



Downtown Diridon Community Working Group Meeting

Date of Meeting: April 12, 2016 (4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Attendees:

Members in Attendance: Adina Levin, Charisse Lebron, Jim Goddard, Eyedin Zonobi, Scott Knies, Deborah Arant, Bruce Friesen, Laura Tolkoff, Victor Gomez

Members not in Attendance: Alan Williams, Bert Weaver (attended April 13th meeting instead)

Other Speaker Attendees: Leyla Hedayat (VTA), Tom Fitzwater (VTA), John Ristow (VTA), Mike Smith (VTA), Brent Pearse (VTA), Jessica Zenk (CSJ), Rosalynn Hughey (CSJ)

Project Team in Attendance: Kevin Kurimoto (VTA), Janice Soriano (VTA), Paul Smith (CSJ), Eileen Goodwin (Apex)

Project Team not in Attendance: 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 – Facilitator
- Project Update – VTA Staff
- Schedule Update – VTA Staff
- Envision Project Update – VTA Staff
- Financial Update of BART Phase II – VTA Staff
- Economic Analysis Surrounding BART Stations – City Staff
- Construction Community Outreach Research Update – VTA Staff
- Next Steps – Facilitator
- Review Action Items
- Next Meeting Date (June 14, 2016 4 p.m.-6 p.m.) – Facilitator

Key Issues/Comments/Questions:

Comment/Question	Response
Follow up items	
When VTA's BART Project gets significant media coverage on an issue such as the recent Berryessa Station pipe story send CWG members information on the story and speaking points if there are some	We can do that.
Where will the April 22 nd VTA Board Workshop be held?	The Workshop will be held at VTA's offices 3331 North First Street in San Jose in the Auditorium. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m.
Process for determining East versus West Downtown Station Update	
Are the criteria weighted?	All criteria will be considered. The City's preferred option will be a big factor. The biggest issue is where does the City want to grow from and use as its core?
Will you wait until after the draft SEIS/SEIR is released to have a VTA recommendation and decision?	Yes. The final project scope including the downtown station location will be decided by the VTA Board in December 2016 or early 2017, not before. The sales tax funding is also a factor.
Do you want the CWG to discuss their preferences at this meeting?	No. The environmental information about the two options is not yet available. It is more appropriate for the CWG members to speak directly to the Board when the project description is on the agenda in December 2016 or early 2017. We will have a discussion about how and when to comment on the SEIS/SEIR on a future CWG agenda.
The Downtown Association Board has taken a position to support the west option for the station and the cross over track east of Diridon.	Comment noted.
Economic development and connectivity should be top considerations and should be in that order on your slides.	Comment noted. We'll add these revisions as an action item.
Walkability and accessibility to jobs – where is that taken into consideration?	Under connectivity.
What does long term economic development actually mean in this case?	This considers where the best opportunities are to have the community develop and support the system.

It really should say “short term” VTA infrastructure impacts since you are looking at bus bridge during construction in that item.	Good point that will be added.
Is the cost estimate quantitative or qualitative?	Qualitative; the options are very close in cost.
What is the City’s opinion about station location?	The City is leaning toward the west station option.
Public comment regarding additional option submitted in scoping process that would save downtown from many of these impacts.	We will address what happened to all scoping suggestions in next agenda item.
When the options and trade-offs are more fleshed out can staff bring this back to the CWG?	Yes. We will add this to the CWG workplan.
Diridon Intermodal Study	
Can VTA distribute Diridon Multi-modal Study Phase 1 scope to CWG members when available?	Yes.
What does consultant need to know to develop operating plan?	The Diridon consultant team will need to know how each service intends to operate. That is why it is a good thing that high speed rail is advancing its planning effort at this time.
Will customer experience be an element that is studied?	Yes.
Environmental Process Update	
What did you mean by an “outlier issue” that could impact the document’s schedule?	An example would be a previously unknown cultural resource such as burial grounds or a previously unidentified historic building.
Economic Analysis Update	
The City of Santa Clara recently lost a project near the proposed BART Station/existing Caltrain Station. Will that be looked at?	No. This report is being sponsored by the City of San Jose and is only looking at the impacts and opportunities at the three San Jose station locations.
Did the Nelson Nygaard Station Access Study look at the pros and cons of the two downtown station options? Can we get a copy of that information?	They did some analysis and yes we will send you the link when the report is posted on-line.
Public comment: If a developer at the developer forum suggests that they would like to build the station box at Alum Rock would the City support that?	The City will look seriously at any and all suggestions from the developers. A decision about the box construction would need to have the concurrence of VTA and likely BART staff for it to move forward.

Public comment: Is the developer forum open to the public?	No the City is hosting the event by invitation only.
Public comment. Is the economic study considering VTA's parcels as well?	Yes, any parcel within ½ mile of the stations.
Envision Update	
If the VTA Board looks to adopt a Plan in June when would the meeting be held?	Friday June 24 th at 9:00 a.m. at 3331 North First Street in San Jose in the Auditorium,
Will public comment be taken at the beginning or end of the meeting?	It is likely that the staff reports will go first, then public comment, then Board deliberation.
Financial Update	
How much will it cost to finance the BART project?	It is estimated to cost \$300m to finance the project but that is just an estimate and there are many variables that could change that number.
Public comment: In the Envision documents BART is \$4.77b in this presentation \$4.69b is used. They should be consistent.	Thank you for pointing that out.
Community Outreach Best Practices	
Can San Jose's rich cultural programming somehow be part of the BART outreach efforts?	Interesting point. We can look into that.
SFMTA did a poor job managing the communication around bus stop changes in a recent project, VTA should plan for bus stop pick up and drop off changes to be communicated regularly.	Will do.
What were the other two projects studied but not reported on today?	Central Corridor BRT in Minneapolis and LA Metro Gold Line; they will be in the written report.
How were these efforts staffed? All agency?	Project staffing was split between agency and consultant staff in all cases.
This report is very light on business compensation efforts – did you research those?	Those types of programs were asked about. This report focused on outreach tools and techniques only.
Business support programs should be considered.	Comment noted.
These are great tools. The Chamber would like to see business support programs as well. The business community should be prepared to play a role during construction.	Comment noted.
Has VTA done a lessons learned analysis	Yes, the Alum Rock project has already

from the Alum Rock BRT?	caused internal refocus at VTA on communication efforts and other outreach tools.
I wouldn't read a newsletter but I would use an app. Has VTA looked into creating one?	Yes. All methods are being considered. An app would be great.
Google has in-app methods to customize apps to make them even more useful.	Comment noted.
Public comment: Research London's subway construction project for best practices	We can look into that.
Next Steps	
We will utilize phone voting at the next meeting in June.	
CWG members should come prepared to give feedback on outreach tools and provide additional suggestions.	

Follow-Up Items:

- When VTA's BART Project gets significant media coverage on an issue such as the recent Berryessa Station pipe story send CWG members information about the story and speaking points if available
- Change station slide to reflect some sort of priority order and change slide to say "short term" VTA infrastructure impacts
- Add downtown station option VTA staff recommendation to appropriate CWG meeting in work plan
- Distribute Diridon Multi-modal Study Phase 1 scope to CWG members when available
- Send CWG members link to Station Access study when it is available.
- Sync up total project cost between Envision and Finance presentation (\$4.77b vs. \$4.69b)
- Utilize San Jose cultural programming in outreach program
- Plan for bus stop pick up and drop off changes to be communicated regularly.
- Create a BART project outreach app
- Research London's subway construction project for best practices

Prepared by: Eileen Goodwin, Apex Strategies

Distribution:

CWG
Project Team
City Staff
Distribution list