



**Downtown Diridon Community Working Group Meeting**

**Date of Meeting:** August 11, 2015 (4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

**Attendees:**

Members in Attendance: Alan Williams, Bert Weaver, Adina Levin, Derrik Seaver, Scott Knies, Eyedin Zonobi, Eloy Wouters for Deborah Arant, Bruce Friesen, Jim Goddard, Laura Tolhoff for Ratna Amin

Members not in Attendance: Charisse Lebron

Other Speaker Attendees: Erica Roecks (VTA), Bernice Alaniz (VTA), John Lang (CSJ), Mike Smith (VTA), Margaret Rhee (Ernst & Young), John Sighamony (VTA)

Project Team in Attendance: Leyla Hedayat (VTA), Brent Pearse (VTA), Kevin Kurimoto (VTA), Jessica Zenk (CSJ) Ray Salvano (CSJ), Eileen Goodwin (Apex)

Project Team not in Attendance: Rosalynn Hughey (CSJ), Michael Brilliot (CSJ)

**Location:** San Jose Chamber of Commerce, 101 W. Santa Clara Street, San Jose CA

**Summary:**

**The Meeting agenda included:**

- Welcome and Introductions
- Follow up items - (Presentations on Ridership Demographics, Open Data Portal request) – Facilitator and VTA Staff
- Project Status Update Evolution of Design Decisions – VTA Staff
- Update on City projects in Station Area (Access Study, Economic Study) – City Staff
- Financial Update BART Phase II – VTA Staff and Ernst & Young
- Envision Project Update – VTA staff
- Review Action Items and Next Meeting Date (October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 4 p.m.-6 p.m.) – Facilitator

**Key Issues/Comments/Questions:**

Comment/Question	Response
<b>Follow up items</b>	
Why has the work plan been changed? Why does this agenda not include the VTA “other projects” item?	There was a desire to fully present the financial item with a lot of opportunity for Q and A, the Envision item is very timely and the City Corridor projects are also very

	timely. The decision was made to defer the VTA projects to another meeting since they are less time sensitive. The CWG will be informed of future workplan changes.
VTA should highlight that on the agenda if that ever happens again.	The facilitator will take that as an action item.
<b>Follow up items – Ridership Demographics</b>	
Is there a difference in the east versus west station options in terms of ridership in this data you have given us?	The model is a regional model and not able to pick up nuances of a few blocks well. Essentially it would be a wash.
It would be good to get some more data about transferring from what at the Santa Clara station	We can look further into that.
<b>Follow up items – Open Portal</b>	
It would be helpful to have the BART schedule and the BART ridership estimates in non PDF format as a higher priority to get on -line	We will discuss it internally and an update will be given to the CWG members.
The CWG meeting packets should be posted on-line prior to the CWG meetings so non-members can follow along on the computer.	Good suggestion.
<b>Evolution of Design Decisions</b>	
Is there a future Calaveras station still?	No, it has been dropped. Milpitas did get another station as part of Phase I.
Why is tail track approved on the 101 bridge in the Record of Decision (ROD) and not listed in previous EIRs?	Roland and Tom Fitzwater to follow up off-line regarding how the tail tracks are covered in the EIRs.
<b>City Projects—Access Study</b>	
Does the City consider user experience?	Yes.
Can this type of study be done for Diridon as well?	City has done a lot of work at Diridon already so that is why it started with the other stations in San Jose. The City does intend to look at Diridon as well.
Was there pros and cons analysis or will there be?	No the scope does not call for that. They were asked to look at connectivity, density, and place making. VTA additional response: VTA will do analysis on the two station locations and that will likely include pros and cons style work. That report will go to the Board and we can bring it to the CWG as well.
This walking tour process was interesting and a good model of partnership between the City, VTA and the community I hope	Comment noted. VTA intends to implement more walking tours as part of its ongoing engagement Phase II strategies.

this can be a model for future work on various issues.	
Density falls off around 6 <sup>th</sup> –who’s decision will it be to decide between the stations?	The VTA Board is the ultimate decision maker. However, the City’s preference will heavily influence that decision.
The City Council recommendation should be an important recommendation.	Agree.
Will we see the evaluation criteria for the station decision when we see the memo to the Board?	Yes.
<b>City Projects—Economic Study</b>	
Will the station area economic information be made available to the CWGs?	Yes, we expect the consultant to have information available and we will ask to be on the CWG agenda to present it.
Access and circulation doesn’t seem to be in the scope?	No it is focused on parcel related work.
Are the consultants looking at the Downtown Strategy? Will their recommendations be a part of the GP amendment and EIR related to that?	Yes.
Will there be a similar study for Diridon?	Yes, Diridon is on staff’s radar.
The City should go bigger with its thinking—the City should be looking at the east west corridors as well.	Comment noted.
<b>Financial Update BART Phase II</b>	
Is the E&Y work generic or tailored to VTA specifics?	It has been customized to VTA’s situation.
Is VTA supportive of Cap and Trade? That funding provides transit funding.	Yes, VTA has been supportive of Cap and Trade and has been working closely with Senator Beall’s office.
How does VTA coordinate with High Speed Rail (HSR) and others who look at capturing value in the station areas?	VTA meets regularly with the City staff and will meet with HSR staff in the near future so there is opportunity to coordinate once we have a plan and strategy. The BART project looks likely to be in place prior to HSR.
Remember the airport and high water table limit some of the ability to grow the downtown “big.”	Comment noted.
Partners should coordinate.	Yes.
What are the policy issues that relate to this value capture and is the city working on policy? Have there been discussions of Diridon governance policy?	City response: Yes, that is a next step. The City and its partners have spent significant time on governance although a final structure hasn’t been committed.
This is a terrific scope and exercise using E & Y. The big play looks like the sales tax	The sales tax will be key to developing a funding plan that closes the gap.

measure.	
Envision/sales tax effort should come to us as CWG's.	It is the next agenda item. The VTA staff working on Envision is going to as many groups as possible from throughout the County.
<b>Envision</b>	
What are the highest ticket items being considered for the tax?	The call for projects does not close until the end of the month but the BART Phase II is likely to be one of the larger items proposed for consideration.
There are community meetings that are co-hosted by VTA and a coalition of stakeholders—there will be one in San Jose on September 2 <sup>nd</sup> at the MLK Library near San Jose State and another on September 9 <sup>th</sup> at the Mexican Heritage Plaza.	Thank you for that information.
Can VTA offer transit validation like it does parking for cars for this meeting?	VTA can look into that.

**Follow-Up Items:**

- The facilitator is to notify the CWG if the work plan items shift for any reason.
- On ridership data, provide more about specific transfers at the Santa Clara station—as in from what modes
- VTA to create a one page factsheet presenting the ridership demographic data.
- VTA to put on-line the BART schedule and the BART ridership estimates in accessible format. BART ridership estimates will be provided when updated data is available in the first quarter of 2016. The BART service schedule has not yet been established and will be provided when available.
- The CWG meeting packets should be posted on-line prior to the CWG meetings so non-members can follow along on the computer.
- Roland and Tom Fitzwater to follow up off-line regarding how the tail tracks are covered in the EIRs.
- Bring the VTA staff report regarding the two station options to the CWG's—add to work plan.
- Add results of the economic study work to CWG work plan and agenda for four months out.
- Add economic study scope document to CWG webpage.
- VTA/City to send City's developer forum information to the CWG members as soon as available so the CWG members can participate.
- VTA to send out information about the upcoming VTA Board funding workshop time and location.
- VTA to look into offering transit validation for meeting attendees.

- Additional CWG meetings in December to discuss construction methods – Downtown/Diridon meeting will be Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Other meetings on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup> so members can attend another group’s meeting if the date doesn’t work for you.

Requested Links:

- **Envision web page:** <http://www.vta.org/envision-silicon-valley/envision-silicon-valley>
  - link to the Envision Survey: <http://www.envisionsv.org/survey>

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

**Distribution:**

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