



NAPA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY CAC Agenda Memo

TO: Citizen Advisory Committee
FROM: Kate Miller, Executive Director
REPORT BY: Kate Miller, Executive Director
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SUBJECT: Executive Director Report

RECOMMENDATION

Information only

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following summarizes NVTA and NVTA-TA events and activities since the CAC's last meeting.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

NVTA Activities

Promotions:

- Laura Sanderlin has been promoted to Assistant Manager/HR-Board Secretary. Laura has been with NVTA since October 2020. She has demonstrated her acumen in navigating challenging issues like the pandemic, and developing creative programs and processes that support the agency's vision.
- Danielle Schmitz has been promoted to Deputy Executive Director. Danielle has been with the agency for 16 years, starting as a part time staff service analyst in conjunction with managing the green business program with the County of Napa in 2008. In 2011, Danielle was promoted to Associate Planner only to be promoted again to Senior Planner just two short years later. In 2017, Danielle was promoted to Director of Planning and Capital Development. In this position Danielle assumed the responsibility of overseeing the Transit System, Planning, and project development. Danielle has become a master of project funding, both securing new funds, but also identifying creative ways to move funding around to various projects in order to optimize funding benefits and virtually eliminating the

loss of scarce funding due to project delays. Danielle has built strong relations with our partners in Napa Valley and throughout the state and continues to enthusiastically promote the vision and mission of the agency.

Measure U:

Measure U – It's official! The **First Reading** of Measure U was heard at the May 22nd NVTA-TA meeting. The NVTA-TA Board approved the ordinance at its **Second Reading** on June 26th. The Napa County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider the Measure for its first and second readings on July 9 and July 23. The Measure U special election would then be consolidated with other ballot initiatives at the August 6 Board of Supervisors meeting for placement on the November 5 ballot. Measure U would replace Measure T, the existing ½ cent sales tax for local streets and roads maintenance. Measure U would continue the Measure T ½ cents sales tax, but it would be extended for 30 years from July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2055.

Napa Forward – on June 4th MTC and NVTA held a public meeting on the Napa Forward project at Rutherford Grange on St. Helena Highway. The Napa Forward project is improvements at the intersections of Rutherford (SR 128) and State Route 29 and Oakville Cross Road and State Route 29. The focus of the public meeting was the Rutherford intersection, looking at a signal to assist left hand turns from Rutherford southbound onto SR 29. The project does not currently have funding to complete the Oakville improvements but could move forward with the signal at Rutherford.

Accessible Transit Needs Assessment public workshop – NVTA is holding an accessible transportation needs assessment focused around senior and disabled transportation on July 8 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. The workshop will be open house structure with stations set-up to learn more about local transportation options and to be able to provide feedback on services.

Soscol Junction single-lane closures – Southbound SR 221 is scheduled for single lane closures for up to 12 days for Soscol Junction construction. This closure is for the connection of SR 221 under the overpass and once complete SR 221 should be open to vehicles. Staff will provide closure updates on our social media platforms.

Notorious Valley Transportation Animals – NVTA staff and Director Eisenberg raised over \$2,741 dollars and walked, ran, or road over 1,332 miles for the Napa Vine Trail's month of movement. Our fundraising resulted in a Vine Trail footprint which will be placed appropriately near the Redwood Park and Ride and read, "One for the NVTA team."

Vine Trail Ribbon Cutting – The Calistoga to St. Helena ribbon cutting has been scheduled for August 16 at 10:30 AM. The Vine Trail Coalition has scheduled a pre-event ride from St. Helena to Calistoga beginning at 8:30 AM as well as a lunch following the event. It should be noted that the lunch is not open to the public and that the agency is not funding the lunch. The Vine Trail is also organizing a public celebration of the Vine Trail opening on Saturday, August 17th.

BottleRock and La Onda Vine Ridership:

The Vine Transit system carried 5,610 total rides over the three days of BottleRock and 912 rides during the special extended hours. This is comparable to last years BottleRock weekend of 5,771 total rides. La Onda ridership for the two-day event was 2,666 and special service hours ridership was 828 rides. An interesting comparison is the Napa County Bicycle Coalition reported 900 bikes during the BottleRock festival weekend at the bike valet but only 40 bicycles during the La Onda event.

Regional Activities

Transportation Revenue Measure Executive Group - On June 24, I participated in the first Transportation Revenue Measure Executive Group hosted by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Participants shared their ongoing challenges, needs and a collective desire to invest in transit. There will be at least three more meetings of this group and many issues to reconcile before a new transportation revenue measure can move forward.

SR 37 Expanded Policy Body – I participated in the June 6 SR 37 meeting where the expanded policy committee met for the first time. Several organizations have been added to the original members which included representation from the four north bay counties, Caltrans, and MTC. The expanded partnership includes Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, the Federated Indians of the Graton Rancheria, Congressional Districts 2, 4 and 8, State Senate Districts 2 and 3, and Assembly Districts 4, 11, and 12. Other organizations have been added to the committee structure to expedite decisions and to help the project leadership team address some of the more sensitive issues on the corridor. These include federal, state, and regional regulatory agencies.

State Activities

Transit Transformation Task Force – I attended the fourth meeting of the Transit Transformation Task Force in San Francisco and was encouraged by the committee direction to focus on key challenges including connectivity, safety and security. The Task Force focused on transformative projects and priorities that improve transit performance, including SF Muni’s bus priority corridors. The presentation demonstrated how the lack of transit priority corridors results in diminishing transit performance and increased costs because bus operations are significantly affected by growing congestion and demands for our streets, roads, and highway infrastructure. We also received a fare integration presentation presented jointly by MTC and the Ontario Canada system. The Task Force also received a presentation on improved schedule coordination in Switzerland. Participants emphasized the need for new revenues to increase frequency to improve schedule coordination, investments in new infrastructure and transit first policy considerations.

ATTACHMENTS

None