



Memorandum

TO: TRANSPORTATION AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: John Ristow

**SUBJECT: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
ACTIVITIES QUARTERLY REPORT**

DATE: February 12, 2020

Approved

Date

2-20-20

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the quarterly status report on regional transportation funding, programs, and projects of interest to the City of San José involving other regional, state, and federal agencies such as the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the California High Speed Rail Authority, and the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

BACKGROUND

The Transportation and Environment (T&E) Committee work plan includes quarterly reports on current activities related to regional transportation funding, programs, and projects. This report will focus on three significant transit programs and projects: VTA Transit Next Network, BART (Phase II), and the Eastridge to BART Regional Connector projects. This item may include verbal reports from the Chair, Vice-Chair, or a Committee member on relevant items related to their City roles on regional transportation agency boards.

ANALYSIS

Next Network

On December 28, 2019, VTA began service on the Next Network – a redesign from-scratch of the transit network that aims to increase ridership and improve VTA's cost-effectiveness by expanding the network of frequent routes. The redesigned network also incorporates changes to light rail and bus routes to serve the Berryessa/North San José and Milpitas BART Stations. VTA staff will join City staff to present to the T&E Committee the implementation of the Next Network to date, as well as upcoming changes to Santa Clara County's high-capacity transit system.

BART Silicon Valley - Downtown/Santa Clara Extension (Phase II)

BART Phase II will extend six miles from the Berryessa/North San José Station into downtown San José and terminate in the City of Santa Clara. It will include three underground stations in San José at 28th Street, Downtown, and Diridon; and one at-grade station in the city of Santa Clara at the Santa Clara Caltrain Station. Most of the alignment in San José will be underground in a single-bore tunnel containing both directions of tracks.

VTA received a Record of Decision from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in June 2018, and then awarded a General Engineering Consultant (GEC) Contract to Mott MacDonald/PGH Wong in January 2019. Subsequently, VTA explored new tunnel configurations to accommodate side-by-side tracks with center platforms within the single bore. This allows for a 24-foot wide center platform with a concourse above the station platform inside the tunnel. It potentially enables for some ventilation systems and traction power facilities to be located within the tunnel, rather than above-ground.

City staff have been engaged with VTA for over a year on development of station access principles and plans, and visions for Transit-Oriented Communities and joint development integrated with the station sites. On December 10, 2019, City Council accepted the report from VTA on the BART Phase II Transit-Oriented Communities Strategy Study and endorsed the approach outlined in the study for creating transit-oriented communities in San José.

Currently, a single passenger entrance building is planned at each station as part of the project. Staff is working with VTA on exploring the feasibility of future potential locations for a second entrance at the Downtown station.

The GEC completed 10% design in January 2020, which is currently under review by VTA. Preliminary engineering (approximately 30% design) is targeted for completion in mid to late 2020. VTA and FTA are actively coordinating on the information required for submittal of a grant application to FTA as part of their Expedited Project Delivery (EPD) Pilot Program.

Staff is also working with VTA to develop a master agreement and will soon begin developing the first cooperative agreement, planned to be executed in Fall 2020. Pre-construction activities are expected to begin in late 2021 followed by construction in 2022.

Eastridge to BART Regional Connector

This project, designed and constructed by VTA, will extend light rail services from the Alum Rock Station to the Eastridge Transit Center with elevated structures along the alignment and grade separations at Capitol Avenue, Story Road, Ocala Avenue, Cunningham Avenue, and Tully Road. The project includes stations at Story Road and the Eastridge Transit Center.

The project, estimated at approximately \$453 million, is currently in the final design stage with construction anticipated to begin 2021 and passenger service by 2026. The VTA project team will provide the T&E Committee a project update during the meeting.

/s/

JOHN RISTOW
Director of Transportation

For questions, contact Jessica Zenk, Deputy Director for Transportation Planning and Project Delivery, at (408) 535-3543.