

LINK21

CONNECT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Link21 Program Monthly Stakeholder Update

The Link21 Team continues to make significant progress on the Business Case, the financial feasibility for the Link21 Program, and in developing program concepts. The start of 2021 has also seen the ramp up of engagement work. The Link21 Team will provide the BART and CCJPA boards with regular updates on engagement and key activities moving forward.

New BART Engagement Manager Named



Nicole Franklin has been selected as the new BART Link21 engagement manager. Nicole is a public engagement and land use professional with more than 20 years of experience working with government agencies, permitting,

funding, and on construction phases of private development and public infrastructure projects.

Nicole previously served as a principal property development officer for BART. She will oversee the Engagement and Outreach contract and consultants for the Link21 Program.

Federal Funding

The Link21 Team is actively seeking funding opportunities to support the program. With equity being the foundation of the program, the Team has

prepared an application for a U.S. Department of Transportation RAISE planning grant (Rebuilding American Infrastructure and Sustainability Equity), formerly known as the BUILD and TIGER grants. These grants focus on safety and environmental protection generating equitable economic opportunity. If selected, the Link21 Program will use these funds to further its equity work and support additional community co-creation workshops.

Preparing the Future - Link 21 Interns

This year, the Link21 Program, partnering with BART, has made a commitment to prioritize mentoring youth and young



adults entering the workforce through BART's paid internship program. Capitalizing on BART's holistic approach, Link21 plans to build momentum with our interns on the front lines of equity. The internship program is designed to show future transit professionals the importance of equity from the very start of their careers. Through research, they will develop a youth engagement and outreach strategy using project-based learning. Interns will be exposed to the public agency and consultant worlds and the many facets of transportation planning. The Link21 Team will empower young people to speak their minds and contribute to planning processes that will affect them well into the future!

Public Workshops in Full Swing

With 21 counties and more than 160 cities, the Engagement and Outreach Team has its work cut out for them – and they are ready! Over the summer, the Link21 Team will host several virtual public workshops across the Northern California Megaregion (Megaregion) to educate, engage, and solicit feedback from the public. Workshops have been held for West Contra Costa and Contra Costa County, the City of Oakland and Alameda County, San Francisco and the surrounding areas, and Solano County.

The workshops are interactive, focus on different areas of the Megaregion, and are co-hosted by transportation agencies and other Link21 partner agencies. The input from these meetings will be used to help shape the program during the early planning phase.

Mark your calendar for the next public workshop. A full listing of past events and future meetings can be found at [Link21program.org/events](https://www.link21program.org/events).

In addition to hosting public workshops, Link21 Team members have been speaking nationally about the program. Camille Tsao (CCJPA project manager) and Peter Gertler (HNTB program manager) served on different panels during the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail Conference held in June.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

JULY 15 - PLACER, SACRAMENTO, AND YOLO COUNTIES, 5:30 PM

UPCOMING WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

JULY 19 - JURISDICTIONAL WORKING GROUP

JULY 26 - STAFF LEVEL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TEAM

AUG 5 - EXECUTIVE LEVEL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TEAM

UPCOMING VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

JULY 20 & 22 - During these live Q&A sessions, the Link21 technical team will answer questions and use the input to help shape the program.

Look Ahead

The BART Board of Directors authorized four contracts for Planning and Engineering (ARUP/WSP Joint Venture), Engagement and Outreach (HDR), Travel Demand and Land Use (Cambridge Systematics), and Environmental (ICF) professional services to support the further development of Link21. These consultant teams represent a mix of international, national, and local firms with over 80 Small Business Entity/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms expected to begin work later this summer. These firms have extensive experience working in the 21-county Megaregion.

We are continuing our work to introduce the program to stakeholders throughout the Megaregion. Planned activities include:

- Presenting the Market Analysis
- Developing the Preliminary Program Concepts
- Presenting findings of the first round of community co-creation workshops

Equity Update

The Link21 Team has completed its initial synthesis of input received during Round 1 of community co-creation workshops. Feedback from the 350 participants will help shape Link21's approach to equity, including technical work. This summer, the Link21 Team will begin the second round of community co-creation with community-based organizations (CBO) and participants to share back key insights and to update them on Link21's progress.

In this outreach, we are contacting additional CBOs to expand the reach of our engagement work. The second round of community co-creation workshops will help inform the update of Link21's priority populations definition.

Connecting with Link21

Website: www.Link21program.org

Email: info@link21program.org

Phone: 855-905-LINK (9045)