember Forrest Williams. The goal of the committee is to facilitate regional consensus on the funding and schedule for major VTA transit investments, including BART. The Expenditure Plan recommended by VTA staff includes completion of the BART project by late 2016. The Committee is scheduled to conclude their work by mid June 2006.
- Downtown Station Consolidation – In March, the BART Policy Advisory Board approved a value engineering plan to consolidate the previously planned BART stations at Market Street and Civic Plaza into a single station in Downtown San José (located between Market Street and 2nd Street). This plan saves approximately \$100 million in project costs and reduces Downtown construction impacts. The proposal has received positive support from the community and key stakeholders, such as the Downtown Association.
- Downtown Stakeholder Coordination – VTA, City and Redevelopment staff are holding regular meetings with the Downtown Association to discuss various issues related to project design features and construction impacts.
- Land Use Coordination – The BART corridor land use working group is continuing to address land use actions needed to conform to MTC Transit Oriented Development policy. The working group includes representatives from MTC, VTA, Fremont, Milpitas, San José and Santa Clara.

Staff will be available at the Committee meeting to address any questions about the significant progress and ongoing work efforts associated with the BART extension to San José/Silicon Valley.

JAMES R. HELMER
Director of Transportation