



**DATE:** January 26, 2021

**CATEGORY:** Consent

**DEPT.:** Public Works

**TITLE:** **Valley Transportation Authority  
Board of Directors – Mountain View  
Nominee for Alternate**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Nominate Councilmember Lisa Matchak to stand for election as the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Board Alternate from the Group 2 Cities for the two-year term beginning January 1, 2021.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Board of Directors consists of 12 voting members, six alternate members, and up to three ex-officio, nonvoting members. The Group 2 Cities, comprised of Mountain View, Palo Alto, Los Altos, and Los Altos Hills, may appoint one voting VTA Board Member and one Alternate. In 2011, the Group 2 Cities developed a process for selecting their representative to the VTA Board. The process was last updated in 2018 (see Attachment 1). The process calls for a rotation of the VTA Board Member seat between the four cities and sets out qualifications and a process for nominations and voting.

The VTA enabling legislation requires: "...individuals who have expertise, experience, or knowledge relative to transportation issues." The North County cities have defined expertise and experience as meeting a minimum of two of the following criteria:

- At least one year's service on the VTA Board within the last four years.
- At least one year's service on a policy advisory body that reports directly to the VTA (Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), Policy Advisory Board, the Citizens Advisory Committee) and has 80 percent attendance.

- Any other transportation policy credential deemed relevant by the majority of the Group 2 Cities as meeting the intent of the experience requirement within the last four years.
- Demonstrate working knowledge of VTA.

Additionally, a Councilmember appointed to the VTA Board must be able to fulfill the entire two years as an elected official.

Former Mountain View Councilmember John McAlister served as the Group 2 Cities VTA Board Member from January 2018 until the end of his City Council term on January 12, 2021. According to the rotation schedule, it is the City of Palo Alto's turn to nominate the Group 2 VTA Board Member.

A Group 2 Cities Working Group (Working Group) comprised of each city's appointee to the VTA PAC elects the VTA Board Member and Alternate. The Working Group met on January 19, 2021 and elected Palo Alto Vice Mayor Patrick Burt as the Group 2 Cities VTA Board Member for the two-year term expiring on December 31, 2022. The Working Group did not elect a VTA Alternate and will meet again in the near future to do so.

## ANALYSIS

The VTA Board Alternate represents the Group 2 Cities as a voting member when the regular VTA Board Member is absent. According to the Group 2 Cities 2018 process, any city may nominate a candidate for the Alternate position providing the candidate meets the qualifications listed above and the candidate is not from the same city as the selected Board Member.

The 2018 process also indicates that the Working Group shall give consideration to selecting the Alternate from the next city in rotation for VTA Board Member, which would be Los Altos Hills. It is unknown at this time whether Los Altos Hills will choose to nominate a candidate and whether that candidate will meet the established qualifications. Therefore, it is recommended that the City of Mountain View put forth a nominee for Alternate to ensure there are qualified candidates for the Working Group's consideration and to keep the Working Group's options open.

There are two Mountain View Councilmembers who meet or exceed the qualifications for VTA Board membership to represent the Group 2 Cities: Councilmembers Margaret Abe-Koga and Lisa Matichak. Councilmember Abe-Koga already has a seat on the VTA Board as an ex-officio member due to her recent appointment to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission by the Cities Association of Santa Clara County. Therefore,

it is recommended that the City Council nominate Councilmember Matichak for the Group 2 Cities VTA Board Alternate seat.

Councilmember Matichak served as Mountain View's VTA PAC alternate in 2018 and as the City's VTA PAC regular member in 2019. This exceeds the criteria of one year's service on a policy advisory body that reports directly to the VTA Board. This service on the PAC gave her a working knowledge of VTA governance and operations, particularly as she served on the PAC when the 2018-2019 Civil Grand Jury of Santa Clara County released its report on its *Inquiry into Governance of the Valley Transportation Authority*, dated June 18, 2019 and she participated in the PAC's discussions about the report's findings. In addition to this experience, Councilmember Matichak served on the Grand Boulevard Task Force: Policy Committee in 2017 and has served for four years on Mountain View's Council Transportation Committee.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact with nominating a VTA Board Alternate.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Do not nominate a Mountain View Councilmember for the VTA Board Alternate seat.
2. Nominate another Councilmember for the VTA Board Alternate seat.
3. Provide other direction related to the nomination process.

**PUBLIC NOTICING** – Agenda posting.

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Attachment: 1. VTA Group 2 Cities Board Selection Process (2018)

cc: TM