



DATE: June 8, 2021

CATEGORY: Consent

DEPT.: Public Works

TITLE: **Agreements to Expand Service Hours for Mountain View Community Shuttle**

RECOMMENDATION

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute a funding agreement with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority to fund an expansion of service hours for the Mountain View Community Shuttle.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute an amendment to the operating agreement with the Mountain View Transportation Management Association to expand the Mountain View Community Shuttle service hours.

BACKGROUND

The Mountain View Community Shuttle is a fare-free service that provides connections between residential neighborhoods and key destinations in Mountain View, including the regional transportation network (Figure 1). The Community Shuttle operates daily from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on a bidirectional loop with service every 30 minutes on weekdays and every 60 minutes on weekends.

The service was initiated as a pilot program in 2015 through a City partnership with Google LLC (Google), with Google funding and operating the Community Shuttle. On [August 25, 2020](#), the City Council approved an agreement with Google for Google to provide funding for the operations of the Community Shuttle at current service levels through June 30, 2024, as part of transitioning the Community Shuttle operations to the City effective October 1, 2020. The Council also approved an agreement with the Mountain View Transportation Management Association (TMA) to operate the Mountain View Community Shuttle for the period of October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022.

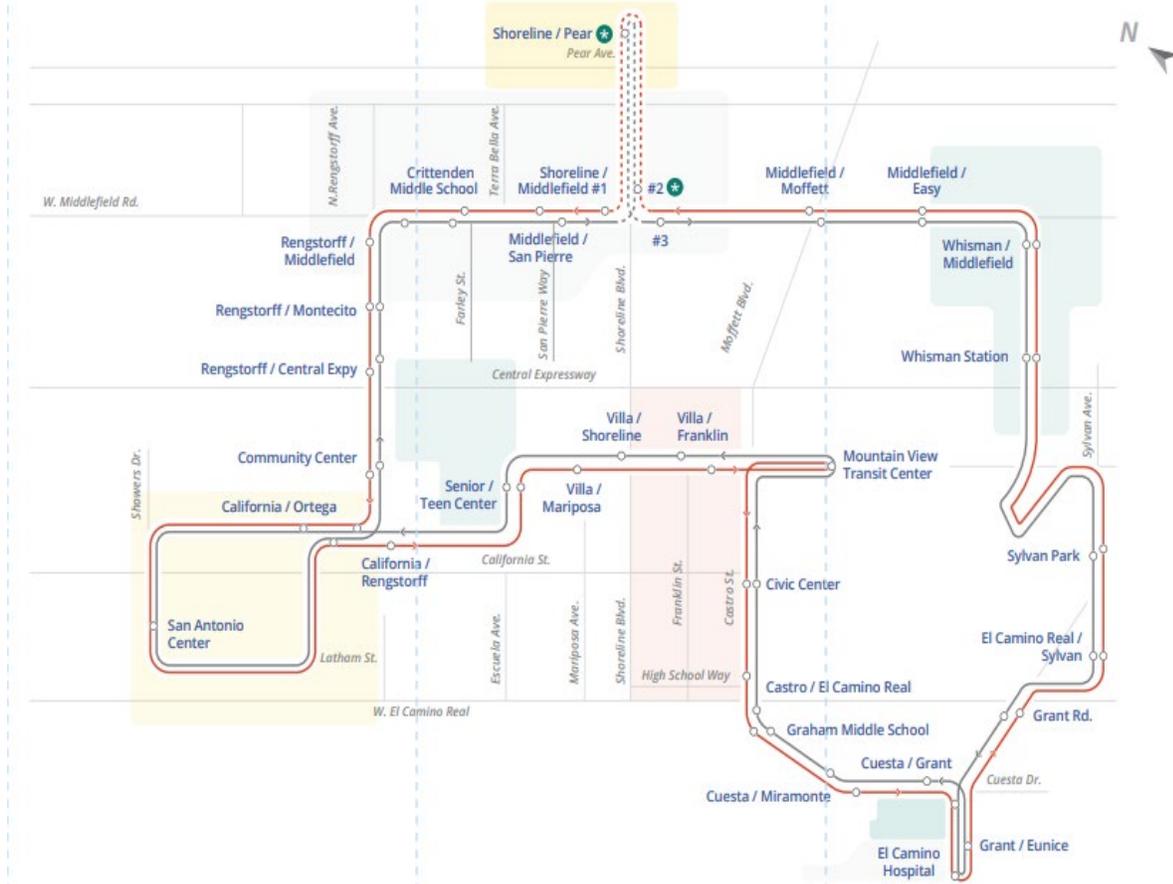


Figure 1: Mountain View Community Shuttle Route

At a Council Study Session on [February 25, 2020](#), staff presented the initial findings of a study of Mountain View shuttle and transit services, including an evaluation of the Community Shuttle. Council supported giving priority to expanding service hours with a goal to expand the service hours in 2021 should funding be available.

ANALYSIS

In October 2020, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) released a call-for-projects for the 2016 Measure B Innovative Transit Service Models Grant Program. The grant supports affordable new innovative transit service models to address first-/last-mile connections to transit, serving vulnerable, underserved, and transit-dependent populations. The criterion for “innovation” includes private-public partnerships for service delivery. Existing services are ineligible for the grant funds; however, funding for service expansion is eligible.

Staff submitted a grant application to fund expansion of the Community Shuttle service hours, highlighting the partnership with the TMA and Google in providing this shuttle service. The grant application requested \$704,000 in Measure B funds with a local match of \$176,000. This would fund expanding the shuttle service hours from the current 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily schedule to a new daily schedule of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for two years.

At its March 2021 meeting, the VTA Board of Directors approved the award of a Measure B grant for the Community Shuttle expansion. To receive the funding, the City must enter into a funding agreement with VTA. Major terms of the agreement include:

- VTA will contribute an amount not to exceed \$704,000 of Measure B Innovative Transit Program funds, and the City will provide a minimum match of \$176,000 for the expansion of Community Shuttle service hours to add service from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily for two years.
- The City will serve as the project manager to provide, manage, and coordinate the operation of the Community Shuttle. The City must inform VTA of any modifications to the service hours, service frequency, route, or stop locations.
- The expanded service hours must begin operation within one year of the effective date of the grant agreement.

To implement the service expansion, the City's operating agreement with the TMA must be amended to include the additional hours of operation. As part of the TMA operating agreement approval on August 25, 2020, Council authorized the Public Works Director to approve minor modifications to Community Shuttle operations and nonfinancial amendments to the agreement. Adding service hours is a major modification and requires additional financial obligations; therefore, Council approval is required for the amendment.

In order to expand service hours, the TMA needs to make operational and fleet enhancements, which will require a few months to implement. For Fiscal Year 2021-22, half of the grant amount and the City match (\$440,000 total) will be provided to the TMA to cover the costs of these operational and fleet enhancements as well as the additional service hours. The tentative start date for the expanded hours is September 1, 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated total cost for the expanded shuttle service hours for two years is \$880,000. The VTA Measure B grant will provide \$704,000 of the cost, and the City will provide a

match of \$176,000. The City's share will be funded from the General Fund—Transportation Reserve. There is sufficient funding in the General Fund—Transportation Reserve.

The budget appropriations for the first year of service expansion (\$352,000 in grant funding and \$88,000 in General Fund—Transportation Reserve) will be included in the recommended Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget for approval by the City Council on June 22, 2021.

This funding of \$440,000, along with the funding from Google of approximately \$2,424,000 for the base service hours of 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., will be provided to the TMA for shuttle operations according to the terms of the operating agreement between the City and the TMA.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Do not accept the VTA grant and do not expand the shuttle service hours.
2. Provide other direction.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting.

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