



Memorandum

TO: BUILDING BETTER
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

FROM: James R. Helmer

SUBJECT: SANTA CLARA/ ALUM ROCK
TRANSIT CORRIDOR

DATE: 10-18-04

Approved

Date

RECOMMENDATION

Accept report on the Santa Clara/ Alum Rock Transit Corridor of the Downtown-East Valley Project.

BACKGROUND

As part of the Downtown/East Valley Transit Improvement Program, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is developing a project to construct transit improvements along the Santa Clara/Alum Rock corridor. The planned improvements will be constructed along Santa Clara Street and Alum Rock Avenue from the Diridon Station in Downtown San José to the Alum Rock Station of the Capitol Light Rail Transit (LRT) Corridor. In conjunction with the planned light rail transit extension along Capitol Expressway, the transit improvements along the Santa Clara/Alum Rock corridor are envisioned to provide direct transit service from the Diridon Station to the Eastridge Transit Center.

At this time, the Santa Clara/Alum Rock project continues to evaluate two mode alternatives to serve the corridor:

- Single Car Light Rail Transit Vehicle
- Enhanced Bus

On March 3, 2003 the Building Better Transportation Committee recommended both alternatives be considered through the environmental process. This recommendation was approved by the City Council and the Downtown East Valley Policy Advisory Board (PAB) and subsequently adopted by the VTA Board.

ANALYSIS

On September 30, 2004, the Downtown/East Valley Policy Advisory Board (PAB) received a staff report that outlined the following actions related to the decision making process to select a single preferred mode alternative:

July 2, 2004	Forward Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/R) containing both mode alternatives to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for review.
October/November 2004	Receive approval from FTA to circulate the Draft EIS/R for public review. Conduct 2 Public Hearings Provide a side-by-side comparison of the mode alternatives No recommendations for a preferred alternative
December/January 2005	PAB and VTA Staff make recommendation for preferred alternative
February/March 2005	Prepare Final EIS/R (with no Preferred Alternative identified) Forward Final EIS/R to FTA for approval to circulate
June 2005	VTA Board of Directors approves preferred alternative for the Santa Clara/Alum Rock Corridor

It is noted that this schedule is subject to change based on the FTA's providing timely review of the Draft and Final EIS/R documents. As currently envisioned, City staff will return to the Building Better Transportation Committee with a staff recommendation for the preferred mode selection in January 2005. City of San Jose representatives to the PAB include Councilmembers Campos, Chavez and Cortese.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

City staff from Transportation, Planning Building and Code Enforcement, and the Redevelopment Agency have been and will continue to be active participants in the community outreach process that has been organized by the VTA.

COORDINATION

This item has been coordinated with the San Jose Redevelopment Agency, the Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement and the Office of the City Attorney.

JAMES R. HELMER
Director of Transportation