



# Memorandum

**TO:** BUILDING BETTER  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**FROM:** James R. Helmer

**SUBJECT:** BART EXTENSION TO  
SAN JOSE/ SILICON VALLEY

**DATE:** 10-18-04

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Approved

Date

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

## **BACKGROUND**

This report gives a progress update on the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) activities occurring during the previous six months for the planning, design and community outreach teams as well as City of San Jose support staff activities being done for the project. The project is formally known as the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Corridor Project, or SVRTC.

## **ANALYSIS**

### **Project Scope, Funding, and Schedule**

In November 2000, by a 70.3 percent majority, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure A, a half-cent sales tax for transit investments for the next 30 years. "2000 Measure A", along with other funding sources, will supply approximately 60 percent of funding for the BART extension. VTA is seeking the balance of funding from federal and state sources. The schedule goal is to start project construction as early as 2007 and with completion in 2015.

The project is estimated to ultimately carry 83,600 average weekday riders while improving the quality of life for all commuters and San Jose residents along the corridor. The project is also expected to attract more businesses and employees to San Jose and the greater Silicon Valley. This \$4.1 billion, 16.3-mile extension of BART into Fremont, Milpitas, San Jose, and Santa Clara is currently in the Preliminary Engineering phase. This phase is budgeted at \$170 million.

### Environmental Clearance Status

The Draft Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was submitted to the Federal Transit Administration for review in August 2004. FTA indicates a Record of Decision (ROD) may occur by July 2005. The FTA has reported that a ROD for Warm Springs BART extension EIS must be reviewed first before the SVRTC EIS can be processed.

### Preliminary Design Status

Preliminary Engineering work efforts are divided into six design segments to be completed by the end of 2006. The segments are:

- Line Segment – Design of an at-grade and elevated track extending 10-miles from Fremont through Milpitas to the Berryessa area.
- Tunnel Segment – Design of a 5.3-mile subway under San Jose streets including Downtown.
- Stations and Maintenance Yard Segment – Design of seven stations, five of which are in San José, and the BART maintenance yard.
- Design Integration – Development of overall project design standards and coordination of project design reviews.
- Systems Segment – Design of project systems related tunnel ventilation, power, track ways, and communications.
- Project-wide Support Services – Coordination of property acquisition, utilities, and community outreach.

### Geotechnical Investigations

Geotechnical exploration plans are underway on San Jose streets including Santa Clara Street in Downtown. This work effort involves drilling or boring several hundred holes in streets to depths of 150 feet to verify soils conditions along the corridor. The work is conducted under an Encroachment Permit issued by the City, and is scheduled to extend to March 2005. It is noted that work activities will be restricted during the holiday period from November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2004 through January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005. VTA Community Outreach is working closely with Downtown businesses, residents, and other stakeholders to notify them of work site schedules.

City Executive Committee

The City has convened an Executive Committee for monitoring the BART extension efforts. The Executive Committee comprises of staff from the City Manager's Office, Transportation, Public Works, Redevelopment Agency, Planning Building and Code Enforcement, Economic Development, Fire, Police, and other departments as needed. The Executive Committee meets monthly to address current BART topics. The Executive Committee is a forum for staff level input and to establish guidance for follow-up work efforts. Recent discussion topics have included: Station Design, Berryessa Area Master Plan, Fire/Life Safety, and City Utility Coordination.

**CONCLUSION**

In general, development of the BART project is proceeding at an aggressive pace to support completion of Preliminary Engineering in 2006. Multiple City departments are actively engaged in the project development process to help facilitate the project and promote the City's interests. City staff proposes to provide a presentation at the Committee meeting to supplement information provided in this report.

JAMES R. HELMER  
Director of Transportation