



## **Downtown Transit Mall Rail Rehabilitation Project**

### **Project Overview**

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) light rail system is one of the longest to be built in the U.S. in the past 50 years. It stretches for 42.2-miles throughout Santa Clara County, serving the communities of Campbell, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Milpitas and south, central and east San Jose.

The trackway in downtown San Jose has been in continuous use since construction in the late 1980s and has experienced significant rail wear, especially at locations with small radius curves. This wear has resulted in increased “wheel squeal” at those locations.

In addition, to address concerns regarding the noise created by light rail vehicles negotiating the curves, lubricants have been regularly applied to the rails and a number of granite pavers adjacent to the trackway now require cleaning or replacement.

### **Project Scope**

The Downtown Transit Mall Rail Rehabilitation Project will replace the curved rail at the corners of First and Devine streets, Second and Devine streets, and Second and San Carlos streets. In addition, adjacent granite pavers will be removed and cleaned or replaced, and new concrete poured, as necessary. Most work at the two Second Street locations was completed this past spring, while work at the First and Devine location will take place in late August. Also during that time, finish work will be completed at the two Second Street locations.

Similar track rehabilitation work at the intersection of First and San Carlos streets was completed in 2005.

Although as much work as possible will be done before the weekend during daytime and evening hours, one full weekend of continuous construction will also be necessary. The weekday work involves sawcutting concrete in advance of demolition work. The weekend work includes the demolition of existing concrete, removal of the worn rail, placing the new rail, concrete pours and rail testing.

Neighborhood and business impacts, pedestrian safety, traffic flow in the downtown area, and public transit service have all been carefully considered during the scheduling of this project.

During the weekend work, northbound traffic on First Street will be detoured west on Devine Street, with Devine Street shut down to vehicle traffic between First and Second streets. First Street, between Devine and Julian streets, will also not be accessible to vehicles, although pedestrian access on sidewalks will be maintained. Lane reductions will also be necessary at the Second and San Carlos work site.

Impacts to local residents may include noise from daytime sawcutting activities, with weekend impacts including noise generated by demolition activities, concrete trucks and other construction vehicles, and pneumatic tools and air compressors.

Impacts to light rail users include the total shutdown of light rail service in downtown San Jose beginning at 1 p.m. Friday, August 22 through 4 a.m. Monday, August 25. VTA will be providing free substitute bus service between the Civic Center and Convention Center stations. Downtown residents may notice extra VTA buses in the downtown area during the time the light rail system is shut down.

### **Project Schedule**

As of September 1, 2008, only minor “punchwork” items remain to be completed and new track has been successfully installed at all three locations.

### **Cost**

Stacy & Witbeck, Inc. has been awarded a construction contract for \$1,791,940.

### **How to Contact Us**

If you have any question concerning the Downtown Transit Mall Rail Rehabilitation Project, please contact VTA Community Outreach at (408) 321-7575, TDD for the hearing-impaired (408) 321-2330.

If you wish to receive electronic e-mail updates about the project, please contact: *community.outreach@vta.org*. Project information will also be posted in the construction update section at *www.vta.org*.