Meeting Date: January 4, 2010

TOWN OF MORAGA STAFF REPORT

To: **Town of Moraga Planning Commission**

From: **Lori Salamack, Planning Director**

Subject: **Consideration of a draft resolution recommending that the Town Council use Measure J funds to create a public transportation hub in the MCSP area to link to BART in Orinda, Saint Mary's College and the higher density housing near the Rheem Center.**

Request

Consider the attached draft resolution and alternatives identified in this report.

Background

Measure J is a Contra Costa County transportation measure that generates fund for transportation improvements within the county through sales tax revenues. Annually the Town of Moraga receives approximately $250,000 from the Measure J program. Measure J is an extension of Measure C.

Measure J funds can be used to cover the cost of staff time and/or consultants to participate in the mandatory growth management planning and compliance program. They can also be used for local street and road maintenance and improvements, transit capital and operations, trails, parking facilities, and transportation demand management programs.

Discussion

The Town of Moraga currently has on hand approximately $580,000 in Measure J funds. In fiscal year 2008-2009 the Town spent $15,210 on patch paving and staff salaries for street maintenance. Historically, the town has accumulated approximately $500,000 every two years for a large road project. Using Measure J funds for transit, while allowed under the measure, would mean that the town would have less funding for road repairs.

Alternatives

As an alternative to the use of Measure J funds for transit, the Planning Commission may want to recommend that a shuttle could be supported by new funds generated from development in the MCSP area. The Town Manager has suggested that the Town could in essence do tax increment financing for such a program through increased property and sales tax from the redeveloped and expanded area. The Town Manager is concerned that it may not appropriate to use money derived to serve our current Town to provide an enhanced service for new development. In his opinion, money from Measure J for a shuttle should only be based on a proportionate benefit to the community as a whole. He advises that as a part of any discretionary approvals for elements of the MCSP the Town may be able to require some contribution to a shuttle as well.

Another alternative that the Planning Commission may want to consider is to recommend to the Town Council that the Council authorize the Planning Commission to study options for funding a shuttle in the Specific Plan area. One option, for example, may be to seek partial funding from Measure J, Saint Mary's College (provided that the college is served by the shuttle), the City of Orinda (provided that the shuttle would provide service between Moraga and the Orinda BART station), the MCSP developer and/or homeowners association, the Town of Moraga, the Air District and other grant sources. Cost estimates could be obtained and grant applications could be submitted it appropriate.

Fiscal Impact

Historically, Measure C/J funds have been used primarily for road repair in the Town of Moraga. Use of the funds for another Measure J eligible purpose would reduce the funds available to the Town for road repair.

Recommendation(s)

Consider the attached draft resolution.

Attachments:

A. Draft resolution