

LINK21

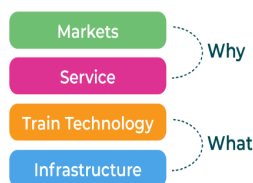
CONNECT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Link21 Program Monthly Stakeholder Update

Building Better Service

The Link21 Team will be evaluating potential markets, service planning options, train technology, and infrastructure to help identify projects that will better connect the Northern California Megaregion (Megaregion) passenger rail network. The Link21 Program (Link21) is different from other transportation projects because it is focused on improving the entire Megaregion.

The first two building blocks are markets and services. The Link21 Team needs to understand the Megaregion's markets, or areas, and what services are needed before decisions on train technology and infrastructure can be made. The Link21 market analysis shows the team which areas in the Megaregion can be best served by passenger rail improvements by evaluating which areas have the most unmet rail potential.



The second building block is service, the passenger experience, which includes travel time, frequency, and service hours. Through a survey, the Engagement and Outreach Team will be asking the public about their service improvements – what they consider to be good service – longer hours, frequency of trains, system resiliency, capacity, and others.

The third and fourth building blocks, train technology, and infrastructure, will come later in the Program.

Plan Bay Area 2050 Touts Link21 as Anchor Rail Plan

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) adopted the final version of Plan Bay Area 2050 (PBA 2050) at a joint meeting on October 21.

PBA 2050 is a long range regional plan that focuses on housing, the economy, transportation, and the environment. The plan includes 35 strategies that aim to improve these elements in the nine county Bay Area. According to the plan, Link21 is seen as a vital component to modernizing the regional passenger rail network, and helping to position the Bay Area's rail network as a world-class system.

Now that PBA 2050 has been adopted, MTC and ABAG will now focus on an implementation plan that identifies goals and objectives to ensure it is successful.

Creating New Definitions

Last month, the Link21 Team completed its second round of community co-creation workshops and distributed a survey to help increase the team's reach. Nearly 200 community members participated in workshops co-hosted with 11 community-based organizations (CBOs). The Link21 Team partnered with additional CBOs and a research firm to conduct a survey and poll that reached over 1,600 additional stakeholders. The Link21 Team focused on hearing from community members throughout the Megaregion, often overlooked in early planning. This

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included collaborating with CBOs with connections to communities such as the unhoused, formerly incarcerated, and those vulnerable to displacement. To be successful in this effort, the Link21 Team did outreach in Oakland and San Francisco and the counties of Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, Sacramento, Stanislaus, and Merced.

Feedback from these workshops and surveys will be used to develop a new priority population definition. Link21’s priority populations are underserved areas experiencing inequitable outcomes, which the Link21 Team has committed to prioritizing throughout planning.

This new definition will reflect feedback regarding burdens, concerns, and desired outcomes. The Link21 Team is collaborating with BART’s Office of Civil Rights to develop a strategy to publicize the results of this outreach.

More broadly, input from both rounds of community co-creation is being considered throughout program work, including the efforts to identify desirable service aspirations of priority populations.

Fall Outreach – A Deep Dive into the Community

The Engagement and Outreach Team will take Link21



on the road in November through a three-pronged approach (grassroots outreach, webinars and live Q&A, and partner agency

and advocacy group meetings) that is designed to reach more stakeholders, meet people where they are, receive feedback that can be shared with the Link21 technical teams, and continue to cultivate relationships with partner agencies and advocacy groups.

The Link21 Team plans to do this through a robust grassroots outreach effort that includes stops at major fairs and festivals, and performing outreach onboard various BART and Capitol Corridor routes and stations.

Stakeholders reached through these methods will be

provided with information on the upcoming webinars and live Q&A sessions, and will be encouraged to take a survey that will help the Link21 Team better understand the service aspirations of travelers. Information gleaned from these surveys will help the technical teams with service plan development.

In addition to grassroots outreach, Link21 will host webinars that provide an update on what the team has been working on, our findings so far, the market analysis, next steps, and how the public can help us get there. Four live Q&A sessions will be held on November 13, 16, 17, and 18 with subject matter experts from Link21.

The third prong of this approach includes meeting with partner agencies and advocacy groups to provide an update on Link21 and to encourage these agencies to share information about the fall outreach series and the survey.

Upcoming Events*

FALL 2021	VARIOUS FAIRS AND FESTIVALS
FALL 2021	IN STATION & ON TRAIN OUTREACH
NOV 13	FALL OUTREACH LIVE Q&A, 10:30 AM
NOV 16	FALL OUTREACH LIVE Q&A, 6:30 PM
NOV 17	FALL OUTREACH LIVE Q&A, 6:30 PM
NOV 18	FALL OUTREACH LIVE Q&A, 6:30 PM
1Q 2022	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TEAM EXECUTIVE AND STAFF LEVEL MEETINGS
1Q 2022	JURISDICTIONAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

*For more information visit [Link21program.org/events](https://www.Link21program.org/events)

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