

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP MEETING

Friday, February 22, 2019

### MINUTES

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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The Workshop Meeting of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA) Board of Directors (Board) was called to order by Chairperson O'Neill at 9:05 a.m. in the VTA Auditorium, 3331 North First Street, San José, California.

##### 1.1. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Marie Blankley	Alternate Board Member	Absent
Larry Carr	Board Member	Absent
Magdalena Carrasco	Board Member	Present
Cindy Chavez	Vice Chairperson	Present
David Cortese	Board Member	Absent
Dev Davis	Alternate Board Member	Present
Lan Diep	Board Member	Present
Susan Ellenberg	Alternate Board Member	Absent
Adrian Fine	Alternate Board Member	Absent
Glenn Hendricks	Alternate Board Member	Present
Chappie Jones	Board Member	Present
Sam Liccardo	Board Member	Absent
John McAlister	Board Member	Present
Howard Miller	Alternate Board Member	Present
Teresa O'Neill	Chairperson	Present
Raul Peralez	Board Member	Present
Rob Rennie	Board Member	Present
Rich Tran	Board Member	Absent
Jeannie Bruins	Ex-Officio Member	Present

\* Alternates do not serve unless participating as a Member.

**A quorum was present.**

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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Jim Stallman, Interested Citizen, noted the following: 1) provided funding suggestions for VTA; 2) commented on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Lifeline service and ridership incentive programs; and 4) commended VTA's operations workforce.

Edward Mason, Interested Citizen, expressed concern about the environmental impacts of idle private commuter buses at the Curtner and Capitol Light Rail Stations, and suggested a more assertive cost-recovery approach for the use of public assets/infrastructure.

Roland Lebrun, Interested Citizen, commented that the staff presentation is not on the VTA website.

### **3. WORKSHOP ITEMS**

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#### **3.1 Future of Transportation in Santa Clara County**

Chairperson O'Neill provided welcome remarks and expressed appreciation of Ex-Officio Member Bruins for offering to facilitate the workshop meeting.

Nuria I. Fernandez, General Manager and CEO, provided opening remarks and introduced the following executive staff: 1) Inez Evans, Chief Operating Officer; 2) Carolyn Gonot, Chief Engineering & Program Delivery Officer; 3) Chris Augenstein, Director of Planning & Programming; 4) Scott Haywood, Transportation Planning Manager; 5) Sylvester Fadal, Deputy Director of Business Services; and 6) Gary Miskell, Chief Information Officer.

The Board and Alternate Board Members offered their thoughts on the present state of transportation in Santa Clara County (County).

Mr. Augenstein provided a brief presentation, highlighting the following: 1) accelerated growth in technological innovations; 2) disruptions in the transportation industry; and 3) illustration of the Sigmoid Curve as it relates to transit agencies and summary of industry trends.

A brief discussion ensued about VTA's innovation efforts.

Board Member Chavez arrived at the meeting  
and took her seat at 9:40 a.m.

Members of the Board expressed general support of technological innovation and made the following comments: 1) noted the importance of first and last-mile connectivity; 2) inquired about VTA's strategy to address disruption in transportation; 3) incremental approach to innovation tend to lag compared to a more drastic approach; 4) innovation could encompass more than technology; and 5) noted the stigma around riding a bus and offered suggestions to improve rider experience.

Ms. Gonot presented the current infrastructure conditions in the County. She provided examples and trends for infrastructure use and operation in the country and noted what role VTA could play in collaborating or leading efforts that will produce a more seamless mobility experience.

Members of the Board provided the following comments: 1) asked about return on investments to fund other operational activities; 2) noted possible challenges should VTA pursue role as Mobility as a Service (MaaS) integrator; and 3) noted equity issues related to use of smart phones and access to MaaS.

Mr. Augenstein presented examples of innovation in transit vehicles and new service model ideas.

Mr. Fadal provided a brief presentation on workforce development, noting the concept of an agile organization.

Members of the Board and staff briefly discussed the concerns and perceptions related to workforce transitions. They also discussed advantages and disadvantages of catenary-less or embedded track systems.

Upon query of Ex-Officio Member Bruins, Members of the Board offered their thoughts on projects or corridors these innovations could be applied to. Alternate Board Member Hendricks expressed concern and noted identifying project requirements and success criteria should be part of the process.

The Board recessed at 10:42 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:56 a.m.

Ex-Officio Member Bruins referenced the Sigmoid Curve graphic in the presentation and polled the Board on next steps regarding transportation improvement in the County. Members of the Board indicated a need for a “radical” approach.

Members of the Board engaged in a discussion concerning: 1) identifying problems and possible solutions, recognizing VTA’s role as both transit provider and operator and the County’s congestion management agency; 2) market share and transportation options; 3) areas that could be reevaluated, such as project alternatives and how the Board could innovate its decision-making process; 4) efforts that could be accelerated, such creating a culture of innovation and adopting an electric fleet; 5) optimizing right-of-way and other public assets or infrastructure; 6) efforts that could be continued, such as serving the transit-dependent community and improving rider experience; 7) exploring new sources of revenue for transit reinvestment, including partnerships with private sector and local agencies; 8) workforce transition issues; 9) transit signal priority countywide or at appropriate corridors; 10) consideration for a sustainable budget for “Research & Development” or activities related to innovation efforts; and 11) development of a new business model for VTA.

Chairperson O’Neill noted forthcoming board governance working group meeting with select Board members to discuss how the board could improve its effectiveness. She also suggested developing a work plan to address topics discussed at the workshop.

### **Public Comment**

Aboubacar Ndiaye, Interested Citizen, commented on the responsible and positive application of technology, the political will to prioritize transit, and consideration for a sustainable funding mechanism for VTA.

Mr. Lebrun provided the following comments: 1) noted faster transit travel times could encourage mode shift; 2) gave examples of new technologies related to transit vehicles; and 3) offered suggestions related to light rail infrastructure.

Mr. Mason provided the following comments: 1) noted his negative experience with transit connections; 2) highlighted the “culture of convenience” as a challenge to attracting riders and encouraged the Board to take transit; and 3) suggested to monitor the effects of Senate Bill (SB) 50.

Blair Beekman, Interested Citizen, noted his desire for minimal use of technology.

Board Member Chavez left the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

**On order of Chairperson O’Neill** and there being no objection, the Board discussed the future of transportation for Santa Clara County.

## **4. OTHER ITEMS**

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### **4.1. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson O’Neill made the following announcements: 1) groundbreaking events for the US-101 Managed Lanes Project on March 8, 2019, and the Mathilda/US-101/SR-237 Interchange on March 22, 2019; and 2) the next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2019, and will be held in the County Board of Supervisors’ Chambers.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

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**On order of Chairperson O’Neill** and there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Oblena, Board Assistant  
VTA Office of the Board Secretary