



COUNCIL AGENDA: 6-17-14
ITEM: 2.53

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Toni J. Taber, CMC
City Clerk

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

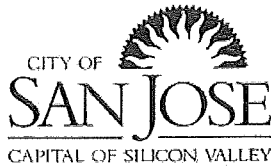
DATE: 6-12-2014

SUBJECT: VTA SR-85 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION

As referred by the Rules and Open Government Committee on June 11, 2014 and outlined in the attached memo previously submitted by the Rules and Open Government Committee:

- (a) Request a “support” position on the SR 85 Express Lanes Project as a presented to the public in early 2014; and
- (b) Direct staff to submit a letter of support to the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority for the SR 85 Express Lanes Project.



Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Councilmember Johnny Khamis
Councilmember Donald Rocha

SUBJECT: VTA SR-85 EXPRESS LANES
PROJECT

DATE: June 5, 2014

APPROVED:

DATE: 06/05/14

RECOMMENDATION

1. Request that the City Council take a "support" position on the SR 85 Express Lanes Project as presented to the public in early 2014.
2. Direct staff to submit a letter of support to the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority for the SR 85 Express Lanes project.

BACKGROUND

According to a recent study, commuters here in the Bay Area each endure 61 hours per year of delays, tied for second place with Los Angeles among the nation's 15 largest metropolitan regions. As commuters sit in traffic, air quality is negatively impacted, quality of life is affected and stress levels rise. That is why it is prudent to move forward with Silicon Valley transportation projects that help us address these concerns.

The Silicon Valley High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes Program (referred to as the Express Lanes Program) has been under development since 2003. The SR 85 express lanes project is within the central corridor of the Silicon Valley Express Lanes Program being implemented by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). This project will convert approximately 27 miles of existing High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV or carpool) lanes to express lanes. The project will add a second HOV express lane between SR 87 and I-280. The project limits are between US 101 in Mountain View and Bailey Avenue on US 101 in south San Jose. The project will also convert the existing HOV direct connector in south San Jose from US 101 to SR 85 to an express lane connector.

The Silicon Valley Express Lanes Program would provide long-term mobility benefits and another funding stream for transportation improvements. Specifically, the primary objectives of the program are the following:

1. Provide congestion relief through more effective use of existing roadways;
2. Provide commuters with a new mobility option; and
3. Provide a new funding source for transportation improvements.