### Santa Clara County - San Jose



#### Date:

January 18, 2012

#### Location/Venue:

Santa Clara County Government Center 70 West Hedding, San Jose

#### Attendance: 124

(Note: not all who attended registered or participated in voting during all workshop segments)

Format: Public Workshops included an opening plenary session featuring remarks from elected officials and a short video on Plan Bay Area. Participants were then asked to rotate between three stations: Transportation Trade-offs, Land-Use/Quality of Complete Communities, and Open Comments.

# Transportation Tradeoffs Priorities Results

#### **Transportation Investment Priorities**

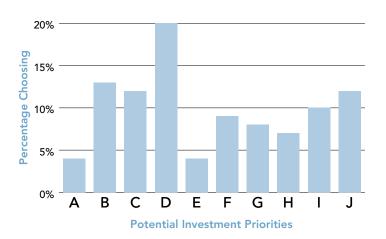
Participants were given ten options for investing future transportation funding and asked to select their top five priorities. One option was "other" to allow participants to write priorities not already listed on comment cards.

#### **Rank Priority**

- D. Maintain highways and local roads, including fixing potholes
- **2 B.** Expand bicycle and pedestrian routes
- **3 C.** Extend commuter rail lines, such as BART or Caltrain
- **3 J.** Other
- **4** I. Invest in improving speed and reliability in major bus or light-rail corridors
- 5 F. Provide financial incentives to cities to build more multi-unit housing near public transit
- **6 G.** Fund traffic congestion relief projects, such as adding turn lanes on roads, or reconfiguring interchanges and on-ramps near highways
- **7 H.** Increase public transit service for low-income residents who to not have access to a car
- **8 A.** Increase the number of freeway lanes for carpoolers and bus riders
- **8 E.** Provide more frequent bus service.

### Other/Written Comments (sampling of comments)

- Use common gauge tracks on all rail transit convert BART gauge to std!!! For intermodal.
- Invest in: bike sharing infrastructure (London & Paris); electric car sharing infrastructure.
   Use Clipper cards for both. Go to YouTube and see how it is done.
- Get bicycles off roads.
- Encourage (financial, regulatory, etc.) the development & implementation of an electric vehicle charging network around the Bay Area.
- Add electric carpool lane.
- Add more freeway lanes.
- Develop & implement a more stable & sustainable funding mechanism for Caltrain.
- Use gas taxes for roads only. Use bridge tolls for roads only.
- Employment center with transit access financial incentives.
- Reconsider BART from San Francisco to San Jose down/up Peninsula to replace Caltrain.
   I would like to see analysis comparing cost of electrification of Caltrain vs. BART extension.



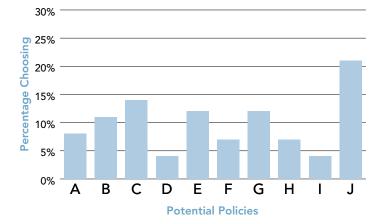
### Santa Clara County - San Jose (continued)

# Policies to Reduce Driving And Emissions

Participants were given ten options for investing future transportation funding and asked to select their top five priorities. One option was "other" to allow participants to write priorities not already listed on comment cards.

### **Rank Policy**

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1	J. Other
2	<b>C.</b> Expand the Safe Routes to School/Pedestrian Network
3	E. Expand Electric Vehicle Strategies
3	<b>G.</b> Increase Telecommuting
4	<b>B.</b> Complete the Regional Bicycle Network
5	A. Encourage "Smart Driving"
6	F. Develop Commuter Benefit Ordinances
7	H. Institute Parking Surcharges
8	D. Increase Vanpool Incentives
8	I. Set Freeway Speeds at 55 mph



# Other/Written Comments (sampling of comments)

- Coordinate & lobby for higher (state & fed) legislative support to encourage travel by alternative modes (e.g. Fed – commuter subsidy allowances, etc.)
- Encourage and promote casual carpooling.
- Invest in bike and electric car sharing infrastructure near stations and transportation hubs.
- Include electric bike & scooter strategies (e.g. subsidies).
- Congestion pricing.
- Build more freeways.
- Increase mpg that car manufacturers need to adhere to.
- Use diesel fuel.
- Abolish HOV/Commuter lanes.
- We need some kind of "benefit" to driving less – maybe tax credit.

### Santa Clara County - San Jose (continued)

### **Policies Regarding Public Transit**

Participants were given nine options for policies regarding public transit and asked to select their top four priorities. One option was "other" to allow participants to write priorities not already listed on comment cards.

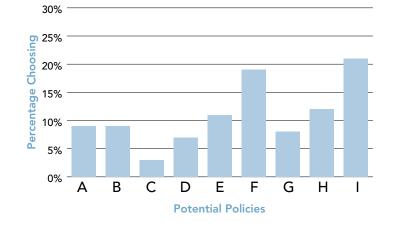
# Rank Policy 1 I. Other 2 F. More frequent and faster transit service

3

buses and trains
 Fixed price monthly pass valid on all trains, buses and ferries.

H. More customer amenities such as WiFi on

- 5 A. Better timed connections
- **5 B.** More real-time information
  - **5.** Wore real-time imormation
- **6 G.** Better on-time performance
- 7 **D.** Standard fare policies across the region
- **8 C.** Cleaner/new vehicles and cleaner stations



### Other/Written Comments (sampling of comments)

- I do not agree with mandatory mass transit.
- More feeder systems (small vans, zip-type cars).
- Let the market dictate transportation and government provide what we want.
- Policy to raise mpg we expect car makers to adhere to.
- Increase bus & vehicle use with natural gas.
   For new vehicles use natural gas & for personal vehicles.
- No HOV lanes they cause congestion.
- High performance passenger rail HSR / HSIPR transit stations.
- Public transit doesn't work in all areas (cities). Use the money to fix pot holes, pave freeways & roads. Do not close lanes on El Camino for buses and bikes.
- Better connections from transit to actual final destinations (work, shopping centers) connections could be shuttles, pedestrian trails, etc.
- No public subsidies for public transit.

# Land Use/Complete Communities

Complete communities are places where transit, jobs, schools, recreation and stores are located within walking distance and help bring the community together. New development (housing/land use) and transportation investments need to be designed carefully to maximize benefits for residents. Workshop participants discussed the quality of complete communities, whether jobs and housing are converging in the right places in their counties and whether this convergence can support greater access to jobs and housing, particularly for low- and moderate-income populations.

### Sampling of Comments

- Job growth is critical emphasize jobs, not just housing. Transit needs to be closer to jobs – more important than jobs near housing, housing just needs to be within "commute sheds." Promote more jobs in dense areas, centers of cities.
- Need to allow more housing types in lower density housing areas – moderate density housing with a mix of heights, moderateincome housing as well.
- Use infill opportunities, focus on urban areas so as to preserve farmland nearby and open space in hills. Need economic mechanisms to support this urban core.
- Include community gardens, creative open spaces, safe walking and bicycle routes.
- Add more housing only where there is school capacity.
- Concerned about elimination of single-family homes in favor of high rises and other dense developments.
- Be careful about adding too much retail we mostly buy online. There is lots of empty retail space in communities (e.g., Sunnyvale).
- Some participants also expressed concerns regarding property rights, preserving the character of their communities and affordability/funding for Plan Bay Area.