

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP MEETING

Friday, April 22, 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 10:13 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	Vice Chairperson (Morgan Hill)	Present
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	Chairperson (San Jose)	Present
Otto Lee	Board Member (Santa Clara County)	Present
Lynette Lee Eng	Alternate Board Member (City of Los Altos)	Present
Sam Liccardo	Board Member (San Jose)	Absent
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. Presentation on Finance Assessment – Overview and Next Steps

Carolyn Gonot, General Manager/CEO, Greg Richardson, Chief Financial Officer, and Pat Hagan, Consultant, provided a presentation entitled “Finance Function Assessment: Overview and Next Steps.”

Board Member Chavez joined the video and teleconference workshop meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Board Member Burt joined the video and teleconference workshop meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Members of the Board and staff discussed the following: 1) relationship between the vacancies rate and absenteeism and/or contributing factors; 2) organizational cultural change and work force development; and 3) VTA’s plans for hiring and filling vacancies, noting the competitiveness within the Bay Area.

Ms. Gonot indicated that staff realizes the vacancy rates are high, noting part of the work force development is to provide promotional opportunities for employees, which in turn retains employee .

Members of the Board and staff continued discussing the following: 1) VTA’s budget and structural deficit; 2) COVID-19 relief funds and VTA’s obligations related to those funds; 3) time constraints for spending the relief funds; 4) VTA’s challenges with closing the deficit gap; 5) how to put VTA in a position to receive other sources of funding; 6) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursements; 7) outreach efforts to encourage the community to take public transit; 8) Board’s next steps for creating policies to help close the budget deficit; and 9) staff’s proposals address the deficit and the time frame when the deficit may affect operations.

Mr. Richardson assured the Board that the risk of having to return COVID-19 relief funding is low because VTA has shown allocation for all the funds.

Public Comment

Eugene Bradley, Silicon Valley Transit Users, commented about the following: 1) his outreach efforts to increase transit riders; and 2) Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) expenditures, specifically operating expenses.

Laura Tolkoff, SPUR, commented about the following: 1) thanked the Board for their conversation about VTA’s budget; 2) transparency; and 3) BART’s Operation and Maintenance (O&M) funding shortfall for Phase I and Phase II.

Blair Beekman, commented about the Special and Workshop meeting procedures.

Adina Levin, Friends of Caltrain, commented about VTA’s challenges with the BART budget and encouraged VTA to pursue a multi-regional tax measure.

On order of Chairperson Jones and there being no objection, the Board received a presentation on Finance Assessment – Overview and Next Steps.

2.2. VTA Forward Plan

Ms. Gonot, Brandi Childress, Chief of Staff, and Jay Tyree, Transportation Planning Manager, provided a presentation entitled “VTA Forward.”

Public Comments

Mr. Beekman commented about working together towards better practices.

Kevin Ma, Interested Citizen, thanked staff for their ongoing efforts to make transit better and noted the importance of public transit for the community.

Monica Mallon, Interested Citizen, expressed support for the work staff continues to do during the pandemic.

Ms. Gonot thanked Chair Jones for his comments related to goals and objectives. She noted that staff is working towards defining metrics for each category and will bring it to the Board in the near future.

On order of Chairperson Jones and there being no objection, the Board received a presentation on the VTA Forward Plan that is aimed to strengthen and prepare the VTA workforce to take on future opportunities and challenges.

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 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Theadora Abraham, Board Assistant
VTA Office of the Board Secretary