

# LINK21

CONNECT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

## A Transformative Program for Northern California

**Link 21 (formerly called New Transbay Rail Crossing)** will transform the rail network serving the 21-county Northern California Megaregion, which ranges from Sacramento to Monterey, San Francisco to the Central Valley and points between. The program is currently in the early planning stages. At the core of Link21 is a new transbay crossing between San Francisco and the Oakland Area that will:

- **INCREASE** connections between affordable housing and high-quality jobs
- **ENABLE** fast, frequent, reliable, safe, and accessible rail service
- **IMPROVE** air quality by creating alternatives to driving
- **MEET** the future travel demands of Northern California's growing, diverse population

The Northern California Megaregion is home to more than 12.5 million people and is the fifth largest economy in the United States. Population is expected to reach 16 million by 2050. Travel demands across the region are expected to increase sharply in coming decades.

The San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) and the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (Capitol Corridor) have partnered to advance Link21.



[Link21Program.org](https://Link21Program.org)

October 2021

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MEGAREGIONAL RAIL MAP

Connect Northern California



## Looking Toward Recovery

Because of the pandemic, Northern California, the United States, and the world are facing an unprecedented health emergency with vast economic impacts. BART and Capitol Corridor, as transit operators, have continued to provide essential services during these challenging times.

While meeting current transit demand, BART and Capitol Corridor continue to look toward the future. Northern California is resilient, and the region has recovered from disasters in the past. Transportation agencies, such as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, anticipate that the long-term trends in jobs, travel and population will not decrease due to COVID-19.

The Link21 Program has been discussed and planned for more than a decade. BART and Capitol Corridor will continue to adapt and plan for a time when the pandemic is behind us. We look forward to people returning to transit as a preferred transportation option. This program will ensure that Northern California's transit system will meet their needs.

## Program Vision

Link21 will transform the passenger rail network in the Northern California Megaregion into a **faster**, more **integrated** system that provides a safe, **efficient**, **equitable**, and **affordable** means of travel for all types of trips.

This program, including a new (including commuter, intercity, and high-speed rail) connection between the Oakland area and San Francisco, will make rail transit the **mode of choice** for trips throughout the megaregion.

## Program Phases

2019-2021

### PHASE 0

#### Program Definition

- Business Case Framework
- Problem and Vision Statement
- Goals and Objectives
- Identify Program Concepts

2022-2023

### PHASE 1

#### Program Identification

- Preliminary Business Case
- **Program** Alternatives
- Identify **Program**

2024-2028

### PHASE 2

#### Project(s) Selection

- Intermediate Business Case
- **Project** Alternative(s)
- CEQA NOD/NEPA ROD\*
- Final Business Case and Implementation Strategy

2029-2040

### PHASE 3

#### Project(s) Delivery

- Design
- Construction
- Testing and Commissioning
- Begin Service

ENGAGEMENT

\* CEQA NOD = California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Determination  
NEPA ROD = National Environmental Policy Act Record of Decision

## Program Goals and Objectives

The following four goals reflect the broad benefits that will be achieved by this program. The foundational goal—**TRANSFORM THE PASSENGER EXPERIENCE**—serves as the catalyst to enable the other three goals to come to fruition.



### TRANSFORM THE PASSENGER EXPERIENCE

- Provide better service
- Improve reliability and system performance
- Build ridership and mode share



### ENHANCE COMMUNITY AND LIVABILITY

- Connect people and places
- Improve safety, health, and air quality
- Advance equity



### SUPPORT ECONOMIC GROWTH AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

- Improve access to opportunity and employment
- Connect major economic, research, and education centers
- Enable transit-supportive land use



### ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND PROTECTION

- Increase climate change resilience
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Conserve resources

## Our Commitment to Equity and Inclusion

Link21 is committed to equity and will focus on partnering with priority populations to maximize benefits and minimize burdens for communities that, historically and currently, suffer and experience negative impacts from infrastructure projects. We will collaborate with these communities to understand the equity implications of Link21 and work toward beneficial program processes and outcomes. Link21 commits to:

- Developing and implementing a process that advances equity through all aspects of the program
- Building respectful and interactive community partnerships through accessible community engagement
- Valuing the experience and input of individuals from priority populations
- Ensuring that disadvantaged and small businesses are integrated throughout the program's lifecycle

