



September 3, 2025
ITOC Agenda Item 8.1
Continued From: New

Action Requested: **INFORMATION**

NAPA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY-TAX AGENCY ITOC Agenda Memo

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Napa Valley Transportation Authority-Tax Agency (NVTA-TA) ITOC receive the Executive Director Report.

BACKGROUND

Personnel

New Hire - On July 21st NVTA welcomed a new staff member, Jon Stanton. Jon was hired as an associate planner working under our Engineering Manager, focused on project management. Jon comes to NVTA from Roanoke Valley Transportation Commission. Jonathon has experience in mapping, long-range planning, data analysis and active transportation planning. He graduated with a Master's in city planning from San Diego State University after completing his undergraduate degree in environmental science from UC Davis. He enjoys cycling, car restoration and urban exploration. Welcome Jonathan!

Promotion – I am happy to announce Rebecca Schenck has been promoted to Director of Transit. Rebecca has been with the agency since 2017, and has held numerous positions in planning, project management and transit operations. She has led several capital projects for the agency including the Vine Trail, the Bus Maintenance Facility, and the solar canopy project. She has weathered many storms, be it firestorms or the covid pandemic and has been a reliable and resourceful member of the team. Well done, Rebecca.

Appointment – Finance Director, Antonio Onorato has been appointed to the Leadership Napa Valley Board of Directors. Leadership Napa Valley is a nationally recognized and award-winning program that provides leadership development for community-minded

individuals who want to make Napa a better place to live, work and do business. He will be serving on the Finance Committee.

Regional Update

- The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) will be holding a commission workshop on October 22-23 at the Embassy Suites in Walnut Creek. More details to come on the Commission workshop agenda.
- MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) have created a new Community Advisory Council which will replace the previous Policy Advisory Council. Made up of 27 residents with diverse perspectives, the Council advises MTC and ABAG on issues related to housing and land use, transportation and the environment. Each county will have representation on the Council.

Local Update

- New Routes - The Vine launched a new schedule on August 10th including a reenvisioned Route 11X with limited stops from Redwood Park and Ride to the Vallejo Ferry terminal. In addition, the Vine will be serving BART on weekends with the addition of Saturday service on Route 29, with nine roundtrips a day.
- Bus Animal Naming Contest – NVRTA is inviting elementary school students to name its electric fleet mascots - the owl, hawk, butterfly and bee. The contest will launch on September 15th with a winning name selected for each animal on October 31st. Winning students will be treated to a special bus experience, receive a basket of Vine Transit prizes, and celebrate with a pizza party for their class.
- Transit Month September - In January, NVRTA launched a “Design a Bus” contest where artists from across the North Bay were invited to submit a portfolio of their artwork. A panel of judges, including NVRTA staff members, a CAC member, a PCC member and a Transdev member, selected their top three favorite artists and requested that they submit their artwork to be designed onto one of Vine Transit’s new 40-foot electric Gillig buses. The panel selected Blanca Molina as the winning design in April, and the buses are currently in the process of being wrapped. NVRTA is planning to host a public unveiling event on September 21st to unveil the bus. More details will be provided with the committee.

ATTACHMENTS

None