

From: VTA Board Secretary [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 9:52 AM
To: VTA Board of Directors [REDACTED]
Cc: VTA Board Secretary [REDACTED]
Subject: VTA Information: Dissolution of the 1-680 Sunol Smart Carpool Lane Joint Powers Authority

VTA Board of Directors:

Please see attached memorandum from Carolyn M. Gonot, General Manager/CEO, regarding the dissolution of the I-680 Sunol Smart Carpool Lane Joint Powers Authority.

Thank you.


Office of the Board Secretary
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
3331 North First Street, Building B
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MEMORANDUM

TO: VTA Board of Directors

FROM: Carolyn M. Gonot, General Manager/CEO 

DATE: February 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Dissolution of the I-680 Sunol Smart Carpool Lane Joint Powers Authority

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) has initiated the process for the dissolution of the Sunol Smart Carpool Lane Joint Powers Authority (JPA). The JPA is a governing body, consisting of representatives from ACTC and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), that oversees the implementation and operation of express lanes on a limited portion of I-680 within Alameda and Santa Clara counties.

The current governance structure of the JPA requires ACTC to manage governmental functions for two separate agencies (ACTC and JPA) as part of its Express Lanes program. This structure necessitates significant duplication of effort and expenditure of resources, including noticing, agendaing, and conducting separate public meetings for the JPA, and conducting separate budgeting, financial recordkeeping, and audits. ACTC believes that dissolving the JPA and transitioning the operation of the I-680 Express Lanes in Alameda County to ACTC will result in a more efficient governance and administrative structure. VTA staff supports this stand.

BACKGROUND:

The I-680 Express Lane JPA was created on February 23, 2006. ACTC is the managing agency for the JPA. This governing body that is responsible for the operation of express lanes on a portion of I-680 consists of four representatives from ACTC and one from VTA due to about 80 percent of the facility being in Alameda County and the remaining 20 percent being in Santa Clara County when the JPA was formed.

For the purposes of the JPA, the I-680 Express Lane is split into two sections: the 14-mile southern section spanning 11.7 miles in Alameda County and 2.3 miles in Santa Clara County between State Route (SR) 84 in Alameda County and SR 237 in Santa Clara County (in existence since the formation of the JPA) and the northern section spanning approximately 10 miles between Alcosta Boulevard and SR 84 within Alameda County (more recent addition).

Among the key functions of the I-680 Express Lane JPA are:

- To oversee the implementation and operation of express lanes;
- To adopt an annual budget dictating the annual expenses and revenues for the express lanes; and

- To administer an expenditure plan for the use of the net revenue generated by the express lanes.

In May 2022, the VTA Board of Directors authorized the General Manager to enter into a Third Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement with ACTC that allows ACTC to continue to maintain I-680 Express Lanes operational assets within Alameda County and provides for the removal of express lanes equipment in Santa Clara County that are no longer needed with the resetting of the southern limit of the I-680 Express Lanes. The new southern terminus of the express lanes is a result of the addition of express lanes in the northbound direction. This implementation of express lanes has both directions of express lanes on I-680 over the Sunol Grade having the southern limit for both directions located just south of the I-680/SR 262/Mission Boulevard interchange just north of the Alameda/Santa Clara county line. The new agreement also calls for the operation of the existing southbound express lane south of the new southern express lane as a carpool lane and directs ACTC as the entity responsible for working with Caltrans to accomplish and fund this change.

In September 2023, the Governor signed legislation amending Streets and Highways Code Section 149.5 to authorize both ACTC and VTA to operate the I-680 Express Lanes separately, and independent of the JPA, in their respective counties. Pursuant to this newly established authority, ACTC has initiated the steps to dissolve the JPA.

On January 8, 2024, the proposed dissolution was approved by ACTC's Programs and Projects Committee followed by the full Commission on January 25, 2024. The recommendation will be next brought to the JPA for approval on February 12, 2024.

Subject to approval of the JPA dissolution at the February 2024 JPA meeting, steps will be taken to terminate the JPA agreement, and transition I-680 Express Lanes operations in Alameda County to ACTC. Once the JPA is disbanded, the JPA would divest all its interests and responsibilities for the express lane including the segment south of the I-680/SR 262/Mission Boulevard interchange (just north of the Alameda/Santa Clara county line) to about the I-680/Calaveras Boulevard interchange in Santa Clara County after converting the lane from express lane to carpool lane operations.

The future extension of express lanes from the new southern limit in Alameda County through the remainder of Alameda County and into Santa Clara County would be dependent on VTA's efforts to implement express lanes on the remainder of I-680 in Santa Clara County. Although such an extension of express lanes is captured in VTA's countywide transportation Plan (VTP 2040) and the regional transportation plan, funding to start this implementation has not been identified.

DISCUSSION:

Subject to approval of the JPA to terminate the JPA, the following are some key steps to complete after the dissolution:

1. **Notice to VTA.** ACTC will provide notice to VTA of its intention to continue to operate the I-680 Express Lane within Alameda County only.

2. **Acceptance of Assets and Contracts.** ACTC to accept assignment or conveyance of all JPA contracts and assets pertaining to the I-680 Express Lane as allocated to ACTC by JPA.
3. **Administrative Actions.** Effectuate the dissolution of the JPA and transition of operations of the I-680 Express Lane in Alameda County to ACTC.
4. **Carpool Lane Conversion.** Obtain encroachment permit from Caltrans to perform lane conversion work within the segment south of the I-680/SR 262/Mission Boulevard interchange (just north of the Alameda/Santa Clara county line) and the I-680/Calaveras Boulevard interchange in Santa Clara County to carpool lane. The work includes procurement and management of environmental, design, construction management services and a construction contractor.

The final dissolution date of the JPA is anticipated to be completed by May 2024. Many of the above steps will be completed by Summer of 2024. Carpool lane conversion work will likely take place in Spring of 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The JPA pays the costs to operate and maintain the I-680 Express Lane in Santa Clara County. If the JPA is disbanded, the JPA would divest all its interests and responsibilities for the express lane including the segment south of the I-680/SR 262/Mission Boulevard interchange (just north of the Alameda/Santa Clara county line) and the I-680/Calaveras Boulevard interchange in Santa Clara County after converting the lane from express lane to carpool lane. Under the Third Amended and Restated JPA Agreement, ACTC assumes the financial responsibility for completion of the necessary work to convert the southbound segment of I-680/SR 262/Mission Boulevard interchange and the I-680/Calaveras Boulevard interchange from express lane to carpool lane. Current estimates for this work are \$3 million, which would be funded through I-680 Express Lanes toll revenues.

From: VTA Board Secretary [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 2:44 PM
To: VTA Board of Directors [REDACTED]
Cc: VTA Board Secretary [REDACTED]
Subject: VTA Information: February 15, 2024, Standing Committee Agenda Packets (CMPP, A&F, and SSTPO)

VTA Board of Directors:

You may now access your VTA CMPP, A&F, and SSTPO Agenda packets on our Agenda Portal via the links below:

- **Congestion Management Program and Planning (CMPP) Committee** - Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. [CMPP Agenda Packet](#)
- **Administration and Finance (A&F) Committee** - Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. [A&F Cancellation Notice](#)
- **Safety, Security, and Transit Planning and Operations (SSTPO) Committee** - Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. [SSTPO Agenda Packet](#)

Thank you,

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