



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL

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CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: August 18, 2015

Subject

Response to Call for Projects for Valley Transportation Plan 2040 (VTP 2040) - Originally heard on July 7 brought back for final approval.

Recommended Action

Staff recommends that Council take the following actions:

- 1) Rescind Resolution No. 15-061 adopted on July 7 and adopt Resolution No. 15-____ supporting the inclusion of a mass transit study, including a prioritization for initial implementation along the Highway 85 Corridor supporting the inclusion of a study of long-term mass transit solutions along the Highway 85 Corridor and the design and construction of near-term solutions; and
- 2) Provide direction on any additional transportation projects to submit for inclusion in the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA) Valley Transportation Plan 2040.

Background

As the Congestion Management Agency for Santa Clara County, the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is responsible for preparing and adopting the county-wide long-range transportation plan. The process to update the current plan, Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2040, is underway and project proposals are due to be submitted to the VTA by August 31, 2015.

The development of the new long-range countywide transportation plan is tracking with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), also known as Plan Bay Area. Projects included in the countywide plan serve as recommendations for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

The VTA has been discussing the possibility of placing a sales tax measure on the November 2016 ballot to enhance transit, highways, expressways and active transportation (bicycles, pedestrians, and complete streets).

To solicit input and better educate stakeholders, the VTA has launched Envision Silicon Valley, a campaign aimed to engage community leaders in a visioning process to discuss current and future transportation needs, identify solutions and develop funding priorities. In order to be considered for potential funding through the Transportation Tax measure, projects must be included in the VTP 2040 and the Plan Bay Area documents.

Project List Update/Development

The first step in this process is for member agencies to update their existing project lists from VTP 2040 and submit any new projects. There are regular calls for projects to be included in the plan, however this one will also be a tool for collecting projects for VTA Board consideration to include in a proposed transportation tax measure in November, 2016.

Envision Silicon Valley

The VTA has identified three desired goals for the Envision Silicon Valley campaign:

1. Develop criteria that will be used to create a viable list of transportation projects
2. Establish a list of transportation projects, based on the criteria to address mobility and congestion
3. Create a financing plan

As communities submit projects for consideration, the VTA has drafted Goals and Strategies in five categories, as follows:

- Enhance safety
- Provide congestion relief and improve transportation efficiency
- Expand transportation choices and improve travel experience
- Continue to promote quality transit for those who are transit dependent
- Promote healthy communities and minimize environmental impacts
- Improve system financial sustainability

Proposed Projects for Cupertino's Submittal

Attachment C is the draft list of projects that staff intends to submit to the VTA for inclusion in VTP 2040. These projects, while many have physical challenges such as right of way acquisition, are included in the plan to secure better positioning for outside funding. Most notably on the list, and likely of highest importance for inclusion in the 2016 tax measure is the Regional Mass Transit Plan.

Regional Mass Transit

On June 2, 2015, the City Council held a Study Session on Santa Clara County Potential Transportation Tax Measure for 2016 - Envision Silicon Valley. As an outcome from the information shared by speakers and follow-up discussions between West Valley and North County cities, an initial letter (draft included as Attachment A) is intended to be sent from the mayors of many of these cities requesting that the VTA initiate a comprehensive study to develop a system-wide plan that integrates future mass transit investments in Santa Clara County with connections to other counties, as well as community-level systems and “first/last mile” strategies. The letter further requests that the study’s initial focus should be on the Highway 85/U.S. Route 101/State route 237/Interstate 280 corridors, recognizing the changing dynamics of commute patterns such as to the East Bay and southern Santa Clara County, and that it is imperative that work on this study begin as soon as possible, so that the study can inform near term project funding decisions.

In addition to the above request from many of the West Valley and North County cities, Cupertino and likely other cities are intending to submit to the VTA a project for implementation of the selected solution from the above study for the Highway 85 corridor. Prior to the submittal date of August 31, the Mayor will continue to work with other cities to make the same request. Attachment B is a resolution that would be forwarded to VTA to support inclusion of this implementation into VTP 2040, and subsequently into the 2016 Transportation Tax Measure. This proposal is estimated at \$800 million, and would include the local match to support full construction of a project which would serve the mass transit needs of the region, with an initial phase on the highway 85 corridor from Highway 87 to immediately north of Highway 101.

Sustainability Impact

Any future projects that enhance non-vehicular transportation modes or reduce congestion will have positive effects on greenhouse gas emissions.

Fiscal Impact

None at this time.

Prepared by: Timm Borden, Director of Public Works

Approved for Submission by: David Brandt, City Manager

Attachments:

A - West Valley/North County Mayor’s Letter for Transit Study

B - Draft Mass Transit Project Resolution

C - Draft VTP 2040 Project List