LINK21
CONNECT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Link21 Crossing Project Preliminary Purpose and Need

PRELIMINARY PURPOSE	PRELIMINARY NEED
Enhance access to economic opportunities and boost the Megaregion's competitiveness by improving rail connectivity and network performance, unifying fare structures, and improving access, thereby contributing to a safer and more desirable passenger rail experience.	**Insufficient passenger rail service:** Existing rail services and networks are not sufficiently integrated and do not meet the needs of existing and future megaregional residents and businesses. Limited and irregular service frequency, especially in off-peak periods, long travel times, lack of integration, inadequate transfer points, passenger experience issues, personal safety concerns, challenges to using transit for people with disabilities, and differing fare structures and instruments are among the factors preventing residents and businesses from using rail to meet their travel needs.
Increase opportunities for priority populations by expanding their access to improved and affordable passenger rail service and by reducing potential displacement resulting from new investments.	**Existing passenger rail systems and operations insufficiently address mobility needs of communities that have been marginalized:** These communities, including Link21's priority populations, disproportionately rely on transit to reach employment, healthcare, education centers, government services, and social destinations. Inconsistent availability of rail, combined with service inefficiencies, limit their mobility. Many priority population residents lack safe, affordable, and connected rail transit services, especially outside of traditional commute periods, and they have been negatively impacted by previous infrastructure investments.
Increase passenger rail capacity in the Transbay Corridor to meet long-term forecasted travel demand.	**Passenger rail capacity constraints:** Existing infrastructure in the Transbay Corridor is insufficient to meet pre-pandemic and projected future travel needs, resulting in crowding and lack of availability. Forecasted growth in this corridor will exacerbate its capacity issues.
Expand redundancy and resiliency in the Transbay Corridor to minimize service disruptions and maintain mobility.	**Lack of redundancy:** Rail service in the Transbay Corridor is vulnerable to disruption due to the existence of only a single rail crossing — the BART Transbay Tube. Any major disruption to its service negatively impacts travelers regionwide. Transbay travelers are dependent on this single crossing and the congested freeway/bridge system.
Enhance sustainability and quality of life by providing greater mobility, fighting climate change through a reduction in transportation-related regional greenhouse gas emissions, and reducing automobile travel and automobile-related accidents, injuries, and fatalities.	**Negative transportation-related impacts:** Regional greenhouse gas emission reduction targets cannot be met without major reductions in the vehicle miles traveled. Automobile accidents and fatalities are increasing throughout California. The Bay Area has one of the worst average commute times in the nation, and commuters spend over 100 hours a year stuck in traffic, with a cost to the economy of $2.4 billion (2019).