



Memorandum

TO: TRANSPORTATION AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: James R. Helmer

SUBJECT: VALLEY TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY (VTA)
ACTIVITIES REPORT

DATE: 05-21-08

Approved

Date

5/22/08

RECOMMENDATION

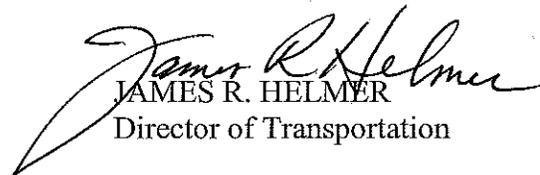
Accept report on status of various Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) projects and programs of interest to the City of San Jose.

BACKGROUND

The Transportation and Environment Committee work plan includes the presentation of quarterly reports on current activities related to projects and programs of significance involving the VTA. This report includes a brief status update on key topic areas and staff will be available at the meeting to address any Committee questions.

- VTP 2035 – The VTA is preparing an update to the 30-year transportation master plan for Santa Clara County. The updated plan is referred to as Valley Transportation Plan 2035 (VTP 2035). The VTA's transportation plan is being developed in conjunction with an update to the MTC's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Bay Area. At the June 5th VTA Board of Directors meeting, the Board will be discussing the Highway Program element of VTP 2035. City staff has sent the attached letter to the VTA on some key policy issues related to 1) freeway operations and maintenance, 2) High Occupancy Toll lanes, 3) equity standards for private development funding for regional projects, and 4) funding for South County transportation improvements. Overall, the proposed highway improvement plan contains twenty San Jose projects, including planned freeway interchange improvements at 280/880/Stevens Creek, 101/Trimble, 101/Zanker, 101/Oakland, 101/Mabury, 101/Tully, 101/Capitol/Yerba Buena, 101/Hellyer, 101/Blossom Hill, 280/3rd Street, 85/Cottle, 87/Capitol/Narvaez, and 237/First.

- Measure A Transit Program Revenue and Expenditure Plan – The VTA is currently updating the revenue and expenditure plan for the Measure A transit improvement program approved by County voters in November 2000. Key projects in the program include BART, Caltrain improvements, the Airport People Mover project, and various light rail and bus service improvements. Due to declining revenues for the program as a result of economic conditions, the scope of the program and project delivery schedules are being reassessed over a five month process. VTA Board action on the Measure A program is proposed for September 2008.
- Current Highway Projects – Various highway projects are being developed by VTA for construction within the next 5 years. They include: Route 101/Tully Interchange Upgrade, Route 880 Widening (237 to 880), Blossom Hill/Monterey Area Pedestrian Overcrossing, Route 87 Corridor Landscaping, and Route 87 Corridor Ramp Metering. In addition, project development studies are ongoing for improvement projects at 101/Trimble, 101/Zanker, 101/Oakland, 101/Mabury, 101/Blossom Hill, 880/Charcot, and 87/Capitol/Narvaez.
- Transit Projects – Various transit projects are being designed or studied. They include: the BART Extension to Silicon Valley and several Bus Rapid Transit lines (Line 522, Santa Clara/Alum Rock, Monterey Highway, and San Carlos/Stevens Creek). The VTA is also under construction with the Guadalupe South LRT station retrofit project and a LRT rail rehabilitation project in Downtown San Jose.


JAMES R. HELMER
Director of Transportation

For questions please contact Hans Larsen, Deputy Director, at 535-3835.

Attachment

May 20, 2008

Mr. Michael Burns
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
3331 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95134-1927

SUBJECT: VTP 2035 Highway Program Review

Dear Mr. Burns:

This is to provide you with our comments on the proposed Highway Program element of the Valley Transportation Plan 2035. This topic is scheduled for discussion by the VTA Board on June 5, 2008. In general, we support the list of projects and we appreciate the coordination provided by VTA staff to solicit and incorporate technical input from San Jose and other jurisdictions.

In summary the program includes the following features:

- 17 High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lane projects valued at \$810 million
- 58 "Priority Projects" (fiscally constrained list) valued at \$1.219 billion
- 31 "Lower Priority Projects" (fiscally unconstrained list) valued at \$2.236 billion

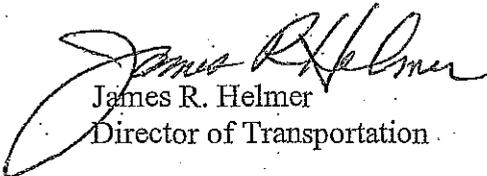
In reviewing the program as a whole from a policy perspective, we propose that the VTA Board of Directors consider the following policy suggestions related to implementation of the program.

1. **Continue Efforts to Pursue Adequate State Investment and Equitable Resource Allocation for Freeway Operations and Maintenance.** It is well understood that the State of California has severely under funded the care of roadway infrastructure maintained by Caltrans. Surveys consistently rate major roadways in California among the worst in the nation for condition. Further, the Bay Area is often rated among the worst area in California in both condition as well as appearance. The VTA should continue strategic efforts to pursue increased State funding for State Highways as well as to assure State resources are equitably distributed to operate and maintain facilities in Santa Clara County.

5. **Develop a "Proactive" Funding Strategy for South County/ Southern Gateway Transportation Improvements.** The proposed Highway Program identifies 24 projects in the South County area that account for \$384 million of the \$804 million VTP 2035 funding allocation (48%). The "unconstrained list" includes 6 more South County projects valued at \$583 million. Studies of future traffic growth have estimated that 60% of traffic in the South County area is generated from development outside of Santa Clara County. The VTA should proactively pursue with neighboring counties a funding strategy for South County transportation improvements that considers a combination of development fees, HOT Lanes and toll roads. Also, San Jose is on record for supporting Caltrain service to Salinas and Monterey as part of a multimodal transportation plan.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



James R. Helmer
Director of Transportation

c: San Jose VTA Board Representatives