



## Transportation Report

21 July 2016

By Steven Levin

To: AVCA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

**During the past month, I have been actively participating in and monitoring the following:**

### **VTA Expressway Plan 2040**

- ≈ \$3.5 billion operational (pavement rehabilitation) and capital (new construction) projects in 3 tiers
- Almaden Expressway was identified for mostly minor tweaks: Tier 1 \$4 million (0.5%), Tier 2 \$10 million (2%), and Tier 3 \$66 million (4%); < 2.5% of the projects identified over the next 25 years!

### **VTA Envision Silicon Valley 2040 / November Sales Tax Measure Proposal**

- ≈ \$50 billion in project requests from the 15 cities, Santa Clara County, and identified by VTA staff.
- 30-year ½-cent sales tax increase favored by Silicon Valley Leadership Group generates ≥ \$6 billion.
- VTA Board approved 24% for BART, 16% for Caltrain, and 8% transit operations (bus & LRT).
- VTA Board only approved doing Tier 1 expressway projects (≈ \$750 million of the \$3.5 billion).
  - This includes less than \$4 million (≈ 0.5% of Tier 1) for Almaden Expressway projects!
  - Nothing for major improvements to Almaden/85, Almaden/87, or connecting 87 to 17/880
  - Most expressway projects (>\$545 million - almost ¾ of total) are on Lawrence Expressway.
- The proposed sales tax measure also includes \$350 million for a “new transit lane” on Highway 85.

### **VTA “Next Network” Project**

- VTA wants to reallocate bus service in 2017 to support new Berryessa and Milpitas BART stations.
- It would create new lines and divert buses to run between BART and northern parts of S. C. County.
- VTA proposals would eliminate much or all of the bus service in south San Jose, including Almaden.

### **VTA State Route 85 Corridor Policy Advisory Board**

- This Policy Advisory Board is studying projects in the 85 median from 87 north and west to US 101.
- At request of the PAB, VTA staff did a preliminary analysis of a Light Rail (LRT) line and a busway.
- LRT cost is ≈ \$4 billion to construct and \$40 million in annual operating costs for 8,000 daily riders.
- Busway (“transit lanes”) cost is ≈ \$800 million to construct and \$60 million annually for 5,500 riders.
- PAB recommended a “new transit lane” on SR 85, i.e., only for buses or LRT. No new lanes for cars.