



**CITY OF LOS ALTOS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 25, 2015**

CONSENT CALENDAR

Agenda Item # 13

SUBJECT: Authorize the Mayor to sign a joint letter from the West Valley and North County cities requesting the Valley Transportation Authority initiate a comprehensive study for development of a system-wide plan that integrates future mass transit improvements in Santa Clara County with connections to other counties

BACKGROUND

Recently, the Mayors and City Managers of various cities in the West Valley and North County have met to discuss regional transportation issues. One of the outcomes of these meetings is a letter that would be sent to the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) requesting that a comprehensive study for development of a system-wide plan that integrates future mass transit improvements in the County be initiated.

EXISTING POLICY

None

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

None

DISCUSSION

The attached letter encourages VTA to study and develop a strategy for addressing transportation issues regionally in addition to address the transportation needs of each jurisdiction.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Posting of the meeting agenda serves as notice to the general public.

FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACT

None

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Mayor to sign a joint letter from the West Valley and North County cities requesting the Valley Transportation Authority initiate a comprehensive study for development of a system-wide plan that integrates future mass transit improvements in Santa Clara County with connections to other counties

ALTERNATIVES

No viable alternatives identified

Prepared by: Jon Maginot, City Clerk/Assistant to the City Manager

ATTACHMENT:

1. Draft letter to Valley Transportation Authority

August 26, 2015

Dear Chair Woodward:

The Mayors and City Managers of West Valley and North County cities have been meeting in recent weeks to discuss regional transportation issues and our common interests in addressing the transportation-related needs of our residents and businesses. A commitment to an innovative, intermodal and geographically balanced transportation vision for Santa Clara County is critical to the continued growth and vitality of the Silicon Valley as well as the quality of life of its residents.

The Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA's) current effort to update the list of projects to be included in the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2040 provides Valley leaders with a critical opportunity to shape a new and transformative long-range vision for transportation in Santa Clara County.

Representatives of the West Valley and North County cities believe that in addition to VTP project requests submitted from each city, a stronger "systems" perspective is needed to support an integrated regional strategy and decisions on future mass transit investments. Specifically, the cities signing this letter respectfully request that the VTA initiate a comprehensive study, leading to an alternatives analysis and formal Federal environmental review process and clearance, to develop a system-wide plan that integrates future mass transit investments in Santa Clara County with connections to other counties, via such systems as Caltrain, as well as community-level systems and "first/last mile" strategies. 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 within the Peninsula, East Bay and southern Santa Clara County that affect West Valley and North County cities.

The undersigned cities all agree 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, and that the study process include the consideration of the formation of a joint powers advisory board.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,