

LINK21

CONNECT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Stakeholder Update



What Type of Train Service in the New Crossing? Moving Toward a Decision in Early 2024

Link21 is approaching an important milestone that will identify what type of train service should operate in the future train crossing between Oakland and San Francisco. All concepts being considered for Link21 improve service, increase train trips across the Bay, create access, travel reliability, and better integration between the BART and Regional Rail train networks, however there are differences to consider.

For example, a second BART crossing would result in a significant increase in service frequency to communities currently served by BART within the East Bay and to San Francisco, while also offering opportunity to serve additional areas in parts of Oakland, Alameda and San Francisco. This service with higher frequency of trains and shorter distances between stations stopping at each is provided by BART and Caltrain on the Peninsula with their new electrified vehicles.



Regional Rail in the crossing creates faster and more frequent service between Richmond and the Oakland Coliseum to San Francisco and the Peninsula, while also creating the opportunity for a one-seat ride without transfer on longer distance trips like Sacramento to San Francisco. This type of service is provided by Capitol Corridor, also Caltrain, Altamont Corridor Express, and San Joaquins just to name a few.



Capitol Corridor will operate zero emission trains in the future.

Through this fall, the Program will continue to evaluate concepts and seek input that will lead to a recommendation for consideration of a Preliminary Project to be advanced by the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (Capitol Corridor) Boards of Directors. Understanding the benefits and trade-offs of these two options as riders, communities, and the 21-County Megaregion is a big part of the discussion over the next few months.

Input from stakeholders and community members is an important part of development and analysis to understand preferences or priorities between the benefits and differences offered by BART or Regional Rail in the new train crossing. Following this important milestone decision, Link21 will continue to evaluate and refine Project alternatives, such as station locations and access. This transformational rail Program requires the continued partnership and engagement with megaregional agencies and the public to refine and identify the Project over the next two years that will be advanced into environmental review.

Link with Us This Fall to Join the Conversation

Participate in an event or look for Link21 in your community to learn more and help connect Northern California with better train service for future generations.

Virtual Events

Attend to hear a presentation and ask questions.

- **Wednesday, Nov. 1, 6–7:30 pm**
Community meeting
- **Monday, Nov. 6, 6–7 pm**
Office hour



Online Open House

Join anytime 24/7 for 30 days starting in early November, to participate when it works for you.



Continuing Connections in 2023

Throughout 2023, the Link21 Team has continued to prioritize robust engagement by building, and strengthening relationships with communities and stakeholders across the Megaregion. So far in 2023, the Program Team has participated in over 140 events, connecting with over 6,300 people in total. Engagement events have included tabling at transit stations and in communities, interviews with community leaders, meetings with jurisdiction and agency partners, co-hosted events with community-based organizations, in-person open houses, virtual meetings, and the launch of Link21's first Online Open House.



BART's Equity Programs Administrator, Tim Lohrentz, presents on Link21 to Potrero Dogpatch Merchants Association in July 2023 at Papito, a local neighborhood restaurant.

The Program Team continues to connect with government officials and community partners across multiple regions, as well as focusing on member feedback and equity metrics with the Link21 Equity Advisory Council. Key themes from public input include potential environmental and equity impacts, integration with other existing and planned projects, safety, connections, and new access provided by a new crossing. The Link21 Team's commitment to inclusive engagement remains steadfast as input is gathered, concerns are addressed, and concepts are refined for a more accessible and inclusive transportation future.

Past / Upcoming Meetings and Presentations

9/15	Old Oakland Farmers' Market
9/16	Transit Month - Meet the BART Anime Mascots
9/23	Native American Health Center Powwow
9/30	Equity 4 Black Berkeley People's Assembly
10/2	Link21 and Jack London Improvement District hosted Community Open House
10/10	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Council on Rail Transportation's 2023 Annual Meeting
10/12	San Francisco Human Rights Commission
10/17	Bay Area Council, Transportation Committee: Link21, Downtown Rail Extension, High-Speed Rail presentation Link21 Equity Advisory Council Meeting
10/18	BART Business Advisory Committee
10/26	Asian American Architects and Engineers (AAAE) 44th Annual Dinner Gala

Connect with Link21

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