

PHASE 1: CONCEPT IDENTIFICATION

2022 – 2024



WHAT HAPPENS IN PHASE 1

Phase 1 builds on the foundational work established in Phase 0 with the Business Case Framework that outlines Link21 vision, goals, objectives, process and criteria for measuring rail improvement solutions. The Program's commitment to equity continues with ongoing implementation of equitable engagement through partnerships and co-creation with community-based organizations as well as the establishment of a community member Equity Advisory Council for Link21.

Phase 1 focuses on exploring and assessing potential concepts for a new crossing of the San Francisco Bay as well as other key service and supporting infrastructure improvements for both the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and regional rail networks (Capitol Corridor is one of the operators using the regional rail network).

Concepts are informed by stakeholder and public input, the market analysis, ongoing technical studies, service planning, ridership modeling, and an environmental assessment of community constraints and opportunities.

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Concepts are created from four key building blocks:



MARKETS

Places that could be served by an improved train network



SERVICE

Enhanced train service for both BART and Capitol Corridor



TECHNOLOGY

New, modern train technology to deliver urban | metro and intercity | express service, compatible with the train network we have today



INFRASTRUCTURE

Improved infrastructure such as the crossing, tracks, and stations to support improved service

Concepts include a new underground train crossing between San Francisco and Oakland (a second BART crossing or a new Regional Rail crossing) connecting communities in San Francisco and the Peninsula to the East Bay with more travel options and better service. Regardless of which train technology is in the crossing, concepts will include additional improvements to both systems.



CONCEPT IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

Concepts must be able to operate and provide benefits on their own, and not impede other regional agencies', planned and proposed projects. Concept evaluation and refinement will take several steps with analysis becoming more detailed each time. Stakeholders and the public will have opportunities to provide timely input throughout the refinement process. While the Program will not narrow down to one concept during this phase of work, the goal is to understand benefits and tradeoffs of potential improvements.



WHY PHASE 1 IS IMPORTANT

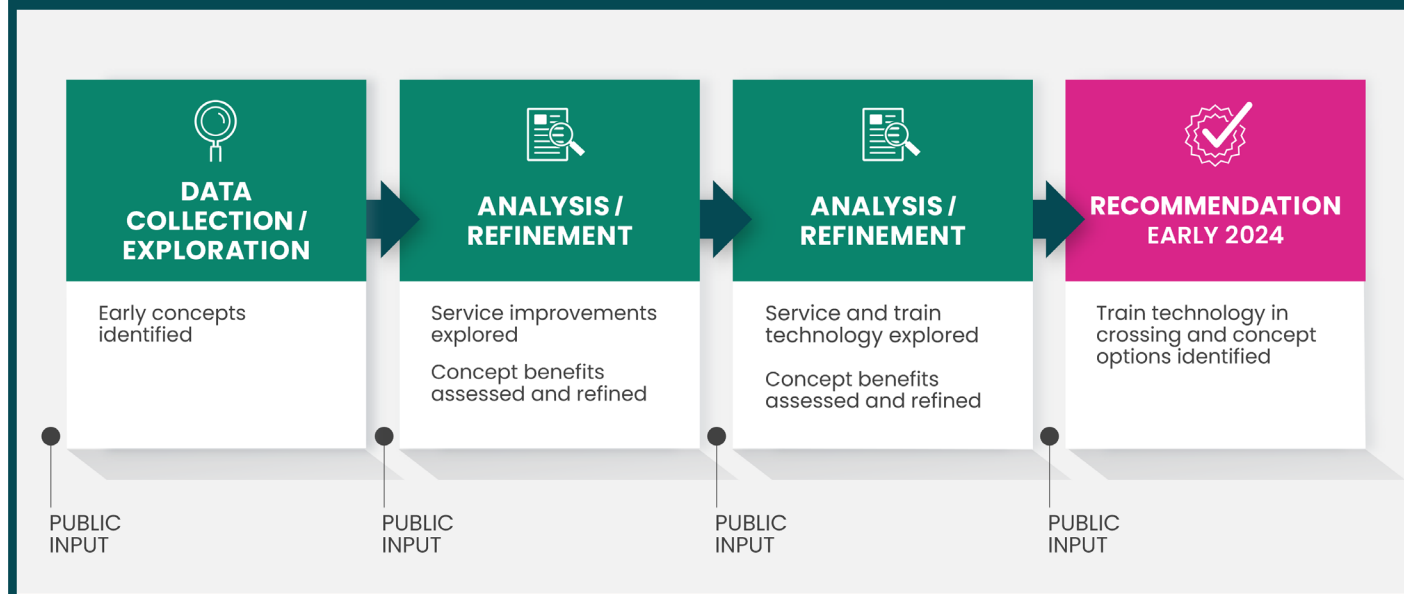
Phase 1 will identify potential transportation solutions to better connect our existing passenger train network and make riding the train to reach megaregional destinations a more reliable and accessible travel option. Northern California is a region where people live, work, and recreate across county lines. While we are experiencing some changes in travel patterns post-pandemic, several Northern California freeways are heavily congested and nearing capacity today.

As the region and transit ridership continues to recover, and population growth increases, people need travel options that connect them to where

they want to go quickly, safely, and affordably – whether traveling a few miles or a few counties over. During these uncertain times, Link21 will continue to focus on land use and ridership modeling to help identify concepts that are the most responsive to future needs of the Megaregion.

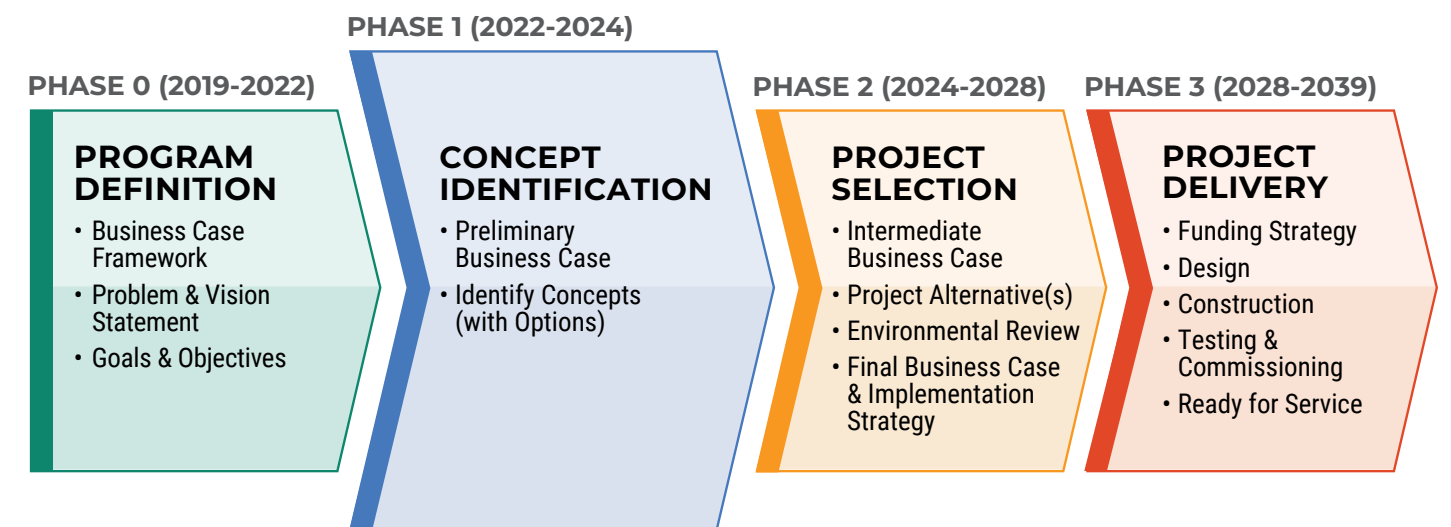
Phase 1 lays the groundwork for future project investments that could potentially be designed and built to preserve the quality of life for generations to come. Concepts include improvements for both BART and Regional Rail that aim to promote equity and livability, support economic opportunity, and advance environmental protection.

PHASE 1 CONCEPT EXPLORATION PROCESS



In early 2024, the Program will go to the BART and Capitol Corridor Board of Directors with a recommendation of which train technology should go in the crossing. Concept options that include station and service improvements, and infrastructure to support those improvements will continue to be assessed in 2024 as the Program works to identify a project to advance to Phase 2 Environmental Review.

PROGRAM TIMELINE



ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH, & EQUITY



HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE

Link21 is committed to equitable engagement and is seeking input to inform the development of future rail projects. There are many ways to engage in Link21 and we want to hear from you.

Visit our website to look for ongoing opportunities to connect with us, actively participate in events, learn, and provide valuable input throughout each step of the

planning process. Together, we can create a connected, equitable, and accessible network of train service that cares for people, the environment, and our quality of life for generations to come.



To get involved, visit Link21Program.org or leave us a voicemail at 855-905-Link (5465).



Follow BART and Capitol Corridor on [f](#) [@](#) [t](#) [in](#) and join the #Link21 conversation.

Link21 is sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District and the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority. The Program Team is also working closely with our Northern California rail partners, and the State of California to ensure an integrated rail program.

