



*Solutions that move you*

## **Santa Clara Community Working Group Meeting**

**Date of Meeting:** February 7, 2019 (4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

### **Attendees:**

Members in Attendance: Jack Morash, John Urban, Curtis Leigh, Luke De Vogelaere, Ana Vargas-Smith, Sudhanshu Jain, Ron Miller, and Chris Shay

Members not in Attendance: Elizabeth Monley, Nick Kasper, and Marilyn Ponte

Other Speaker Attendees: Jill Gibson (VTA), Paul Hetu (VTA), Greg Parks (Caltrain), Gretchen Baisa (VTA), Dennis Kearney (VTA), and Adriano Rothschild (VTA)

Additional Project Team in Attendance: Erica Roecks (VTA), John Davidson (City of Santa Clara), and Eileen Goodwin (Apex Strategies)

Project Team not in Attendance: Charla Gomez (CSJ) and Jessica Zenk (CSJ)

**Location:** South Bay Historic Railroad Society, 1005 Railroad Avenue in Santa Clara

### **Summary:**

#### **The Meeting agenda included:**

- Welcome and Introductions
- Follow-up Items and 2019 Work Plan
- Caltrain Electrification Update
- Phase II Update
- Construction Education and Outreach Plan
- Diridon Station Integrated Concept Plan
- Transit Oriented Development Strategy and Access Planning Studies Update
- Review Action Items and Next Meeting Dates

Next CWG Meeting:

Santa Clara Working Group: April 18, 2019 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Santa Clara Senior Center, Room 232, 1303 Fremont Street in Santa Clara

TOD Workshop 5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Key Issues/Comments/Questions:**

<b>Comment/Question</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>Follow Up and Work Plan items</b>	
No comments noted.	
<b>Caltrain Electrification</b>	
Will Caltrain come out to my HOA?	Yes.
Will electrification prevent train strikes?	There is not a study about that correlation that I am aware of.
The UP has not been very open historically to changing the area south of Tamien. How will people from Gilroy, who must use the diesel trains, get to the north?	Some of the diesel trains will go straight onto the electrified tracks and all the way to San Francisco. Just because they start on a diesel train does not mean they will automatically need a transfer at Diridon to an electrified train. The exact schedules have not been set yet and won't be until 2020-2021.
So, there is a chance you could go on one train all the way from Gilroy to San Francisco?	Yes.
Will both hot line numbers work for late night calls?	Yes. That said, we cannot guarantee action will be taken that night. We work to make sure corrective action is taken the next day.
Can the test track share poles with regular track?	I do not have that information with me. Please come to the Caltrain sponsored community meetings. At those meetings Caltrain will have maps and plans, so we can show you what type of pole is planned where along the corridor.
Can we get a copy of the factsheet to share?	Yes, here is the link: <a href="https://calmod.org/wp-content/uploads/Santa-Clara-Fact-Materials-Removal_February2019.pdf">https://calmod.org/wp-content/uploads/Santa-Clara-Fact-Materials-Removal_February2019.pdf</a>
Where did the money come from to fund electrification?	Federal and State funding
Is this project done without raising local taxes?	Yes.
What drives the 79 mph train speed?	Safety and track design.
What kind of complaints have you received so far?	Not as many as you might think. They tend to be around noise issues.
Where are the staging areas?	They are located on the factsheet map. See above link.
Public Comment: The testing will be done off site because the trains will not be able to go 110 mph in 1.5 miles of track. On slide 30 why are the poles bending in different directions? This could be bad construction practices?	This is not a slide from Caltrain work. I can ask the contractor who provided this photo.
<b>Phase II</b>	
April 2020 is when we find out from the FTA for funding?	April 2020 VTA will submit to FTA the updated cost, schedule and funding strategy.

Is the California General Fund paying for this?	No. There will be State funding as part of the funding plan, but it is transportation funding.
Did you see anything of concern from field investigation testing?	No.
My home is near the west portal. Were there samples there?	Yes. All is as expected.
<b>Construction Education and Outreach Plan</b>	
I like the survey metrics of satisfaction being used by LA Metro. What metrics did the Twin Cities use?	There's a <a href="#">report</a> you can read all about the Twin Cities' experience. Our consultant will look at both projects as case studies and ultimately recommend metrics in a final report.
The impacts to neighborhoods shouldn't just be about businesses. We need Caltrain service throughout BART construction.	Caltrain will be in service during the construction, that is the plan.
<b>Diridon Station Integrated Concept Plan</b>	
We represent north of Diridon Station. Is High Speed Rail (HSR) only considering the at-grade and 25'-30' elevated option at this time? We do not want the 70' option.	The Concept Plan assumptions for HSR are a roughly 25' elevated platform option and at grade platform option.
I do not like VTA's current phone app. Will the Diridon partnership also include a more modern app? When I go to the Levi's Stadium their app guides me to my seat and more.	We will share your feedback with VTA.
Where can I access the January JPAB presentation?	The JPAB presentation can be accessed here: <a href="http://vtaorgcontent.s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/Site_Content/diridon_pab_013119.pdf">http://vtaorgcontent.s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/Site_Content/diridon_pab_013119.pdf</a>
<b>Transit Oriented Development Strategy and Access Planning</b>	
If you want support and additional attendees at various meetings it would be very helpful to get the report and content prior to the April Workshop Meeting.	We will try to get it out as early as possible.
How will hand off to cities work? Are they going to amend their plans?	City of Santa Clara Representative: The City of Santa Clara is going to incorporate the appropriate strategies into the Zoning Code Update and well as the upcoming General Plan Update. San José is also planning to update their documents.
I ride my bike through the existing tunnel, but I hear from friends and neighbors that they are afraid to. We need to make sure we take security into account when designing access. Maybe we should have blue phones	Staff will pass this comment on to VTA's Safety and Compliance team.

or cameras stationed near the tunnel or whatever it takes to make people feel safe.	
How dedicated is the Santa Clara City Council to making density happen? I remember various projects being killed because they were too dense.	The team is hoping for community and agency staff support to help set these strategies in place so the proper level of density can happen near the stations. City of Santa Clara Representative: In addition, there are changes in state laws that should make the development near stations consistent with the types of strategies we are developing.
What is the VTA Board doing to push these developers to higher densities?	VTA has no land use authority. That is why we are in partnership with the cities on station area planning. VTA does not have the authority to do this on our own.

**Follow-Up Items:**

- Provide web link to Caltrain factsheet – included in summary above
- Share feedback on VTA’s phone app
- Provide TOD implementation strategies prior to April Workshop
- Provide feedback to VTA’s Safety & Compliance department on additional safety measures (e.g. blue phones and cameras) needed at Santa Clara Caltrain tunnel

**Prepared by:** Eileen Goodwin, Apex Strategies

**Distribution:**

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