

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP MEETING

Friday, February 18, 2022

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Workshop Meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA) Board of Directors (Board) was called to order by Chairperson Jones at 9:01 a.m. via video and teleconference.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Margaret Abe-Koga	Ex-Officio Member	Present
Marie Blankley	Alternate Board Member (Gilroy)	Absent
Pat Burt	Board Member (Palo Alto)	Present
Magdalena Carrasco	Board Member (San Jose)	Present
Cindy Chavez	Board Member (Santa Clara County)	Present
Rich Constantine	Board Member (Morgan Hill)	Absent
Dev Davis	Alternate Board Member (San Jose)	Absent
Glenn Hendricks	Chairperson (Sunnyvale)	Present
Sudhanshu "Suds" Jain	Board Member (Santa Clara)	Absent
Sergio Jimenez	Board Member (San Jose)	Present
Chappie Jones	Vice Chairperson (San Jose)	Present
Otto Lee	Alternate Board Member (Santa Clara County)	Present
Lynette Lee Eng	Alternate Board Member (City of Los Altos)	Present
Sam Liccardo	Board Member (San Jose)	Present
Carmen Montano	Board Member (Milpitas)	Present
Darcy Paul	Board Member (Cupertino)	Present
Raul Peralez	Board Member (San Jose)	Present
Rob Rennie	Alternate Board Member (Los Gatos)	Present

* Alternates do not serve unless participating as a Member.

A quorum was present.

2. WORKSHOP ITEMS

2.1. Future of the Light Rail System

Carolyn Gonot, General Manager/CEO, provided an overview of the presentation, noting the two elements of the presentation: 1) Light Rail Operating Costs; and 2) Areas of Analysis.

Jason Kim, Senior Transportation Planner, provided an update on the Future of the Light Rail System.

Board Members Chavez, Jimenez, and Liccardo joined the video and teleconference workshop meeting at 9:11 a.m.

Public Comment

Reyne Jimeno, Board Assistant, noted that written comments from Ryan Globus and Jim Stallman were received and posted on the agenda portal.

Ms. Jimeno also noted that written public comment from Blair Beekman was received before the meeting and would be posted on the agenda portal following the adjournment of the workshop meeting.

Eugene Bradley, Silicon Valley Transit Users, made the following comments: 1) expressed his agreement with Mr. Stallman's written comment; 2) echoed Board Member Montano's comment on the need to increase the light rail speed; 3) queried if VTA considered solar power; 4) light rail grade separation. He noted that he would be sending more written comments.

John Courtney, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), Local 265 President, commented on the following: 1) attendee's speaking time; and 2) options to improve ridership.

Mr. Beekman commented about the following: 1) offered alternatives on how to minimize gas consumption and wear and tear on small buses; 2) light rail as center of transportation; and 3) automated vehicle and biometric technologies.

Members of the Board and staff discussed the following: 1) ridership and operations costs; 2) increase light rail speed to attract more riders; 3) absence of light rail services to major job centers; 4) future reliable connections to other major transit services such as BART, Caltrain, and California High Speed Rail; 5) timeline for the Board to reach a decision on light rail; 6) lesser stop to improve speed; 7) build more high density housing near light rail stations; 8) comprehensive regional analysis of transit connections ridership to be able to provide services to job centers currently not accessible; 9) underground light rail station as another option to increase speed; 10) coordinate with cities' housing projects when planning transit services; 11) offer tax shelter incentives to riders; 12) effects and impacts of autonomous technology to labor and efficiency improvements; 13) the Board to receive report about integrating line staff into the phases of the project; 14) buses need to have a dedicated route different from the cars and how light rail can be modified to access other major job centers; 15) VTA needs to formally inform other cities regarding plans and direction of this project; 16) research other states and agencies that conducted their cost analysis; 17) consider other system options including electromagnetic; 18) advanced technology/system to move people quickly; 19) include small buses in the light rail-bus matrix as additional opportunity to increase utilization of a transit system; and 20) plan for other opportunities including future technologies, referencing Stevens Creek Corridor, SR 85 Corridor, and Measure B funding.

On order of Chairperson Jones and there being no objection, the Board received an update on the future of the light rail system.

2.2. Transit Network Management Update - February 2022

Scott Haywood, Deputy Director, Transit Planning & Capital Development, and Rick Ramacier, County Connection, provided an overview of the presentation entitled Update on Transit Network Management.

Public Comments

Ms. Jimeno noted that a unified letter from Seamless Bay Area, Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, and Friends of Caltrain was received and posted in the online agenda packet. She also noted that Mr. Beekman's public comment was also received and would be posted after the adjournment of the workshop.

Adina Levin, Interested Citizen, commented on the importance of a transformation action plan and ridership connections. She urged to hear other options from BART and the AC Transit Board before expressing opinion.

Mr. Beekman commented on the following: 1) future benefits of high-speed rail; and 2) open and honest business dialogue.

Mr. Bradley echoed Ms. Levin's comments. He noted all options should be communicated to ensure there is an informed decision when changes for better inter- and intra-connections.

Members of the Board discussed and provided their comments on the following: 1) search other alternatives from other regions; 2) compare how different agencies from other regions integrate; 3) monitor and provide feedback to the Board; 4) fare integration; 5) what is the best tool to serve the public, be accountable to voters, and participate in the Blue Ribbon Task Force network management; 6) basic structure of the network and the implication to VTA; 7) how success is measured to the future; 8) role and responsibilities, and accountability of the network manager; 9) funding resources and allocation; 10) listen to operators' input as they are the ones implementing the strategies; 11) efficient use of funds to better serve the public without taking funds from other transit operators and other programs; and 12) focus on the Central Valley connection.

On order of Chairperson Jones and there being no objection, the Board received an update on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Network Manager Business Case.

2.2.X Finance Function Assessment

Greg Richardson, Chief Financial Officer, provided a brief overview on the Finance Function Assessment. He indicated a more in-depth presentation will be provided in the future.

On order of Chairperson Jones and there being no objection, the Board received an overview on the Finance Function Assessment.

3. OTHER ITEMS

3.1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Announcements.

4. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Jones and there being no objection, the workshop meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reyne Jimeno, Board Assistant
VTA Office of the Board Secretary