



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: July 1, 2016

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1131

RE: Santa Clara County 1/2-Cent Sales Tax

Background

In June, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) took action to place a 30-year 1/2-cent sales tax measure on the November 8, 2016 ballot to fund various transportation projects. The measure is anticipated to generate up to \$6.5 billion in current year dollars. The expenditure plan, summarized below, was informed by an 18-month public outreach process and polling conducted by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group:

Key Projects/Project Categories	\$ million	Percentage
BART Silicon Valley, Phase II	\$1,500	24%
Local Streets and Roads	\$1,200	19%
County Expressways	\$750	12%
Highway Interchanges	\$750	12%
Caltrain Grade Separations	\$700	11%
Transit Operations	\$500	8%
SR 85 Corridor	\$350	6%
Caltrain Capacity Improvements	\$300	5%
Bicycle/Pedestrian Program	\$250	4%

Recommendation: Support

Discussion:

The program categories and funding amounts identified in the expenditure plan resulted from 18 months of collaboration with VTA’s advisory committees and stakeholder committees through an effort known as Envision Silicon Valley. VTA also received input from the public, elected officials from the 15 cities and towns within Santa Clara County, Santa Clara County and polling conducted by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group. More information on the measure is available on line at www.vta.org/envision-silicon-valley.

The measure’s would provide critical matching funds for numerous regional priority projects that are already in the project pipeline, such as the final leg of the extension of BART to Silicon Valley, Caltrain grade separations and capacity improvements, as well as high priority local street and road repairs, transit operations funding to increase service, and investments in bicycle and pedestrian enhancements.

The measure includes some programmatic funding categories with the exact projects to be funded to be determined at a future date. For instance, the “county expressways” category includes 20 candidate projects, while the “highway interchanges” category includes 25 potential interchanges. With respect to the State Route 85 category, the funds are proposed to be used for a transit corridor study as well as transit and congestion relief and noise abatement.

This measure would provide vital local funding for certain high priority regional and local transit and roadway projects. As you know, there are no alternate funding sources available at the regional, state or federal level in the near term that offer funding levels anything close to the amounts available under this measure. Accordingly, staff recommends a support position on Santa Clara’s November 2016 ballot.


Known Positions

Support

Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Oppose

Pending



Steve Heminger

SH: rl

Attachments

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