



Objectives

Work toward a shift in community norms around transportation, while influencing today's transportation choices.



Embrace alternatives to solo driving

Build public will





Methodology

Activities	Subjects
 Grounding in previous research Employee discussion groups Interviews with peer transit agencies In-depth public survey Formative focus groups with residents 	 Audience segmentation Current perceptions of VTA Values drivers informing transportation choices Unique value proposition for VTA Messaging to motivate alternatives to solo driving



Grounding

A snapshot of VTA's vision, direction and organization

- Review of previous research
- Examination of the public discourse
- Review of VTA branding and messaging
- Identification of best practices and innovation









Key Initial Findings: Employee Input on what's Important

Your health and well-being	431	475	91%
Family	430	473	91%
Your job/career	423	478	88%
Being comfortable financially	398	474	84%
Safety/security	386	473	82%
Protection of the environment, promotion of	333	478	70%
Education	331	474	70%
Affordable Housing	329	473	70%
Being physically active	322	474	68%
The strength and vitality of your community	322	478	67%
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Reliability	380	441	86%
Convenience, access, proximity	372	445	84%
Safety, security	356	441	81%
Length of time required to travel	341	442	77%
Maximizing my flexibility to get around	301	442	68%
Productivity, use of time	294	442	67%
What's best for my family	283	442	64%
What's best for my health and others in the community	172	442	39%
Cost, fares	169	445	38%
Protection of the environment, sustainability	155	445	35%



Initial Findings: Employee input on value VTA provides

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
We provide safe, reliable bus and light rail service	53.9%	246
We help people get where they want to go	53.5%	244
We provide a service that a majority of our riders can't function without	34.9%	159
We look at the big picture in terms of transportation challenges, and work collaboratively with the County's many communities to address them	32.9%	150
We're a critical part of the economy and quality of life in Santa Clara County/Silicon Valley	32.5%	148
Our employees make a difference in community members' lives every day	18.2%	83
We create jobs in the community	15.4%	70
VTA cares about our local community and environment as an integral part of how we do business	13.8%	63
We're evidence of people's tax dollars at work	11.8%	54
We help ensure the sustainability of our environment	8.6%	39



Key Initial Findings: Employee Input and Grounding

- VTA its own champion
- VTA is a highly visible brand
- Unclear relevance to public
- Target audiences conscious about sustainability
- VTA often positions itself as a SERVICE provider rather than a SOLUTION provider
- VTA needs to improve its service
- VTA needs to better align with community vision/values
- Understand that increasing ridership is a priority
- Mid-level confidence that VTA can effectively respond to the county's needs



Key Initial Findings: Employee Input and Grounding

- Convenience/time and cost drive public transportation choices
- VTA's unique value proposition is moving residents' quality of life
- Needs to improve its infrastructure to improve impact
- The opportunities to increase ridership over the long term are varied
- Recognize real challenges with service and quality



External Research

General Population Survey
500 residents of Santa Clara County
18-minute phone survey

Focus Groups

In depth discussions based on phone survey findings Message and image testing

No choice but ridership, potential public willing building supporter	Latinas, ages 21 to 45
Potential riders, likely public will building supporter	White/Asian women, ages 21 to 45
Choice riders, likely public will building supporter	Lean Latino/some White men, ages 26 to 45
Potential riders, potential public will building supporter	Lean Latino/some White men and women, ages 50 to 64



Key Initial Findings

- Only about a quarter of respondents use public transit now.
- About half of respondents say they are likely to commit to taking public transit, carpooling, walking or biking one day a week
- Convenience outweighs all other factors in making transportation choices
- Faster service and better timed connections would make people most likely to want to take public transportation
- Health, community benefits and the economy tested the lowest



Key Initial Findings

- Riders generally happy
- Bay area and millennials more environmentally focused
- Service vs. Solutions provider
- Brand looks dated/not reflective of values, value and voice
- Need for a brand refresh to carry the initiative and the agency forward





Recommendations and Actions

- Make system more accessible and convenient
 - Transit Service redesign
- Make utilizing public transportation less daunting
 - Multimodal trip planner, electronic fares
- Get people to try public transportation, but make sure that it is a good experience or you could lose them.
 - Targeted ridership campaigns
- Ask people for a small time commitment once or twice a month this seems bite-size to them and therefore more manageable.
 - Let people know what this small commitment means – 108,000 fewer cars on the road or a 10% reduction in traffic.
 - Change public will-social norms on mobility



Brand Refresh

- Explored options for visual identity and tagline, color palette and messaging
- Tested via focus groups
- What "works" (motivates people to think differently about VTA and their transportation choices
- Refined based on internal and external input
- Implementing over 3-5 years













