



# Memorandum

**TO:** BUILDING BETTER  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Frances L. Edwards

**SUBJECT:** Urban Area Security Initiative  
Security Issues Regional Project.

**DATE:** 07-26-04

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Approved

Date

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Accept this report on the new Urban Area Security Initiative project and direct staff to pursue the potential formation of a Regional Transportation Security Committee to develop enhancements to terrorism response capabilities for transit and transportation, especially rail.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2003 San Jose was added to the national Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program of the Federal government. The goal of the nationwide program is to provide funding to the nation's largest cities, ports and transit agencies to enhance the community or agency's ability to prevent, respond to, and recover from potential terrorist attacks. Also in 2003 the ACE Train was selected as one of the UASI transit agencies, and was partnered with the City of San Jose.

City staff from Fire, Office of Emergency Services and Police met with staff from the ACE Train to determine what common goals and objectives could be pursued together. As part of the discussion it was also realized that other area UASI cities, San Francisco and Oakland, have partnerships with other transit agencies, including BART. San Jose also has AMTRAK and Cal Train providing economically significant commuter services into the Silicon Valley. It was noted that the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University has a transit security program that has conducted significant research on transit and transportation security issues around the world, including a recent study of BART. Finally it was noted that the cities having political conventions this year would have developed terrorism response plans for their transit and transportation infrastructure which should be incorporated into the joint UASI project.

## ANALYSIS

1. Public transit a key to the development of the local economy. People have to feel secure using transit and rail systems. Goods are also carried and need to be secure from terrorist intervention. To ensure transit and transportation safety, a review of existing emergency plans needs to be conducted. ACE Train staff will also review existing model emergency plans from the Volpe Center of US Department of Transportation, review research materials available through the Mineta Transportation Institute, and try to obtain copies of existing homeland security plans created by New York and Boston's transit and transportation agencies as they prepare for the upcoming political conventions.
2. San Jose is now served by ACE, Cal Train and AMTRAK, and will eventually be served by BART. San Jose emergency planners and first responders need to enhance their procedures and skills to prevent, respond to and recover from potential terrorism.
3. San Jose has existing linkages with the San Francisco UASI that designated 2003 funding for region wide emergency planning with a transportation focus. This included \$1.2 million for planning and \$310,000 for a region wide exercise following the completion of the planning. In order to leverage these funds and the work being planned by the City and ACE train staff, the creation of a Regional Transportation Security Committee will be proposed to the other regional partners. The committee might be independent, part of the UASI process, or part of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission structure. Such a committee could benefit transit and transportation system across the entire region, and ensure that work being done by individual transit and transportation entities would be integrated both across the industry and with local first responders across the Bay Area.
4. ACE Train will install cameras to monitor conditions on its rolling stock. These cameras may be able to tie into the Department of Transportation system to enable first responders' access to the information in the Emergency Operations Center. This would enhance the ability to determine the most effective response to an emergency or disaster, including all hazards.
5. Radios being acquired by ACE should be part of the Interoperability Project, ideally Bay Area wide. The Silicon Valley Interoperability Committee is attempting to join into a Bay Area-wide Interoperability effort that could bring in all the transit and transportation providers with radio system to enhance the communications network. A recent report of the U.S. Conference of Mayors on Interoperability noted that while nationally strides have been made in developing interoperability between police and fire, and in some cases including field level emergency medical services, other resources including transit are notably lacking in participation.
6. The importance of private industry was also recognized. Once City and ACE staff have evaluated current conditions and determined next steps, representatives of the business community will be invited to participate in the discussions. Those already considered include FedEx, UPS, Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group, US Postal Service and high tech companies.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Not at this time. As soon as appropriate progress has been made the business community will be brought into the discussions.

## **COORDINATION**

This report was coordinated with the Fire Department and Police Department.

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