



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL

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CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Meeting: August 21, 2018

Subject

Submittal of projects for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Horizon Initiative

Recommended Action

Provide direction for staff to submit projects for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's call for transformative transportation projects for the Horizon Initiative

Background

The MTC recently released a *Request for Transformative Projects* for their Horizon Initiative. The MTC is looking for the "biggest, brightest, billion-dollar (or more!) ideas for redefining the way we travel in and around the Bay Area."

The Request for Transformative Projects is focused on major transportation investments that were not previously assessed in Plan Bay Area 2040. These could include visionary transportation projects not submitted for Plan Bay Area 2040 – like a second Transbay Tube, an extension of the Central Subway, or new ideas intended to solve the transportation challenges of today and tomorrow in the San Francisco Bay Area. Ideas such as an aerial tram network or fixed-guideway systems are all within the scope of this \$1 billion or more MTC contest. The deadline for submitting projects is September 5, 2018. Five to ten finalists will be announced in October 2018 and projects will then be considered for further analysis as part of the Horizon initiative. In 2019, these projects may be considered for inclusion in Plan Bay Area 2050's investment strategy.

Discussion

Staff is proposing to submit five separate projects for the Horizon Initiative; one in collaboration with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and the cities of San Jose and Santa Clara (The Stevens Creek Boulevard Project), one to further the vision and partner with the Cupertino Chamber of Commerce, and two separately by the City of Cupertino.

The following five projects are proposed to be submitted:

1. The Stevens Creek Boulevard Project:

In collaboration with the VTA and the cities of San Jose and Santa Clara, a scope is being developed to submit for a project to connect De Anza College with San Jose's Diridon Station via Stevens Creek Boulevard. This project would connect Cupertino to downtown San Jose, and the regional transit network using a high capacity transit system (HCT), which could include technologies such as light rail, subway, bus rapid transit (BRT), or advanced technologies still in development such as a hyperloop system or other emerging technologies such as autonomous fixed-guideway transit. A connection to Diridon station would provide Cupertino with access to pending transportation improvements such as the South Bay Bart extension, California High Speed Rail Project, and an electrified Caltrain network. It is of significance to the region as Cupertino has a high employment density with no high capacity transit currently serving it. In addition, a Stevens Creek Boulevard Project would likely serve Santana Row and Valley Fair mall, both growing developments with no current proposed transit connections.

2. Aerial Fixed guideway System to Mountain View:

As a separate application submitted by Cupertino staff will submit a proposal for an aerial fixed guideway system using advanced technology in development to connect I-280 at Wolfe Road along route I-280 and northbound into Mountain View, with stops at the Mountain View Transit Center and the North Bayshore area, connecting two technology rich job centers with each other, and also to the growing regional transit network using. The City of Mountain View is currently studying such a system to connect its existing Mountain View Transit Center with North Bayshore. This proposal would bring this system south bound and along I-280 to Wolfe Road, providing fast and efficient access to Mountain View and the regional transit system.

3. I-280/Wolfe Road: Cupertino Station

This project proposes a state of the art multi-modal regional transit center, providing both a regional transit terminal and a public space to access the expanding array of bay area transit systems. The terminal would offer a rich array of pedestrian and bicycle amenities as well, such as an automated bicycle parking structure, with locker rooms, showers, a bicycle service station, and shared-mobility rentals. This new facility could be constructed as a freeway cap, potentially with above and below ground elements, green space, and trailheads to the pending Junipero Serra Trail, which will connect to the existing Don Burnett Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge and Mary Avenue. This project can work in concert with the other projects being submitted for the Horizon Initiative and is seen as a terminus/station for the Aerial Fixed Guideway to Mountain View.

Inclusion of solar shading, wind turbines, and an air pollution-capture device will make this facility a carbon-negative structure, producing more energy than it consumes.

4. Silicon Valley High Capacity Transit Loop

This project, as originally envisioned by the Cupertino Chamber of Commerce, will take the first three elements, above, and provide a continuous loop connection to benefit major employment and housing areas of the South Bay Area. Beginning at I-280/Wolfe Road: Cupertino Station, the transit connect would move east along the Stevens Creek Corridor to the Diridon Station and downtown San Jose, then move north to the Mineta San Jose International Airport to Highway 101, and then go northwest to Mountain View's North Bayshore area, followed finally by closing the loop to the Mountain View Transit Center and then back down Highway 85 to I-280 to the I-280/Wolfe Road: Cupertino Station.

5. Highway 85 Transit Guideway

This project, covering the 23.7-mile corridor that connects the cities of Mountain View and San Jose, from the SR 85/US 101 interchange in Mountain View to the SR 85/US 101 interchange in South San Jose, is currently being studied and has an allocation of \$350 million with the currently stalled Santa Clara County Measure B, no matter what the ultimate transit solution is selected, will cost in excess of the \$1 billion threshold for MTC Horizon Initiative submittals.

A map showing proposed alignments of all five projects is currently in development by City staff and will be submitted to the MTC as part of the application. The map will also be available on the City website once completed.

Sustainability Impact

All five projects submitted for the MTC Horizon Initiative would enhance transit connections to Cupertino, advancing mobility goals of the Cupertino General Plan, such as reducing reliance on motor vehicles, reducing transportation related greenhouse gas emissions, and connecting land use and transportation in a complimentary way that enables the community to thrive economically without the negative consequences of automotive congestion and its resulting environmental impacts.

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Prepared by: Chris Corrao, Senior Transit & Transportation Planner

Reviewed by: Timm Borden, Director of Public Works

Approved for Submission by: Amy Chan, City Manager

A - MTC Horizon Initiative Call for Projects

B - Stevens Creek Corridor High Capacity Transit Scope

C - Stevens Creek Blvd HCT 1

D - Aerial Fixed Guideway to Mtn View

E - Cupertino Station I-280 + Wolfe Rd

F - Highway 85 Transit Guideway

G - Silicon Valley HCT Loop