



CITY OF PALO ALTO
MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER

**DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT**

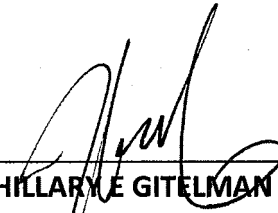
AGENDA DATE: AUGUST 17, 2015

ID#: 6001

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED RESPONSE TO THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY'S (VTA'S) "CALL FOR PROJECTS" FOR INCLUSION IN THE
COUNTYWIDE LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (VTP 2040) &
DISCUSSION OF THE POTENTIAL ENVISION SILICON VALLEY 2016
TRANSPORTATION TAX MEASURE**

With reference to Attachment F for Agenda Item No. 24 (VTA North County Cities Draft Letter, August 2015), please find attached an updated version of the one that you had received in your packet of August 6th.

Thank you.



HILLARY E GITELMAN
Director
Planning and Community Environment



JAMES KEENE
City Manager

Attachment

August 21, 2015

Dear Chair Woodward:

The Mayors and City Managers of West Valley and North County cities have been meeting in recent weeks to discuss regional transportation issues and our common interests in addressing the transportation-related needs of our residents and businesses. A commitment to an innovative, intermodal and geographically balanced transportation vision for Santa Clara County is critical to the continued growth and vitality of the Silicon Valley as well as the quality of life of its residents.

The Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA's) current effort to update the list of projects to be included in the Valley Transportation Plan (VTP) 2040 provides Valley leaders with a critical opportunity to shape a new and transformative long-range vision for transportation in Santa Clara County.

Representatives of the West Valley and North County cities believe that in addition to VTP project requests submitted from each city, a stronger "systems" perspective is needed to support an integrated regional strategy and decisions on future mass transit investments. Specifically, the cities signing this letter respectfully request that the VTA initiate a comprehensive study, leading to an alternatives analysis and formal Federal environmental review process and clearance, to develop a system-wide plan that integrates future mass transit investments in Santa Clara County with connections to other counties, via such systems as Caltrain, as well as community-level systems and "first/last mile" strategies. The study's initial focus should be on the Highway 85/U.S. Route 101/State Route 237/Interstate 280 corridors, recognizing the changing dynamics of commute patterns within the Peninsula, East Bay and southern Santa Clara County that affect West Valley and North County cities.

The undersigned cities all agree that it is imperative that work on this study begin as soon as possible, so that the study can inform near-term project funding decisions, and that the study process include the consideration of the formation of a joint powers advisory board.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,