

County of Santa Clara
Roads and Airports Department



97887 M

DATE: August 27, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Harry Freitas, Director, Roads and Airports

SUBJECT: Report relating to County's support of Stevens Creek Blvd Complete Streets plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Under advisement from June 18, 2019 (Item No. 17): Consider recommendations relating to support of the County's participation in the development of a Complete Streets and Near-Term Transit Implementation Plan along Stevens Creek Boulevard from State Route 85 to San Jose Diridon Station, in conjunction with the Valley Transportation Authority and the Cities of Cupertino, San Jose, and Santa Clara. (Roads and Airports Department)

Possible action:

- a. Receive report relating to support of the County's participation in the development of a Complete Streets and Near-Term Transit Implementation Plan along Stevens Creek Boulevard from State Route 85 to San Jose Diridon Station, in conjunction with the Valley Transportation Authority and the Cities of Cupertino, San Jose, and Santa Clara.
- b. Adopt Resolution to support the study of the development of a Complete Streets and Near-Term Transit Implementation Plan for the Stevens Creek Boulevard corridor and implementation of high capacity transit service along the Stevens Creek Boulevard corridor. (Roll Call Vote)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONTRACT HISTORY

None.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Stevens Creek Boulevard/West San Carlos Street has been identified by the VTA for a study to enhance transit to improve travel time between Cupertino and Downtown San Jose. The Cities of San Jose, Cupertino, and Santa Clara, as well as the VTA Board have committed to partner in a study for a Complete Streets and Near-Term Implementation study that would undertake a comprehensive transportation planning effort along this corridor. The corridor intersects with Lawrence and San Tomas Expressways and passes through unincorporated Santa Clara County in the Bascom Avenue area. It is in the interest of the County to participate in transportation planning efforts that aim to reduce congestion at bottleneck points such as the expressway intersections and improve mobility options for unincorporated residents.

Approval of the resolution would formalize the County's participation in these efforts in conjunction with the other stakeholder cities and the VTA, and permit Administration to direct the County's participation in these efforts.

CHILD IMPACT

Positive Impact: The recommended action impacts the Healthy Lifestyle indicator by potentially improving pedestrian and bicycle access to commercial, transit, and community services for all members of the traveling public, including children and youth, if recommendations from the study become implemented in the future.

SENIOR IMPACT

Positive Impact: The recommended action will potentially improve pedestrian and bicycle access to commercial, transit, and community services for all members of the traveling public, including seniors, if recommendations from the study become implemented in the future.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Positive Impact: The recommended action will potentially encourage walking and bicycling to nearby commercial, transit, and community services resulting in fewer car trips and thereby reducing vehicle miles traveled, vehicle emissions, and energy consumption, if recommendations from the study become implemented in the future.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The resolution will not be adopted and the County will not participate in the study.

BACKGROUND

The Stevens Creek Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project was identified in the Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA) 2009 BRT Strategic Plan to be the third line in the VTA BRT network, following the Alum Rock-Santa Clara and El Camino Real BRT Projects. To that end, in 2012, VTA began planning and evaluation efforts for a proposed BRT service along Stevens Creek Boulevard with a total of 13 stations that would connect Cupertino to the Downtown San Jose Transit Mall. VTA has not pursued this project beyond the planning and evaluation stage to date. County roadway facilities along this corridor include the intersections at Lawrence Expressway/Stevens Creek Boulevard and San Tomas Expressway/Stevens Creek Boulevard. A portion of Stevens Creek Boulevard/West San Carlos Street runs through the Bascom unincorporated pocket community, however the right of way of this portion is owned and maintained by the City of San Jose.

VTA has completed the Alum Rock-Santa Clara BRT line. Development of BRT on the east-west El Camino Corridor was also advanced to a conceptual design level. However, due to lack of community and political support for dedicated bus lane construction and operation, the project was discontinued. Bus stop and transit signal priority improvements are being pursued instead. Without an east-west BRT route on the El Camino corridor, Stevens Creek Boulevard presents an alternative opportunity for east-west transit options.

In August 2017, the City of San Jose initiated the formation of a multi-jurisdictional group comprised of San Jose, Cupertino, Santa Clara, VTA and Santa Clara County to discuss key regional issues affecting West San Jose, with a focus on transportation and circulation. The first meeting of this multijurisdictional group occurred on March 25, 2019.

In 2018, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) initiated the process of developing Plan Bay Area 2050, the Bay Area's regional transportation plan and sustainable community strategy. As part of this process, MTC issued a request, known as the Horizon Initiative Call for Transformative Projects. The City of San Jose submitted a proposal for a high capacity transit line from Diridon Station west to Cupertino. The proposal was selected among 94 other transportation projects for consideration to be included in MTC's Plan Bay Area 2050. The City of San Jose, with input from the Stevens Creek corridor partner jurisdictions, is developing a request for information (RFI) for a grade-separated transit service along the study corridor. The RFI is intended to explore innovative technologies and other traditional or non-traditional solutions along the corridor while factoring in cost and service delivery.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Clerk of the Board will communicate with the Clerks of the Board of the Valley Transportation Authority, City of Cupertino, City of San Jose, and City of Santa Clara indicating the support of the Board of Supervisors for participating in a study for the Stevens Creek Boulevard Complete Streets and Near-Term Transit Implementation Plan.

Send notification of completed processing to Ellen Talbo, Roads & Airports Department – Infrastructure Development Division.

LINKS:

- **Linked To: 97507 : Approve referral to Administration to express the formal support of the County of Santa Clara for a Complete Streets and Near-Term Transit Implementation Plan along Stevens Creek Boulevard from State Route 85 to San Jose Diridon Station, in conjunction with the Valley Transportation Authority and the Cities of Cupertino, San Jose and Santa Clara. (Ellenberg)**

ATTACHMENTS:

- **LegFile#97887 Stevens Creek HCTStudy Resolution (PDF)**