

**DATE:** April 5, 2016

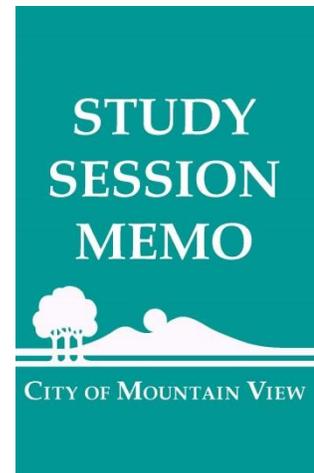
**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Linda Forsberg, Transportation and Business  
Manager  
Michael A. Fuller, Public Works Director

**VIA:** Daniel H. Rich, City Manager

**TITLE:** **El Camino Real Bus Rapid Transit Project**

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## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Study Session is to:

- Receive a presentation from the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) El Camino Real Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Policy Advisory Board (PAB) Chair Jeannie Bruins regarding two project initiatives that have been developed since the Mountain View City Council reviewed and provided comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the BRT project in December 2014:
  1. Begin an environmental analysis of a new right-lane street configuration that would designate the right through-lane on each side of El Camino Real as a restricted-use lane where transit, high-occupancy vehicles (HOVs), right-turning single-occupancy vehicles (SOVs), and electric and hybrid vehicles with valid carpool stickers are allowed.
  2. Implement a pilot project of the right-lane configuration that consists of pavement marking or paint, signage, and enforcement, but no station improvements.
- Provide input to Chair Bruins regarding if there is sufficient interest on the City Council to support the PAB recommendation of the implementation of either one, or both, of these initiatives to the VTA Board of Directors.

## **BACKGROUND**

In December 2014, the City Council reviewed and adopted formal comments on the DEIR that evaluated seven project alternatives for the proposed El Camino Real BRT project.

At its April 21, 2015 meeting, the City Council majority supported a dedicated BRT lane configuration in the City of Mountain View.

## **DISCUSSION**

During the past several months, the PAB has been discussing potential additional project alternatives/initiatives for the proposed BRT project. Two items of particular interest to the PAB are:

1. Undertaking an additional environmental analysis of a new right-lane street configuration for the BRT project that would designate the right through-lane on each side of El Camino Real as a restricted-use lane where transit, HOVs, right-turning SOVs, and electric and hybrid vehicles with valid carpool stickers are allowed.

VTA staff has indicated that this will require a new environmental analysis to be conducted. The VTA would be required to undertake a new 18- to 24-month environmental analysis and public comment process, analyzing the seven alternatives previously studied along with any new alternatives. The estimated cost for this effort is approximately \$2 million.

2. Implementing a pilot project of the right-lane configuration that consists of pavement marking or paint, signage, and enforcement, but no station improvements.

VTA staff has estimated that it would take between 24 and 40 months to complete the pilot project at an estimated cost of between \$2 million and \$9 million, depending on the number of El Camino Real Corridor cities willing to participate in the pilot.

Additional information regarding these initiatives is provided in Attachment 1.

Before the PAB presents a final recommendation to the VTA Board of Directors to consider these initiatives, the PAB Chair is meeting with the City Councils of cities along the El Camino Real Corridor to determine if there is sufficient interest/support to recommend proceeding with either one, or both, of the initiatives.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Consider the presentation from the VTA PAB Chair Bruins, solicit public input, and provide direction regarding the City Council's interest in supporting a PAB recommendation to the VTA Board of Directors to pursue the implementation of either one, or both, of the initiatives.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Based on the direction provided by the Council at this Study Session, the City's PAB representative, Councilmember Siegel, will continue to participate in, and represent the City's interests, in future PAB and other El Camino Real BRT-related discussions.

**PUBLIC NOTICING** – Agenda posting.

LF-MAF/HK/7/CAM  
901-04-05-16SS-E

Attachment: 1. Right-Lane Street Configuration

cc: Mayor Jeannie Bruins, City of Los Altos

Ms. Nuria Fernandez, General Manager, VTA

Mr. John Ristow, Director of Planning and Program Development, VTA