

2000 Measure A Transit Improvement Program

Citizens Watchdog Committee Summary on Fiscal Year 2014



Benefits and Key Achievements

The Citizen Watchdog Committee (CWC) provides this report to inform the community on the status of 2000 Measure A projects and how they are enhancing the quality of life for residents, commuters, businesses and workers in Santa Clara County. This summary report is a snapshot of Measure A projects completed or significant milestones achieved during Fiscal Year 2014 (7/1/2013 – 6/30/2014), how these projects benefit the community, and the CWC's conclusion that during this period Measure A tax dollars were spent as intended by the ballot.

In November 2000, Santa Clara County voters approved Measure A, a 30-year half cent sales tax dedicated to enhancing the county's public transit system. Revenue collection did not begin until 2006. Numerous Measure A accomplishments have occurred during the first eight years of the program. A few key milestones that occurred during FY 2014 (FY14) are:

VTA's BART Silicon Valley – Berryessa Extension

VTA continues to deliver this project, which will increase transportation options and reduce congestion, well-under budget and with completion currently projected for a year ahead of schedule. VTA sights are set on late 2017 for initiation of BART service bringing commuters and other passengers to/from Silicon Valley. The largest public works project in Santa Clara County continues with bridge construction, roadway modifications, construction of elevated track structures, excavation, relocation of freight railroad infrastructure, and construction of stations along the 10-mile corridor from Fremont south through Milpitas to the Berryessa area of north San José.



Light Rail Efficiency Projects

Mountain View Double-Track Project allows for increased light rail service and reliability by adding a second light rail track between the Mountain View and Whisman stations and involves shifting the existing Caltrain tracks. Project benefits include: (1) better on-time service for commuters transferring between Caltrain and VTA Light Rail at the Mountain View Station; (2) capacity for additional service to Mountain View as ridership increases and BART Silicon Valley service is initiated; and (3) a direct connection to Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara. Project was initiated during FY14. Completion is scheduled for late 2015, in time for the 2016 Super Bowl at Levi's Stadium.

Tasman Drive Pocket Track Project adds additional storage and turn back capacity to enable flexibility and reliability for VTA's service, supporting the 2017 connection VTA Light Rail service to BART Silicon Valley as well as Levi's Stadium events. Construction was initiated during FY14, and the project was completed in early 2015.



Santa Clara/Alum Rock Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) will provide faster, more frequent service with increased customer convenience and amenities from the Eastridge Transit Center to the Arena Station in downtown San Jose using Capitol Expressway, Alum Rock Avenue and Santa Clara Street. Construction started during the period, with project completion projected for 2016.

Eastridge Transit Center

This project reconfigures and expands one of VTA's most heavily used transit facilities. The renovation improves the bus service connection to East San Jose by providing more efficient operation and allowing people walking along Capitol Expressway better access to bus service and connections to shopping at Eastridge Mall. The new transit center provides additional bus bays, real time information, and enhanced security, lighting, accessibility, signage, and passenger amenities. Project will support BRT service (projected for 2016) and also provide flexibility for future service needs, including potential light rail service. Construction was initiated during FY14 and was completed in early 2015.



Additional information and the status of individual Measure A projects is contained in the CWC Comprehensive Annual Report on FY14 available at: www.vta.org/cwc-reports.

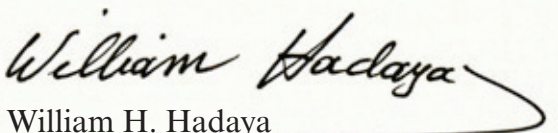


CITIZENS WATCHDOG COMMITTEE FINDING:

The CWC appreciates the importance of the role entrusted to us by voters in Santa Clara County to provide oversight for the tax collected under Measure A and for keeping county residents informed. To that end, we reviewed expenditures for the subject period, evaluated the results of an independent audit we commissioned of Measure A expenditures, and conducted a public hearing on May 12, 2015 to obtain input from the community on the Measure A Program. After thorough review and careful consideration of all information and input received:

It is the conclusion of the Citizens Watchdog Committee that, for the period of FY 2014, 2000 Measure A tax dollars were spent in accordance with the intent of the Measure.

Respectfully submitted,



William H. Hadaya
Chairperson, Citizens Watchdog Committee



Citizens Watchdog Committee members:

MEMBER	REPRESENTS	MEMBER	REPRESENTS
Charlotte B. Powers	City of San Jose	Connie Rogers	South County Cities
Noel Tebo	City of San Jose	(vacant)	North County Cities
Clinton W. Brownley	West Valley Cities	Roberta H. Hughan	County of Santa Clara
Martin B. Schulter	Disabled Persons	Stephen C. Blaylock	Mass Transit Users
Chris C. Elias	Environmentalists	Stephen Schmoll	Senior Citizens
Herman H. Wadler	Bicyclists and Pedestrians	Aaron S. Morrow	Disabled Community
Bena Chang	Silicon Valley Leadership Group		
Lucas Ramirez	South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council		
Ray Hashimoto	Home Builders Association of Northern California		
William Hadaya	Santa Clara County Chamber of Commerce Coalition		
Sharon Fredlund	Building Owners and Managers Association – Silicon Valley		