

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Tri-Valley Regional Rail Advisory Group

FROM: Michael Tree, Executive Director

DATE: October 5, 2015

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**Subject:**

Establishment of the Tri-Valley Regional Rail Advisory Group

**Action Requested:**

The recommendation of the Projects & Services Committee is that the LAVTA Board establish the Tri-Valley Regional Rail Advisory Group.

**Background:**

In the summer of 2006, the City of Livermore formed the Tri-Valley Regional Rail Working Group (TRWG). Made up of both technical and policy advisory committees, this group met periodically to identify regional rail issues, develop a consensus vision statement for rail priorities, and to ensure cooperative interaction with the efforts of both BART to Livermore and the California High Speed Rail project. The TRWG policy advisory committee was made up of elected officials or directors of all of the Tri-Valley cities, Alameda County, BART, LAVTA, the Altamont Commuter Express (ACE), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and others. The TRWG was successful in focusing the California High Speed Rail Authority's attention on planning improvements to ACE train service through the Altamont Corridor to provide faster, more frequent trips, as well as a platform connection to a future BART extension to Livermore. The group ended their meetings in 2009 subsequent to certification of the BART to Livermore Program EIR by the BART Board of Directors.

In September of 2015, a presentation on the ACE forward planning efforts was provided to the LAVTA Board by Dan Leavitt, Manager of Regional Initiatives at ACE. The presentation outlined many of the opportunities and challenges relating to passenger rail improvements in the near future for the Tri-Valley, including the future intermodal connection of ACE and BART. At the conclusion, Board Member Scott Haggerty ask for a future agenda item that would create a new Tri-Valley Regional Rail Advisory Group (Advisory Group).

**Discussion:**

As currently envisioned, the goal of the Advisory Group will be to ensure that regional rail planning in the Tri-Valley leads to project implementation that is fast, cost-effective and responsive to community goals and objectives. Areas of focus will include the review of plans for the interregional rail connection to ACE, the Phase 1 BART to Isabel Avenue/I-580 project, and improved rail connectivity throughout the Bay Area and Northern California Mega Region.

**Next Steps and Recommendation:**

At their September 2015 meeting, the Project & Services Committee recommended the establishment of the Advisory Group with membership consisting of a representative from the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, and Tracy, the counties of Alameda and San Joaquin, and transportation agencies LAVTA, ACE and BART.

Next steps would include the membership selecting their representative and the Advisory Group holding its first meeting where an update on the BART to ACE project can be provided, goals and action items discussed, and a meeting schedule established.

*Submitted by:* \_\_\_\_\_