

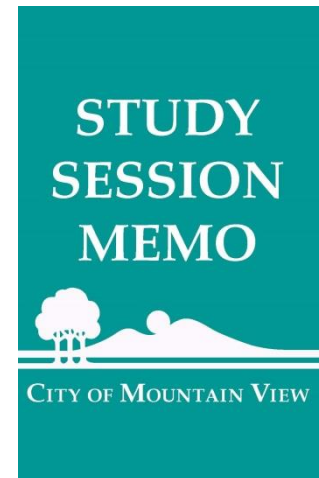
DATE: May 3, 2016

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Linda Forsberg, Transportation and Business
Manager

VIA: Daniel H. Rich, City Manager

TITLE: California High-Speed Rail Project Update



PURPOSE

The purpose of this Study Session is to provide the City Council with an opportunity to discuss the status of the California High-Speed Rail project with staff from the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA).

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The CHSRA is responsible for planning, building, and operation of the first high-speed rail system in the nation. In 2008, California State voters approved Proposition 1A, a \$9.95 billion bond measure, to finance the high-speed rail system. The complete system would include 800 miles of rail with up to 24 stations. By 2025, the system is scheduled to run from San Francisco to Los Angeles in under three hours at speeds of up to 200 miles per hour. The high-speed rail service along the San Francisco-to-San Jose corridor will be a “blended system” primarily on track shared with Caltrain.

Because the project is so large and runs through areas of the State with different geographical, environmental, and economic issues, the project has been divided into 10 sections that will go through separate environmental review processes. The 10 sections include:

1. San Francisco to San Jose
2. San Jose to Merced
3. Merced to Sacramento
4. Merced to Fresno
5. Fresno to Bakersfield

6. Bakersfield to Palmdale
7. Palmdale to Burbank
8. Burbank to Los Angeles
9. Los Angeles to Anaheim
10. Los Angeles to San Diego

In February 2016, the CHSRA released the Draft 2016 Business Plan (its fourth). Though the City has not commented on the previous Business Plans, staff prepared the attached comment letter on the current draft. The City's letter commented that the CHSRA should develop a detailed, comprehensive, and less-speculative funding plan; and that the funding plan must provide more detail regarding the timing and certainty of needed rail improvements (such as grade separations) along the Peninsula.

The environmental review process for the San Francisco-to-San Jose section is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2017, and staff considers this process to be one of the most effective opportunities for the City and the community to weigh in on the high-speed rail project. Staff plans to prepare comments on the draft environmental documents for segments that impact the City and present them to Council for review, discussion, and approval.

Mountain View representatives also participate in periodic staff technical working group and policy-maker working group meetings for the project.

Ben Tripousis, Northern Regional Director for the CHSRA, will attend the May 3 Study Session to provide an update, respond to Council questions, and hear from the community regarding the following elements of the California High-Speed Rail project:

- Draft 2016 Business Plan Update
- Planning and Environmental Analysis Process
- Corridor Study Improvements
- Planned Station Update
- Communications and Outreach Efforts

RECOMMENDATION

Provide input to CHSRA staff regarding the California High-Speed Rail project.

NEXT STEPS

Based on the input provided by the City Council at the Study Session, Councilmembers and City staff will continue to participate and represent the City's interests in future California High-Speed Rail project-related discussions.

PUBLIC NOTICING

In addition to the City's standard agenda posting requirements, notices were distributed to the more than 300 persons who have signed up to receive California High-Speed Rail project notifications via Subscribe MV on the City's website.

LF/TS/7/CAM
901-05-03-16SS-E

Attachment: 1. April 12, 2016 Business Plan Comment Letter

cc: Mr. Ben Tripousis – California High-Speed Rail Authority