



AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: November 29, 2022

Subject Palo Alto Request for Transit Service Planning on San Antonio Road Corridor

Prepared by: Marisa Lee, Transportation Services Manager
James Sandoval, Public Works Director
Gabriel Engeland, City Manager

Attachment(s):

1. Palo Alto Request for Transit Service Planning on San Antonio Road Corridor

Initiated by:

Staff

Previous Council Consideration:

November 15, 2022

Fiscal Impact:

None

Environmental Review:

N/A

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:

- After reviewing attachment #1, the Palo Alto Request for Transit Service Planning on San Antonio Road Corridor, as well as the additional information received from Palo Alto City Staff since the previous Council meeting, does the Los Altos City Council wish to take a position?

Summary:

- On October 12, 2022, the Palo Alto Mayor Pat Burt sent a letter to the General Manager of the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) on behalf of the City of Palo Alto and the north County VTA Policy Advisory Group members requesting direct transit service planning resources to the San Antonio Road corridor serving the four north County cities of Mountain View, Palo Alto, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

Reviewed By:

City Manager

GE

City Attorney

JH

Finance Director

JD



Subject: Palo Alto Request for Transit Service Planning on San Antonio Road Corridor

- On November 15, 2022, The Los Altos City Council discussed taking a position on this request due to potential impacts or changes for Los Altos. The Council had questions on what types of changes were being asked by Palo Alto, but overall, the Council was interested in taking a position in support of transit on N. San Antonio.
- On November 16, Los Altos City Staff reached out to Palo Alto City Staff to ask for clarification on what the request entailed. Palo Alto Staff responded saying that generally, and even before the letter was shared, Palo Alto Staff have been requesting that VTA consider new service that would cover the San Antonio corridor. Palo Alto Staff considers this a long-term request and does not expect immediate action by VTA on this.

Background

Los Altos City Council had questions for Staff regarding what types of impacts this request could have on requirements for developments along N. San Antonio Rd under AB 2097 and SB 9. Staff did preliminary research; however additional research will be necessary. This request only asks that VTA direct transit service planning resources to the San Antonio Road corridor, it does not make any specific requests for frequency, nor the creation of a high-quality transit corridor, nor of a major transit stop, all of which are defining elements of AB 2097 and SB 9 requirements.

AB 2097 applies only to developments within ½ mile of a major transit stop. A major transit stop is defined as two intersecting bus lines with 15-minute headways. The 22 Line along ECR currently has a 15-minute headway. If the proposed planning process were to result in increasing the frequency of the 40 Line from 30-minute headways to 15-minute headways, AB 2097 could have a potential impact only on developments within ½ mile of the intersection of ECR and N. San Antonio. Neither a frequency increase nor a high-quality transit line are specifically requested in the study requested by Palo Alto.

SB 9 requires that there should be one parking space per unit except if the parcel is located within ½ mile of a high-quality transit corridor (bus line with 15-minute headway) or a major transit stop (two intersecting transit lines with 15-minute headways), or if the parcel is located within one block of a car-share vehicle lot or space. If the proposed planning process along N. San Antonio ultimately leads to increasing the headway of the 40 Line from 30-minutes to 15-minutes, this corridor could qualify as a high-quality transit line. Neither a frequency increase nor a high-quality transit line are specifically requested in the study requested by Palo Alto.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the City Council discuss and determine whether they would like to take a position on this topic. If the City Council desires to take a position, staff will return with a letter affirming the Council position at the next regular Council meeting.