



NAPA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY-TAX AGENCY ITOC Agenda Memo

TO: Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee (ITOC)
FROM: Kate Miller, Executive Director
REPORT BY: Kate Miller, Executive Director
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SUBJECT: Executive Director Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Napa Valley Transportation Authority-Tax Agency (NVTA-TA) Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee receive the Executive Director Report.

BACKGROUND

Regional Update

- The Metropolitan Transportation Commission programmed \$777,960 in Regional Measure 3 (RM 3) funds for NVTA Vine Route 29 services. Next month the Commission will approve another \$187,694 in State Transit Assistance (STA). Roughly \$500,000 of that amount is in lieu of the SB 125 funds allocated by the state to address the “fiscal cliff” that most transit operators are experiencing since the pandemic. Receiving RM 3 and STA in lieu of SB 125 also allows NVTA to avoid the SB 125 conditional requirements.

Local Update

- The big news to share is that Danielle Schmitz has been appointed to succeed me beginning July 1st. Danielle has been with the agency for 17 years, starting as an assistant planner and moving up to the Deputy Executive Director. She is committed to community service, improving transportation in Napa Valley for its residents, workers, and visitors. Congratulations Danielle!

- NVTA hosted an energizer station on Bike to Anywhere Day from 7 to 9 AM and counted 48 cyclists from around the valley, and hosted the MTC photographer for a bit.
- On April 30, NVTA held a public workshop to receive input on the SR 29 improvements in American Canyon. About 50 people attended the meeting including NVTA Chair Mark Joseph, NVTA Director Pierre Washington, and American Canyon Council Members Brando Cruz and Melissa Lamattina, and American Canyon Planning Commissioner Eric Altman.
- Staff have started focusing on intersection improvements at SR 29 and Jameson Canyon/Airport. We have been working with a consultant to understand if we can amend the environmental document that Caltrans completed as part of the Jameson Canyon Project. During these efforts it became clear that we should consider additional alternatives rather than focusing on a grade separated/roundabout type configuration similar to what was competed at Soscol Junction. That improvement could be well over \$100 million by the time it goes to construction. Several ideas have surfaced both within agency and unsolicited ideas from outside consultants that have the potential of significantly reduce congestion at a much lower cost. As a next step, the agency will be releasing a request for proposals for an Alternatives Analysis which includes completing the Project Approval and Environmental Document. We anticipate that the Board will consider an award in July.
- Soscol Junction is a finalist for the 2025 California Transportation Foundation Interchange Project of the Year Award. The California Transportation Foundation is a non-profit organization that raises funds for scholarships and provides financial resources to families of Caltrans employees who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The awards that CTF put out each year are California's pre-eminent awards in transportation. The winner will be announced at the CTF Awards Gala on June 12, 2025. NVTA won a CTA award along with the Solano Transportation Authority and Caltrans for Jameson Canyon in 2015, and for the Napa to Yountville Vine Trail segment in 2017.
- People are riding and walking more in Napa. This is likely the result of expanding bike and pedestrian facilities. NVTA partnered with the City of Napa to install a bike/ped counter on the newly constructed SR 29 Undercrossing. NVTA purchased the equipment, which detects direction, speed, and type of user (bike, pedestrian, or scooter). In the 6 months since the counter was installed, 32,500 users have been detected, with an average of 184 people per day on weekdays. On average, 52% of users are bicyclists, 40% are pedestrians, and 8% are riding scooters. Use appears to be increasing, and one of the great benefits of permanent counters is allowing staff to have data that reflects long-term trends, including seasonal variation or the change in use driven by nearby projects. NVTA will be

watching for how improvements – namely a Class 4 facility for bikes on Browns Valley Road and newly constructed nearby affordable housing projects – affect active transportation use in the area. This data will help NVTa and local jurisdictions advocate for funding for future projects and compete for limited grant funding. NVTa has committed to an ongoing bike/ped counter program, budgeting sufficient funds to purchase two counter systems annually, with local jurisdictions covering installation costs. Staff is currently working with American Canyon and Calistoga on the next installation of counters.

ATTACHMENTS

None