

THE ULTIMATE CONFIGURATION

HOW INTERESTED CITIZENS CAN FOLLOW CONTRA COSTA COUNTY'S PLANS for ALAMO ROADS in MEETINGS that are OPEN to the PUBLIC

**With special reference to the plan for expansion of the intersection at
DANVILLE BOULEVARD AND STONE VALLEY ROAD**

**Updated
September 11, 2008**

Dear Alamo Citizens,

In April, 2008, AIA began reporting on Contra Costa County's plans to expand the intersection of Danville Boulevard and Stone Valley Road in a project known as the Ultimate Configuration.

The current status of the Ultimate Configuration is that the Tri-Valley Transportation Council (TVTC) has promised not to fund the project, and the County has said they will not pursue it. The newly formed Alamo Roads Advisory Committee of the County is beginning discussion of potential improvements to Alamo roads with representatives of community groups (on Second Thursdays, 3:30 PM, at Hap Magee Park), and the District 3 Supervisor's office has promised to deal with the fact that the Ultimate Configuration itself is still authorized for \$0.8 million funding by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (see below).

The path to understanding how this project would be implemented under the aegis of the County is long and winding. Below, is our attempt to identify the government decision makers and decision points that would create the Ultimate Configuration. We write this so that all Alamo citizens can understand and react in a timely way to the actions of our local government that affect local and regional roads in Alamo.

Board of Supervisors (BOS)

Every two years the County Public Works Department updates its five-year plan for roads in the entire County in a document called the Capital Road Improvement & Preservation Program (CRIPP).

On the April 8, 2008 consent agenda, the County Board of Supervisors passed the updated 2007/2008 CRIPP that lists "Stone Valley Road/Danville Boulevard Improvements", aka the Ultimate Configuration, as an unfunded, approved County project. Upon passage, the listing means that if funding is secured, the project has been authorized by the County to move ahead to the next planning phase.

However, the updated 2007/2008 CRIPP leaves out significant descriptive information that was included in the 2005/2006 CRIPP about projects that are unfunded with County money, giving only the project title.

The CRIPP can be found on-line by going to the County Public Works Department home page, <http://contra.napanet.net/depart/pw/indexbody.htm>, clicking on Public Services at the bottom of the page, clicking on Traffic, and clicking on Capital Improvement Program. In the '05-06 version (if it has not yet been replaced on-line), go to pages 234 & 235 for a description of the “Stone Valley Road/Danville Boulevard Improvements”, aka the Ultimate Configuration. In the '07-08 replacement version, go to page 106 in the list of unfunded projects to find the same project title with no description of the project.

The '07-08 CRIPP also gives two projects funded with Alamo Area of Benefit (AOB) developer funds (page 28), “Danville Boulevard Traffic Improvements – Phase I” and “Danville Boulevard Traffic Improvements Study”. (There appears to be a mistake in arithmetic that would inflate the given end-of-year fund balance.) The Phase I improvements are shown as funded at 60 percent of Alamo AOB (page 66), and the Traffic Study is shown as funded at 100 percent of AOB (page 67).

The BOS agenda comes on-line at www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/board/board.htm on the Friday morning before the Tuesday morning meeting (about 31 weekly meetings in 2008). It can be difficult to tell the nature of an individual item from just its title on the consent agenda, but Board packet information about all the items is available at the Clerk of the Board’s office at the County Administration Building in Martinez.

Transportation, Water & Infrastructure Committee (TWIC) of the BOS

The TWIC, a two-member committee of the Board of Supervisors, recommended passage of the CRIPP to the full BOS. The TWIC usually meets on third Mondays at 10 AM in room 108 of the County Administration Building. (The special meeting of September 29, 2008, at 1 PM, is on a fifth Monday.) TWIC agendas, with links to the committee packet information for each agenda item, can be accessed at www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/cd/transportation/committee/twic.htm.

Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA)

The County is not the only agency that plans and funds roads in Alamo. The Contra Costa Transportation Authority, comprised of an elected representative from the County and from each of the cities in the County, manages distribution of revenue among the County and the cities from the half cent sales tax for transportation in Contra Costa County, Measure C and Measure J. The CCTA also manages a program that levies fees on new development that creates traffic impacts in existing communities in the County. The fee revenue is intended to support projects that mitigate the impacts on the affected communities, which may be some distance from the new development. The participating

jurisdictions must comply with specific objectives for the movement of traffic in order to be eligible to receive all their entitled Measure C and J revenues.

For purposes of planning and meeting objectives for moving traffic, the jurisdictions are organized into several regions. Alamo is part of the Southwest Area Transportation (SWAT) region that includes elected representatives from the County and the cities of Danville, San Ramon, Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda. SWAT meets on first Mondays at either 2 or 3 PM, although meetings are often cancelled. To access SWAT meetings and agendas on-line, google Southwest Area Transportation Committee, or go successively to Contra Costa County, Community Development, Transportation Planning, Committees, and SWAT.

The CCTA, now in the process of developing its Regional Transportation Plan for Contra Costa County, meets on third Wednesdays at 6 PM. The CCTA home page at www.ccta.net gives meetings and agendas with linked information about each agenda item.

To see how the Ultimate Configuration has been included in the CCTA regional transportation planning process, click on Transportation Planning at the top of the CCTA home page, click on Growth Management, go to #2, which describes fees collected from developers to mitigate growth impacts, and click on “here”, which brings up the Southern Contra Costa Regional Fee Project List of the Measure C Regional Transportation Mitigation Program Summary Report, February, 2008. On page 20, the project list authorizes \$0.8 million for “I-680/Stone Valley Road interchange improvements (ultimate configuration beyond the Measure C phase; includes signals and new turn lanes)”.

Tri-Valley Transportation Council (TVTC)

The jurisdictions of SWAT, minus the Lamorinda cities, have joined with Alameda County and several Alameda County cities as the Tri-Valley Transportation Council. The TVTC levies mitigation fees on development that impacts the region and creates a list of mitigation projects authorized for funding with the development fees it collects. If funds become available for a project, a jurisdiction in Contra Costa County must implement the project or risk losing all return-to-source Measure C or J sales tax revenue. It is generally expected that a jurisdiction would not forego the revenue and would implement the project.

A new, B-list of TVTC developers’ fees mitigation projects, including “Project #B-9, Danville Boulevard/Stone Valley Road I-680 Interchange Improvements”, aka the Ultimate Configuration, was created in the Tri-Valley Transportation Council Nexus Study Fee Update on January 30, 2008.

The TVTC, currently staffed by the City of San Ramon, does not have a website, just a single web page on the San Ramon website that gives name, phone, and e-mail address of the lone TVTC staff.

As part of the CCTA regional planning process, the TVTC is also preparing the Tri-Valley Transportation Plan and Action Plan Update. For the first time, the Tri-Valley Action Plan divides major arterial routes, called Routes of Regional Significance, into two groups, intra-regional routes and inter-regional routes. Among 26 intraregional routes identified in the Action Plan, only one, Danville Boulevard, had a project identified in the plan for expansion, the “Danville Boulevard/Stone Valley Road Intersection Improvements”, aka the Ultimate Configuration.

However, on June 30, 2008, in response to opposition from the Alamo community, the TVTC removed Danville Boulevard from the Action Plan, and on July 30, the TVTC removed Project B-9 as described in the Nexus Study from the TVTC B-project list.

To view the Tri-Valley Transportation Plan and Action Plan Update, go to the CCTA home page, click on Transportation Planning at the top of the page, click on Action Plans for Routes of Regional Significance, go to the 2008 Action Plan Update, and click on Tri-Valley Update. The designation of Danville Boulevard as the only intra-regional Route of Regional Significance with a project noted for expansion has been removed on page 45. The individual projects of the TVTC project lists are no longer shown at this time in the Update, but there is a reference to both the Project List A and Project List B under “Subregional Transportation Impact Fee” on page 47.

Notes

- All the government entities that plan and fund transportation for the County – the Board of Supervisors, the TWIC, the CCTA, the SWAT, and the TVTC – are comprised of elected officials. The TWIC is a committee of the BOS, and the BOS rotates a representative elected Board member to each of the other entities.
- The contact for Alamo citizens for all the entities is County District III Supervisor Mary Piepho, at 925-820-8683, dist3@bos.cccounty.us.
- Meeting times, places, and agendas of all the entities except the TVTC have been found accessible on the internet. Packet information about agenda items may or may not be available on-line, and meeting minutes may or may not be up-to-date.