

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP MEETING

Friday, February 19, 2021

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 Hendricks at 9:00 a.m. via video and teleconference.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Margaret Abe-Koga	Ex-Officio Member	Present
Marie Blankley	Alternate Board Member	Absent
Pat Burt	Board Member	Present
Magdalena Carrasco	Board Member	Present
Cindy Chavez	Board Member	Present
Rich Constantine	Board Member	Present
Dev Davis	Alternate Board Member	Absent
Lisa M. Gillmor	Alternate Board Member	Present
Glenn Hendricks	Chairperson	Present
Sergio Jimenez	Board Member	Present
Charles "Chappie" Jones	Vice Chairperson	Present
Otto Lee	Alternate Board Member	Absent
Sam Liccardo	Board Member	Present
Carmen Montano	Board Member	Present
Darcy Paul	Board Member	Present
Raul Peralez	Board Member	Present
Rob Rennie	Alternate Board Member	Present
Joe Simitian	Board Member	Present
Vacant	Alternate Board Member	N/A

* Alternates do not serve unless participating as a Member.

A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Reyne Jimeno, Board Assistant, noted the written public comment received from Matt Kennedy was posted on the online agenda packet.

Roland Lebrun, Interested Citizen, expressed concern on the Gilroy-Transit Center Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) project and suggested the following: 1) stop the project immediately; 2) engage Caltrain to procure all the VTA-Caltrain parking lots from VTA; and 3) refocus TOD efforts to the Santa Teresa light rail station.

Blair Beekman, Interested Citizen, commented about the following: 1) ideas of continuity; 2) good practices, sustainability, and good perspective; and 3) housing concept studies along SR 85.

3. WORKSHOP ITEMS

3.1. Next Generation High Capacity Transit Study Update

Jason Kim, Sr. Transportation Planner-Transit Capital Planning, provided a presentation entitled Next Generation High Capacity Transit Study Update.

Public Comment

Reyne Jimeno, Board Assistant, noted that written public comment on this item received from Zachary Zeliff was posted on the online Agenda.

Mr. Lebrun commented about the following: 1) abandoned Almaden line ready for paving; 2) automated operations of Santa Teresa line to Downtown San Jose; 3) railway loop not included on the list; 4) increasing light rail speeds; 5) single cars would not work between Downtown San Jose and Santa Teresa; 6) increasing ridership by addition of tracks; and 8) automated light rail system would increase crime rate.

Ramses Madou, City of San Jose Division Manager of Planning Policy and Sustainability posed the following questions for the Board's consideration: 1) real scope of this study; 2) how to increase usefulness of transit right of way and ridership; 3) long-term time frame of new technology; and 4) where the overall system is going.

The following Interested Citizens commented about the following: 1) reduced service frequency and bus connections; 2) declining ridership. They suggested the following: a) purchasing new light rail cars; b) investing in the system; c) improving bus and BART connections; d) signal prioritization; e) extending Caltrain electrification; f) extending BART to South San Jose; g) more frequent light rail service; h) grade separation and crossing gates fencing; i) reforming land-use around the corridor.

- Michael
- Ryan Globus
- Sid Kotapati
- Hayden

- Anoeil Odisho
- Monica Mallon
- Bob Barrett
- Kirk Nangreaves

Blair Beekman commented on the following: 1) automated vehicles; 2) response to Bay Area's natural disaster; 3) electric buses and charging stations; and 4) green sustainability and renewable needs.

Raj Singh, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) representative, commented on the following: 1) autonomous operations; 2) extend light rail to East San Jose; and 3) job security and stability.

Zachary Zeliff, Interested Citizen, commented about Glyways.

Members of the Board and staff discussed the following: 1) VTA's farebox return and ridership; 2) autonomous system operating with buses; 3) financial challenges associated with transitioning to new technologies; 4) tax revenue subsidy to keep fare lower for the disadvantaged population; 5) Request for Information (RFI) on new technologies; 6) improving light rail speed and frequency; 7) safety; 8) flexibility; 9) signal prioritization; 10) land use; and 11) commitment to long-term innovation.

Members of the Board recommended the following to staff: 1) further analyze the different options for comparison with Option 3 Scenario - Decommission Light Rail system, Build an Exclusive Right of Way (ROW) transit system including dedicated lanes; 2) analyze integrating current system with new technologies that can help transition to a new innovative and reliable public transit system; and 3) conduct cost-benefit analysis.

On order of Chairperson Hendricks and there being no objection, the Board received an update on the Next Generation High Capacity Transit Study.

4. OTHER ITEMS

4.1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Hendricks noted that the next Board of Directors meeting is on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Hendricks and there being no objection, the workshop meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m. to the New Board Member Orientation meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Reyne Jimeno, Board Assistant
VTA Office of the Board Secretary