



# City of Sunnyvale

## Agenda Item

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**24-0051**

**Agenda Date:** 2/15/2024

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### 2024 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

#### **NUMBER**

ESD 24-02

**TITLE** Evaluate Adopting Transit-Supportive Policies for Sunnyvale

#### **BACKGROUND**

**Lead Department:** Environmental Services Department  
**Support Departments:** Office of the City Manager Office of the City Attorney  
Community Development Department  
Department of Public Works  
**Sponsor(s):** Sustainability Commission  
**History:** 1 year ago: N/A  
2 years ago: N/A

#### **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

##### **What precipitated this Study?**

Sunnyvale has adopted Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction targets as part of its Climate Action Playbook, to achieve a 20% reduction in vehicle miles traveled per person by 2030, and 25% by 2050. Through the 2028 Game Plan development and forecasting process, the City's consultant conducting the greenhouse gas forecasting is recommending that the 2030 VMT goal be lowered to 10% reduction by 2030.

This recommended change is due to a lack of progress in VMT reduction or substantial evidence to support the feasibility of achieving this goal. Due to this updated information regarding Sunnyvale's VMT goal, the Sustainability Commission sponsored this Study Issue as a way to support VMT reduction.

Sunnyvale's Climate Action Playbook outlines two targets related to reducing VMT:

- Play 3.1: Increase opportunities for and encourage development of mixed-use sites to reduce vehicle miles per person.
- Play 3.2: Increase transportation options and support shared mobility.

Sunnyvale's General Plan has a number of policy goals focused on, related to, or inclusive of transit.

- Goal LT-1 Coordinated Regional and Local Planning: Policy LT-1.7, LT-1.8
- Goal LT-2 An Effective Multimodal Transportation System: Policy LT-3.1, Policy LT-3.6, Policy LT-3.23, Policy LT-3.29
- Goal LT-4 An Attractive Community for Residents and Businesses: Policy LT-4.3
- Goal LT-6 Protected, Maintained, and Enhanced Residential Neighborhoods: Policy LT-6.2
- Goal LT-8 Options for Healthy Living: Policy LT-8.4
- Goal HE-1: Adequate Housing: Policy HE-1.1

- Goal HE-3: Minimized Governmental Constraints on Housing: Policy HE-3.3
- Goal HE-4: Adequate Housing Sites: Policy HE-4.2, Policy HE-4.5
- Goal HE-6: Sustainable Neighborhoods: Policy HE-6.3

### **What are the key elements of the Study?**

Drawing on model policies and recommendations from the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and other sources identified by staff, the Study Issue would examine where City policy has gaps to addressing and encouraging transit enhancement and development in Sunnyvale. The following policy areas are of particular focus:

- “Transit-oriented community” policies to be applied to areas around existing MTC “Tier 3” transit stations in Sunnyvale (Caltrain and VTA Light Rail), preferably meeting or exceeding MTC’s policy recommendations from its Transit-Oriented Communities Policy.
- Sites or corridors where the same set of “transit-oriented community” policies should be adopted in order to promote future development of high-frequency transit service such as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).
- Transit-supportive policies that should be applied to Sunnyvale as a whole, drawing from sources such as VTA’s sample “Transit-First Policy” framework.

**Estimated years to complete study: 2 years**

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

#### **Cost to Conduct Study**

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost):	Moderate
Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs:	\$175,000
Funding Source:	Will seek budget supplement (General Fund)

Staff will seek consultant services to complete this Study. The costs would also be needed to support community engagement work. This engagement includes taking the study results to the Sustainability Commission, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission, and Planning Commission for input.

### **Cost to Implement Study Results**

Unknown. The Study would include assessment of potential costs, including capital and operating, as well as revenue/savings.

### **EXPECTED CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OR COMMISSION PARTICIPATION**

Council-Approved Work Plan: No

Council Study Session: No

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Sustainability Commission, Planning Commission, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Drop. This policy issue does not merit discussion at a Study Issues Workshop.

VMT reductions are achieved through a combination of implementing compatible land uses, building

a transportation system that accommodates multiple uses and having high-quality transit that gets people where they need to go in a quick and efficient manner. The City has established policies and goals that will achieve a VMT reduction due to the close proximity of high-quality transit (LRT/Caltrain/Bus) in the specific plan areas of Peery Park, Downtown, El Camino Real, Lawrence Station and Moffett Park. Planning for these areas includes the introduction of land uses that encourage alternative mode choices with employment, commercial/retail and housing to support each other. Each of these specific plan areas have the necessary and desired policy and supportive ideas to help achieve the City's VMT goals and are aligned with Play 3.1 of the Climate Action Plan. Play 3.2 addresses building a transportation system that accommodates multiple uses. An additional study is unlikely to provide policy solutions beyond what the City's current policies already include.

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