



## **FEBRUARY 2014 CITY SELECTION COMMITTEE & BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY**

### **CITY SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING:**

- Liz Kniss was re-appointed to the Bay Area Quality Management District to fulfill a new term expiring March 2016.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:**

- **Nuria Fernandez, new General Manager of Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), provided an introduction and overview of priorities for 2014.**
  - Nuria has been General Manager at VTA since December 2013. She has more than 30 years of experience in the transportation field and a career that includes planning, design and construction of mass transit systems (New York City, Chicago, Washington D.C.), airport operations and policy development of federal transportation programs. She spent the past two years as chief operating officer of New York state's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the largest transit agency in the country.
  - VTA priorities for 2014 include:
    - 1) increase ridership 10%
    - 2) provide outstanding service to Levi stadium
    - 3) complete VTA's extension of BART to Silicon Valley
    - 4) implement bus rapid transit
    - 5) outreach to communities VTA touches through listening and feedback – VTA representatives plan to touch base with cities on upcoming approved projects to verify needs and plans moving forward.
  - Opportunities/Challenges with MTC to be addressed include:
    - 1) geographic isolation – their focus seems to be on San Francisco and Oakland; need to work on ensuring that we are partners and that we are included at the table during decision-making processes.
    - 2) Revenue flows to region by population - 25% of the population served is in Santa Clara County.
    - 3) Revenue distributed by MTC based on different criteria.
  - Questions from board members:
  - Why is there a focus on providing services to the Levi Stadium when there will only be about 10 games per year? There will be events in

addition to football games which will create traffic from spectators, workers, and participants; goal is to implement services in preparation for Super Bowl “50” and scale down accordingly afterward.

- Where and how will express lanes fit? There will be an extensive plan to market and share information on the installation of express lanes. They will be installed using existing lanes and there will be a charge for those who wish to use them. Those that do not want to use them can use the freeways. VTA plans to manage and monitor the process and implementation of them closely.
- **Kevin Zwick of Housing Trust Silicon Valley (HTSV) and Shiloh Ballard of Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG) led a discussion and request for regional efforts to provide funds for affordable housing.**
  - In 2013, HTSV and the Cities Association co-authored a White Paper on the state of affordable housing in Santa Clara County and found that funding for affordable housing has decreased by nearly 65% in the past 5 years, primarily due to the loss of Redevelopment Agencies and their set-aside funding for affordable housing.
  - Amongst several of the strategies highlighted that could help rebuild funding for affordable housing (impact fees, zoning strategies, SB 391), one of them was for cities to rededicate former RDA funds that are now coming back to the cities as “boomerang funds.”
  - There are two categories of former RDA funds/boomerang funds:
    - 1) 20% of ongoing tax increment funds
    - 2) One-time Low Moderate Income Housing Funds (LMIHF) – these were uncommitted funds for affordable housing that was swept away by the state from cities with former RDA’s.
  - Request to cities with former RDA’s: adopt policy that dedicates a portion of Boomerang Funds for affordable housing – specifically, 100% of any former LMIHF and 20% of ongoing tax increment funds.
  - Several cities in California have adopted similar policies, e.g. Foster City, Redwood City, San Mateo, Oakland, Fremont.
  - Several counties have adopted similar policies, e.g. LA County, San Francisco County, San Mateo County.
  - SCC has adopted the policy contingent that cities in the county adopt similar policies by June 2014.
  - Nine cities in Santa Clara County had RDA’s; 8 cities have received boomerang funds, e.g. city of Santa Clara is the exception due to litigation with the Department of Finance.
  - Funds re-dedicated to affordable housing can come from non-general funds.
  - Timeline: need to pass policies before the end of the FY 2013-2014.
  - For cities that do not have RDA’s, they should be considering other tools that create funding for affordable housing, e.g. impact fees.
  - Cities Association Board Members voted to support HTSV’s and SVLG’s request; Cities Association’s to request cities to consider adopting policies dedicating boomerang funds for affordable housing through a letter to mayors/city leaders and for each Board Member to

help “shepherd” the process so that HTSV and SVLG can begin conversations with eligible cities.

- It was suggested to consider requesting school districts to pass similar policies with the potential agreement that funding can support housing for teachers, homeless students, etc.,
- **Board of Directors unanimously adopted Priorities for 2014; subcommittees were formed and include the following:**
  - Affordable Housing – Steve Tate, Greg Scharff\*, Jarrett Fishpaw, Joe Pirzynski, Burton Craig
  - Public Safety – Jason Baker, Margaret Abe-Koga\*, Joe Pirzynski
  - Workforce Development Funding – Jim Griffith\*, Gary Waldeck
  - Water Supply – Jason Baker\*, Rod Sinks, Emily Lo, Peter Leroe-Muñoz
- **Steve Wright of SVLG presented on upcoming Regional Economic Summit and request for Cities Association to co-sponsor event in May 2014.**
  - Sixteen are scheduled to take place across the state; the recommendations that result from the summits will be used in the statewide summit to take place in November 2014.
  - Results of past summits include the creation of the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office in 2012 and establishment of foundation for future CEQA reform.
  - Last year’s summit included 450 participants and addressed immigration reform, workforce development, transportation, housing, and CEQA reform.
  - Co-sponsorship includes involvement in three planning meetings, two on-stage roles during the program, and a donation of \$1000 for a table of 10 at the event.
  - The Board unanimously supported co-sponsorship of the event.
- **CSC Appointee Report:** Ash Kalra of Palo Alto and Liz Kniss of San Jose provided report on recent BAAQMD activities.
  - Ash Kalra just completed his term as President of the BAAQMD Board of Directors in 2013.
  - Report included the adoption of the Agency’s first Public Participation Plan to enhance the process and engage the public on the air district’s projects and plans; completion of regional electric vehicle readiness plan (offers grants to support early PEV use); launch of the bay area’s first bike share pilot project alongside other agencies including MTC, and VTA; adoption of the agency’s climate projection resolution which seeks to build on local, regional, and state climate protection efforts; adoption of regulation 6, rule 4: metal shredding to minimize the emissions of particulate matter from metal recycling facilities operating with the Air District; successful defense of legal challenges and adoption of ground-breaking, health-protective thresholds of significance to assist in the review of projects under CEQA.
  - Air board headquarters due to move to 375 Beale Street, which will be a joint headquarters of ABAG, MTC, and BAAQMD; the new location should help foster collaboration through co-location of their staff as

they coordinate their missions in the areas of transportation, land use, climate change and sustainable growth.

- Regarding Lehigh Cement Plant, SCC air board representatives met with northern cities representatives to address their concerns and need for more stringent regulation standards. The quarry now has the most stringent regulations in the state.
- 2013 marked the longest streak of “spare-the-air days.”

### **Joys and Challenges:**

- Sam Liccardo of San Jose shared that the Today Show featured San Jose as the smartest city in America.
- Jim Griffith of Sunnyvale shared the launch of a new countywide app called PulsePoint. The app will alert CPR-trained citizens that someone in their immediate area is experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. The alerted CPR-trained citizen finds that person and may begin resuscitation until emergency responders arrive. PulsePoint is available for free in the Apple iTunes App Store and Google Play. Launch event: February 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am at El Camino Hospital.

### **Announcements:**

- Morgan Hill State of the City Address: Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, Morgan Hill Community Center.
- SCVWD presentation on water supply at the next SCC Emergency Operation Area Council meeting: February 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm, 55 West Younger Street, San Jose.
- Cities Association, LAC Meeting, 6:30 pm, Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – to review legislative priorities for 2014, AB 1449 (Perez), and Senator Beall’s Mental Health Parity Budget Proposal.