

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP MEETING

Friday, September 18, 2020

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 Chavez at 9:01 a.m. via video and teleconference.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Marie Blankley	Alternate Board Member	Absent
Jeannie Bruins	Ex-Officio Member	Present
Larry Carr	Board Member	Present
Magdalena Carrasco	Board Member	Present
Cindy Chavez	Chairperson	Present
David Cortese	Board Member	Present
Dev Davis	Alternate Board Member	Present
Lan Diep	Board Member	Present
Susan Ellenberg	Alternate Board Member	Absent
Glenn Hendricks	Vice Chairperson	Present
Charles "Chappie" Jones	Board Member	Present
Liz Kniss	Alternate Board Member	Absent
Sam Liccardo	Board Member	Present
John McAlister	Board Member	Present
Howard Miller	Alternate Board Member	Present
Bob Nuñez	Board Member	Present
Teresa O'Neill	Alternate Board Member	Present
Raul Peralez	Board Member	Present
Rob Rennie	Board Member	Present

*Alternates do not serve unless participating as a Member.

A quorum was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance commenced.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following Interested Citizens commented about transit service cuts, reallocating 2016 Measure B and other fund sources to preserve transit service:

- Tessa Woodmansee

- Evelyn
- Anne Marie Ruiz
- Taylor C
- Cody Vaughn
- Hayden Miller
- Liana Crabtree

Blair Beekman, Interested Citizen, commented about Shotspotters at the BART Berryessa station and about a vaccination process.

Taylor C., Interested Citizen, suggested brokering a partnership with corporations to help fund housing project near transit stations.

Michael, Interested Citizen, commented about timing of sending out major notices to the public.

Anne Marie Ruiz and Raman, Bus Operators, commented about drivers and buses not being utilized properly to maximize ridership while at the same time prioritizing safety and social distancing.

Roland Lebrun, Interested Citizen, inquired if Chairperson Chavez was accepting comments on Agenda Item 3.1.

Board Member Peralez joined the video and teleconference meeting at 9:04 a.m.
Alternate Board Member Teresa O'Neill joined the video and teleconference meeting at 9:17 a.m.

3. WORKSHOP ITEMS

3.1. 2021 Transit Service Plan Draft

Nuria I. Fernandez, General Manager/CEO, provided an overview of different gradations of level of service readjusted due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and aligning with the demand, funding, and reopening of economy.

Jason Tyree, Transportation Planning Manager, provided a presentation on the Draft 2021 Transit Service Plans.

Public Comment

The Office of the Board Secretary acknowledged receipt of written public comments from Alex Shoor, Robin Roemer, and Charlotte Quinn. These comments were included in the online agenda packet.

Ms. Tessa commented about reducing BART expansion to the south; and 2) reallocate Measure B funding to local transit services.

John Courtney, Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 265, commented on adding extra transit service to accommodate riders passed up due to social distancing on the buses.

The following Interested Citizens commented about the following: 1) 30% potential service cut and prioritization in preserving between 80% and 100% transit service level; 2) reallocating Measure B funding to transit to avoid service cuts; 3) explore other options to avoid transit service cuts; 4) climate change/crisis; and 5) housing development around transit hubs.

- Natasha Cougoule
- Brian PreskittMr. Beekman
- Mr. Lebrun
- Hoai-An Truong
- James Kuzmaul
- Joseph Courtney
- Tessa Woodmansee
- Jeffrey Buchanan
- Tiffany Chen
- William Tang
- Hayden Miller
- Johnny G
- Monica Mallon
- Neil Tripathi
- Friends of Caltrain and of Transbay Coalition Representative
- Sergio Lopez
- Simon Oh
- Raj Singh
- Mark Drake
- Kevin Ma
- Bob Allen
- Stephen McQuay
- Cole Cameron
- Calley Wang

Mr. Beekman noted that Caltrain and the East Bay Community Energy (EBCE) are willing to absorb their \$18 million budget deficit with no fare increases.

Eugene Bradley, Interested Citizen, commented that funds allocated to hire consultants are a “priority crisis.”

Matthew Reid, Interested Citizen, commented on the following: 1) land-use development issue; 2) the need to consider social distancing; and 3) understanding the difference between the hours of service and the level of service.

Mr. Lebrun commented about the following: 1) late-night trips are a critical lifeline and should not be reduced; 2) total revenues not adding up; 3) the projected \$700

billion expenditures; and 4) suggested presenting a complete breakdown of revenues so that the Board can provide staff the appropriate budget direction.

Robin Roemer, Interested Citizen, reiterated his written comments that was already posted on the online agenda packet.

Michael, Interested Citizen, commented on discontinuing Route 83.

Geof Ivison, Interested Citizen, commented about 15-minute headways on transit service.

Mr. Drake also commented about highway projects as a “priority crisis.”

December Parks, Bus Operator, commented about drivers and buses not utilized properly to maximize ridership, while at the same time prioritizing safety and social distancing.

Hayden Miller, Interested Citizen, expressed concern on public transparency for “2021 Transit Service Plan” and commented it is a “transit service reduction.”

Members of the Board and staff discussed the following: 1) funding including the CARES Act funding, sales tax revenue and operating reserves – financial cost in increments of 10% transit service increase; 2) possible transit service level to 100%; and 3) other outreach options.

Members of the Board of thanked staff for a detailed presentation and commented on the following: 1) preserve Paratransit service to most in need of the service; 2) prioritize extra transit service for passed up riders especially routes with a high ridership record; 3) drivers and public safety and social distancing; 4) flexible transit service hours; 5) roll back capacity not the service; 6) possible reallocation or front loading of Measure B funding through supermajority vote; 7) increase headway to 20 minutes; 8) reinstate discontinued routes; 9) coordinate and synchronize schedule of bus and light rail with BART; 10) provide more transit service to routes with highest transit dependents; 11) maintain between 75% and 90% level of service; 12) flexibility in signups and in scheduling of service; 13) variable factors and options for implementation of the transit service plan; 14) outreach efforts to most transit dependent and impacted areas; and 15) land use program, grant funding to housing development projects, and planning of programs.

Chairperson Chavez made the following comments: 1) noted the importance of insuring VTA thrives; 2) need a better understanding of the importance of grant funding to housing and suggested working with local cities’ planning and housing and development groups; 3) requested an annualized breakdown of the 2016 Measure B categories over the next 5 to 10 years; 4) need to understand graph funding options of every tier of the Transit Service Plan relative to the reserves, sales tax revenue, and equalization funds; 5) analyze data where service is most needed; 6) other modes of commuting e.g., walking, biking, carpooling; 7) VTA staff and county to work together closely with other transit agencies and unions for

best safety protocol for maximized ridership; 8) inquired about the percentage of buses that will have the barrier protection between the operator and rider; 9) public safety protocol; 10) suggested VTA staff attend council meetings to inform constituents of the Plans; 11) conduct outreach in multiple languages; and 12) asked Members of the Board to send any other questions/comments to the Board Secretary's Office.

On order of Chairperson Chavez and there being no objection, the Board received a report on the Draft 2021 Transit Service Plans.

3.2. (Deferred to a future Meeting.)

Review and receive the Downtown Design Development Framework (DDF) Progress Report. (Verbal Report)

4. OTHER ITEMS

4.1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Chavez noted that the next Regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 1, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. and will be held via video and teleconference.

5. ADJOURNMENT

On order of Chairperson Chavez and there being no objection, the workshop meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reyne Jimeno, Board Assistant
VTA Office of the Board Secretary