

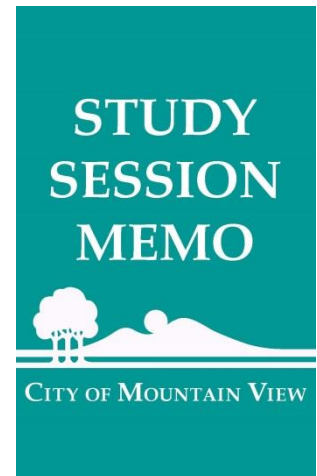
DATE: April 17, 2018

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Dawn S. Cameron, Assistant Public Works
Director
James Lightbody, Project Manager
Michael A. Fuller, Public Works Director

VIA: Daniel H. Rich, City Manager

TITLE: **VTA North Bayshore Transportation Access
Study**



PURPOSE

The purpose of this Study Session is to review with Council the North Bayshore Transportation Access Study conducted by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and discuss coordination with the VTA and integration with future City studies regarding Automated Guideway Transit (AGT).

BACKGROUND

Over the past two years, the VTA, in partnership with Google (Alphabet Inc.), conducted the North Bayshore Transportation Access Study. This study evaluated the feasibility and efficiency of potential transit connections between the VTA Bayshore/NASA Light Rail Station and the North Bayshore employment area.

The Study is now being released for public review and comment. Attachment 1 is a cover memo summarizing the report's process and findings and a copy of the report. VTA staff will present the draft report's findings for comment and input from the Council. With the release of the Draft Study, VTA is interested in feedback from the community and City about the conceptual alignments and mode/technology options to help inform any further studies.

In parallel with the VTA Study, the City conducted the AGT Feasibility Study that focused on the corridor from the downtown Mountain View Transit Center to North Bayshore. The study areas for the two studies overlapped, to some degree, in North Bayshore and adjacent NASA property.

At its February 27, 2018 meeting, the City Council approved the AGT Feasibility Study Report and directed staff to develop a work plan and budget for a Phase 2 Feasibility

Study that focuses on the evaluation of alternative route alignments for an Autonomous Transit (AGT) system.

The City has coordinated with VTA to share information about the AGT Study and the North Bayshore Transportation Access Study.

DISCUSSION

Staff has reviewed the draft report and does not have any specific concerns in regard to the near-/mid-term recommendations. While there are a number of unresolved planning issues, as is also the case with the AGT Study, it is expected that a future planning phase would address those issues.

The VTA Study and the AGT Study are similar in terms of the North Bayshore Area, but differ in the transit connecting point—Bayshore/NASA light rail station versus Mountain View Transit Center. The VTA Study also looked at traditional transit alternatives such as light rail and Bus Rapid Transit, while the AGT Study focused solely on automated transit alternatives.

The two studies reached similar conclusions for near-/mid-term strategies, including a focus on autonomous transit technologies and development of dedicated lanes or guideways in the North Bayshore Area and NASA area. The VTA Study included long-term recommendations to consider a light rail alternative and to evaluate other possible alignments, which were not directly addressed in the AGT Study. The VTA Study also identified potential infrastructure improvements, including a new transit, pedestrian, and bicycle bridge over Stevens Creek as called for in the North Bayshore Precise Plan.

Staff supports VTA's conclusion that the resulting transportation modes from both the Bayshore/NASA light rail station and Mountain View Transit Center into North Bayshore should work as an efficient, integrated system.

Staff will continue to coordinate with VTA and Google in the development of this work scope.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the North Bayshore Transportation Access Study conducted by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and direct staff to coordinate with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority in terms of next steps and integration with future City studies regarding Automated Guideway Transit (AGT).

NEXT STEPS

Staff will bring to Council later this year the proposed scope and funding for a Phase 2 AGT Feasibility Study that focuses on the evaluation of alternative route alignments for an autonomous transit system, as well as further analysis of technology options, implementation strategies, and the development of regulatory policies and procedures.

PUBLIC NOTICING

In addition to the City's standard agenda posting requirements, notices regarding this agenda item were distributed to the persons who have signed up on the AGT project website for updates and information, previous business and/or community meeting participants, representatives of VTA, Caltrain, Mountain View TMA, NASA/Ames, and the Army, and other interested parties.

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Attachment: 1. [VTA Study Memo and Draft Final North Bayshore Transportation Access Study](#)