



VTA Announces Restructuring of Santa Clara-Alum Rock Bus Rapid Transit Construction Project

September 22, 2015

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) announced today that it is restructuring the delivery of its Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project along Santa Clara Street, Alum Rock Avenue, Capitol Avenue, and Capitol Expressway in San José. Due to several problems encountered during the project, VTA and its general contractor, Goodfellow Top Grade Construction (“GTGC”), have agreed that it is in the best interests of the project and of the public’s safety for VTA to explore alternative delivery methods for bringing BRT to this corridor.

As part of the restructuring, VTA and GTGC have entered into a demobilization agreement that allows VTA to continue work on key portions of the BRT project while also repackaging the remaining scope of work for a future new bid process. The agreement also provides a method for closing out the financial terms of GTGC’s existing contract.

“Given the issues over unmarked and unknown utilities,” said VTA’s Director of Engineering & Transportation Infrastructure Development, Carolyn Gonot, “we determined that re-allocating our resources was the best way to balance the safety of our community with delivery of the project. VTA believes that this restructuring will ultimately provide the best results for all of our stakeholders.”

GTGC’s President, Brian Gates, added, “As a result of project changes, issues with unknown and unmarked utilities and the lack of key permits to proceed in certain areas, this was a very challenging project from day one. GTGC and VTA worked closely to try to address these challenges, but ultimately we agreed that a different approach to delivery was in everyone’s best interests.”

“I would like to thank the community for their patience with the recent delays due to the safety shutdown. I am pleased that VTA has found a way to continue this important project while preserving community safety as the number one priority,” said Santa Clara County Supervisor and VTA Board Vice Chair Cindy Chavez. “The restructuring of the Santa Clara-Alum Rock Bus Rapid Transit project construction is a good next step for the community.”

The Santa Clara-Alum Rock BRT project includes several elements to allow for a faster transit ride in the VTA’s heavily used corridor stretching from Eastridge Mall to the Diridon Caltrain Station. The project includes enhanced bus shelters along Capitol Expressway, Capitol Avenue, Alum Rock Avenue, and Santa Clara Street and will utilize modern, new train-like buses that utilize green technology and offer high- back comfortable seating. The project also includes timing of traffic signals to allow for faster bus travel. A major project highlight is the bus-only lanes on Alum Rock that will run in the median between I-680 and US 101. The construction of this feature is accompanied by a reconstruction of the roadway.



VTA plans to install the station shelters near the SAP Arena, on Santa Clara Street near 17th Street and 24th Street, and along Capitol Expressway at Alum Rock Avenue, Story Road, and Ocala Road later this fall and early winter. VTA will also complete utility relocation in this time frame along Alum Rock Avenue between I-680 and US 101. In Spring 2016, VTA plans to begin work on two other construction contracts for the downtown BRT stops and the Alum Rock Avenue bus lanes and roadway reconstruction after completion of the bid processes. VTA anticipates the work to be completed by early 2017.