

High Speed Rail Item on Dec. 7 San Jose City Council Agenda

The Dec. 7 City Council agenda is now posted, and the staff recommendations are below. The high speed rail recommendations are mostly what the Downtown Association and a coalition of community / neighborhood groups sought.

TRANSPORTATION & AVIATION SERVICES

6.1

Master Cooperative Agreement with the California High Speed Rail Authority for the High Speed Train Project.

Recommendation:

(a) Receive update on the California High-Speed Train (HST) project addressing new information since the September 14, 2010 City Council meeting related to community outreach, project funding, and the draft Cooperation Agreement with the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) concerning the visual design elements of the project.

(b) Provide staff the following direction related to development of the HST project in San Jose:

(1) Work with CHSRA to prepare Visual Design Guidelines for HSR facilities along the entire HST corridor in San Jose based on alignment options under active consideration by CHSRA and with a goal of completing the Visual Design Guidelines for Council consideration by June 2011 and prior to the release of draft environmental documents for San Jose project segments.

(2) Defer consideration of approving a Cooperative Agreement with CHSRA until after Visual Design Guidelines are completed and considered by the City Council and after draft environmental documents are released for San Jose project segments.

(3) Form two "HST Community Working Groups" to assist CHSRA and City staff in developing Visual Design Guidelines and addressing other project issues, generally covering the greater Downtown area (from Tamien Station north) and the Monterey Highway area (from Tamien Station south).

(4) Proceed with plans to hire a team of consultants with expertise in engineering, urban design, and architecture to serve as advisors to City for the preparation of Visual Design Guidelines, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

(5) Continue to collaborate with CHSRA on: developing conceptual design plans for HST facilities in the Monterey Highway corridor; identifying environmental issues; performing community outreach; developing Diridon Station expansion plan; developing an off-site parking plan; and coordinating on land use planning in Diridon Station area.

(6) Authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the CHSRA clarifying San Jose's continued interest in CHSRA considering both an aerial and tunnel option for the Downtown San Jose area and with the City's preference being determined only after further information is available on the aerial option regarding visual design and noise impacts, and following release of draft environmental documents for San Jose project segments.

(a) (7) In response to the federal allocation of initial HST funding for the Central Valley segment of the project, work with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and other Bay Area HST stakeholders to advocate for early implementation of a HST connection between the Central Valley and Silicon Valley.

(b) Adoption of the following Appropriation Ordinance amendments in the Building and Structure Construction Tax Fund:

(1) Increase the appropriation to the Department of Transportation for High Speed Rail project in the amount of \$200,000.

(2) Decrease the Ending Fund Balance by \$200,000.

CEQA: Not a Project, File No. PP10-066(e), agreement involving no physical change to the environment. The recommended actions are advisory to the CHSRA. The CHSRA is in the process of preparing an EIR for the High-Speed Train project. (Transportation)

TO BE HEARD IN THE **EVENING**