

# LINK21

CONNECT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

## West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee

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May 24, 2024



# Today's Meeting

## Purpose:

Information item for feedback and discussion

## Topics:

1. Overview of the Link21 Program
2. Upcoming Key Milestone: Technology/Network Decision for New Train Crossing Between San Francisco and Oakland
  - **Standard-gauge** that connects to Regional Rail network and destinations in larger megaregion; or
  - **Broad-gauge** that connects to BART network and regional destinations
3. Considerations for West County
4. Next Steps



# Link21: Planning A Better Future

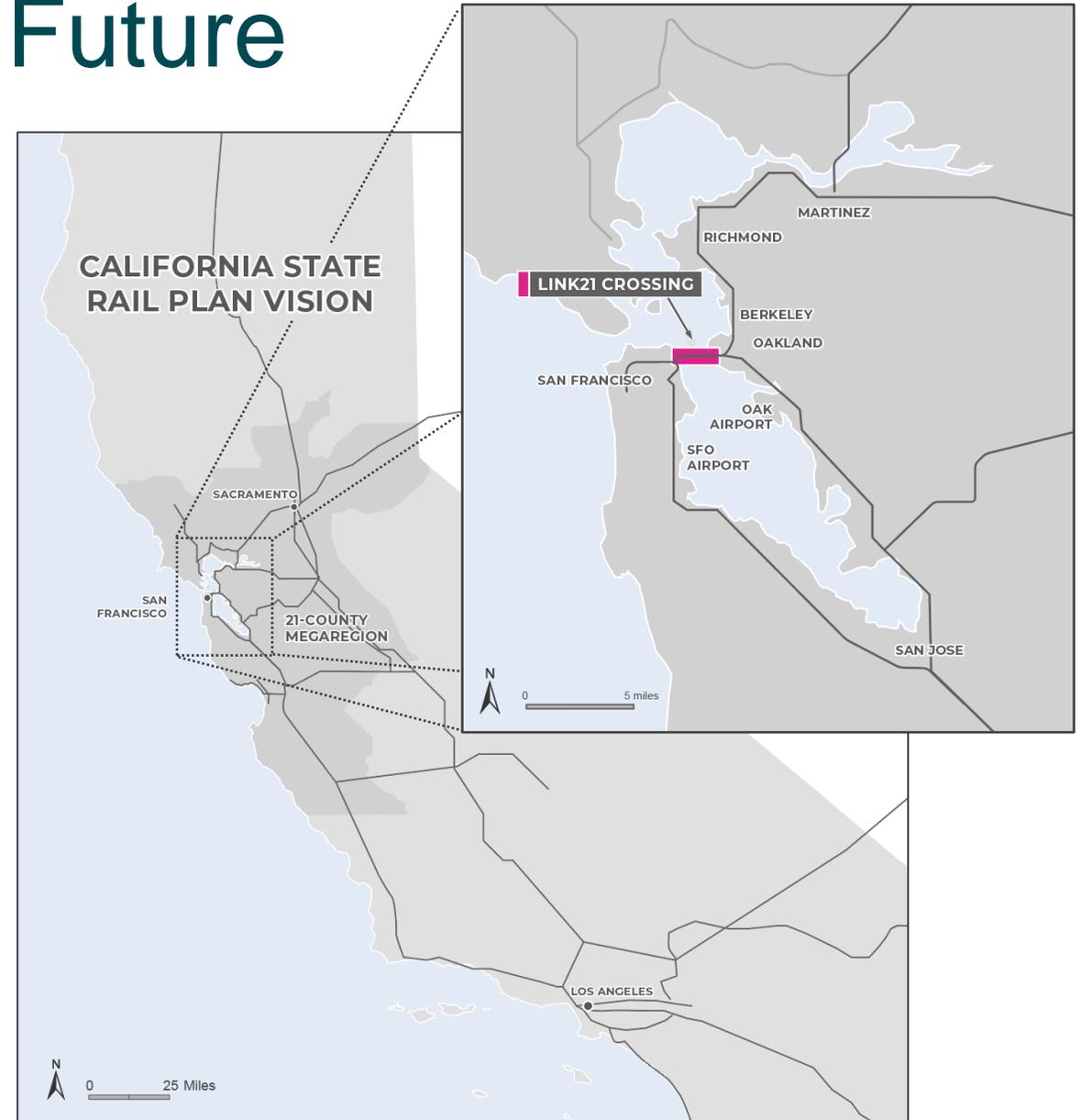
## Connecting People & Places

### The Vision:

Link21 & its partners will provide faster, more connected, equitable, affordable, & accessible train service for the megaregion

### The Program:

- Construct new Transbay rail crossing
- Improve BART & Regional Rail service connections





# Planning For A Better Future

**Regional Rail Plan  
Metropolitan  
Transportation  
Commission (MTC)**  
identified alternatives  
for new transbay rail  
crossings

**CA State Rail Plan**  
Caltrans identified new Transbay  
Rail Crossing

**Horizon Initiative & Core  
Capacity Transit Study**  
Metropolitan Transportation  
Commission (MTC) identified  
investments

**Plan Bay Area  
2050**  
MTC identified  
strategies and  
named transportation  
planning Projects  
including Link21

**Revised CA  
State Rail  
Plan**  
Caltrans  
identified  
Link21 - critical to  
future rail vision

**Federal Corridor  
Identification &  
Development  
Program**  
CalSTA identified  
corridors including  
Link21



**Measure RR**  
Projects: Relieve crowding,  
increase redundancy & reduce  
traffic congestion including new  
transbay rail crossing

**Regional Measure 3  
Bridge Toll Finance**  
including Transbay Rail  
Crossing

**State Funding to  
Capitol Corridor  
Program** budgeted  
annually, includes Link21

**Transit & Intercity  
Rail Program**  
TIRCP Grant to Capitol  
Corridor for Link21



# Finding The Right Solution

## The Challenge (Problem Statement):

### Megaregional Access

- Rail provides insufficient access to:
  - Frequent, reliable, time-competitive service
  - Travel options beyond driving
  - Jobs, destinations, opportunities

### Equity

- Priority populations face challenges related to transportation, housing, access to jobs & essential non-work destinations

### Transbay Capacity

- Transbay rail capacity may be insufficient in future
- Congested freeways & limited rail alternatives negatively impact regionwide travelers, air quality & health



# Link21 Goals & Objectives

## Transform the Passenger Experience



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



## Promote Equity and Livability

- Connect people and places
- Improve safety, health, and air quality
- Advance equity and protect against community instability and displacement



## Support Economic Opportunity and Global Competitiveness

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



## Advance Environmental Stewardship and Protection

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



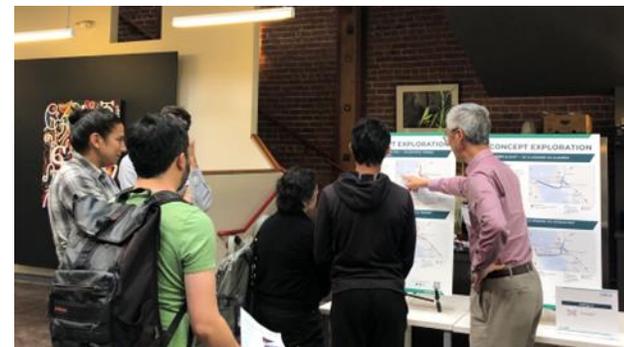
# Link21 Commitment to Equity & Engagement

## Advancing Equitable Outcomes

- Community Partnerships & Co-Creation
- Equity Advisory Council
- Targeting Priority Populations
- Equity Metrics & Analysis

## Program Shaped by Public Input

- Briefings, presentations, large events & meetings
- Community events and In-station outreach
- In-person & digital communications



# What We Have Heard (Since 2021)

## Common Themes – All Audiences

- Faster, direct, convenient megaregional connections to San Francisco & Peninsula (direct connections)
- Improved reliability & greater frequency of service
- Increased late night & weekend service
- Bicycle & pedestrian facilities at stations to reduce personal vehicle usage
- Improved safety & security, ADA accessibility, & minimized displacement / gentrification
- Fare equity & affordability



# Link21 Program Key Milestone

## Phase 1 Work Completed:

- ✓ Concept Development & Analysis
- ✓ Service Planning
- ✓ Options Evaluation
- ✓ Engagement & Outreach

## Next Steps:

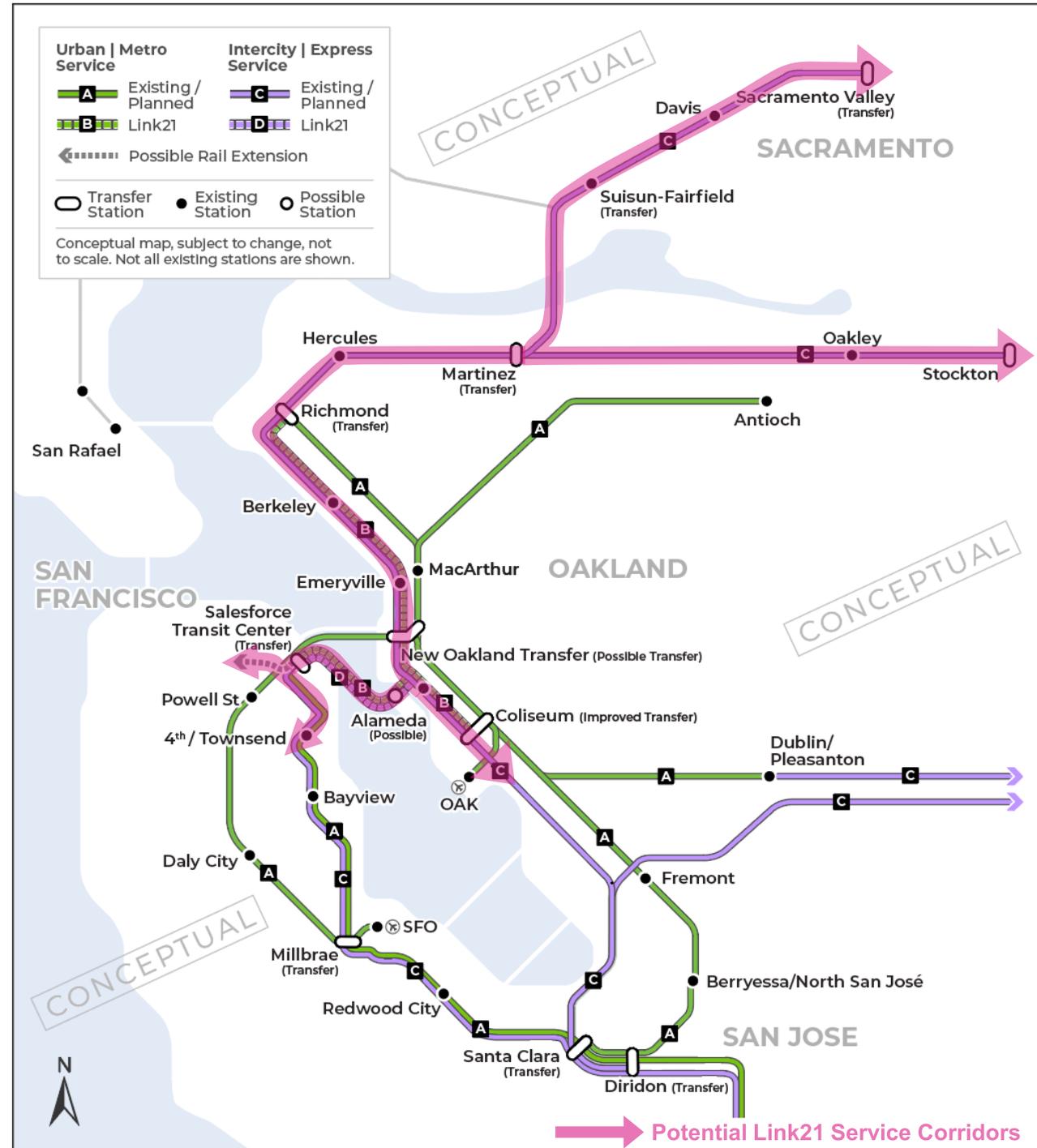
- Decision on Train Technology in the crossing
  - Standard-gauge (Regional Rail)
  - Broad-gauge (BART)
- Further planning to define project (alignment, station locations, etc.)



# Concept: Standard-gauge (Regional Rail) Crossing Accommodates multiple train services

## Example Concepts help to understand trade-offs

- New Urban | Metro service at new & existing stations
- Improved travel times & more direct megaregional trips
- Complements existing BART crossing
- Provides redundancy and alleviates crowding
- Utilizing existing rail corridors – new track alignment is underground

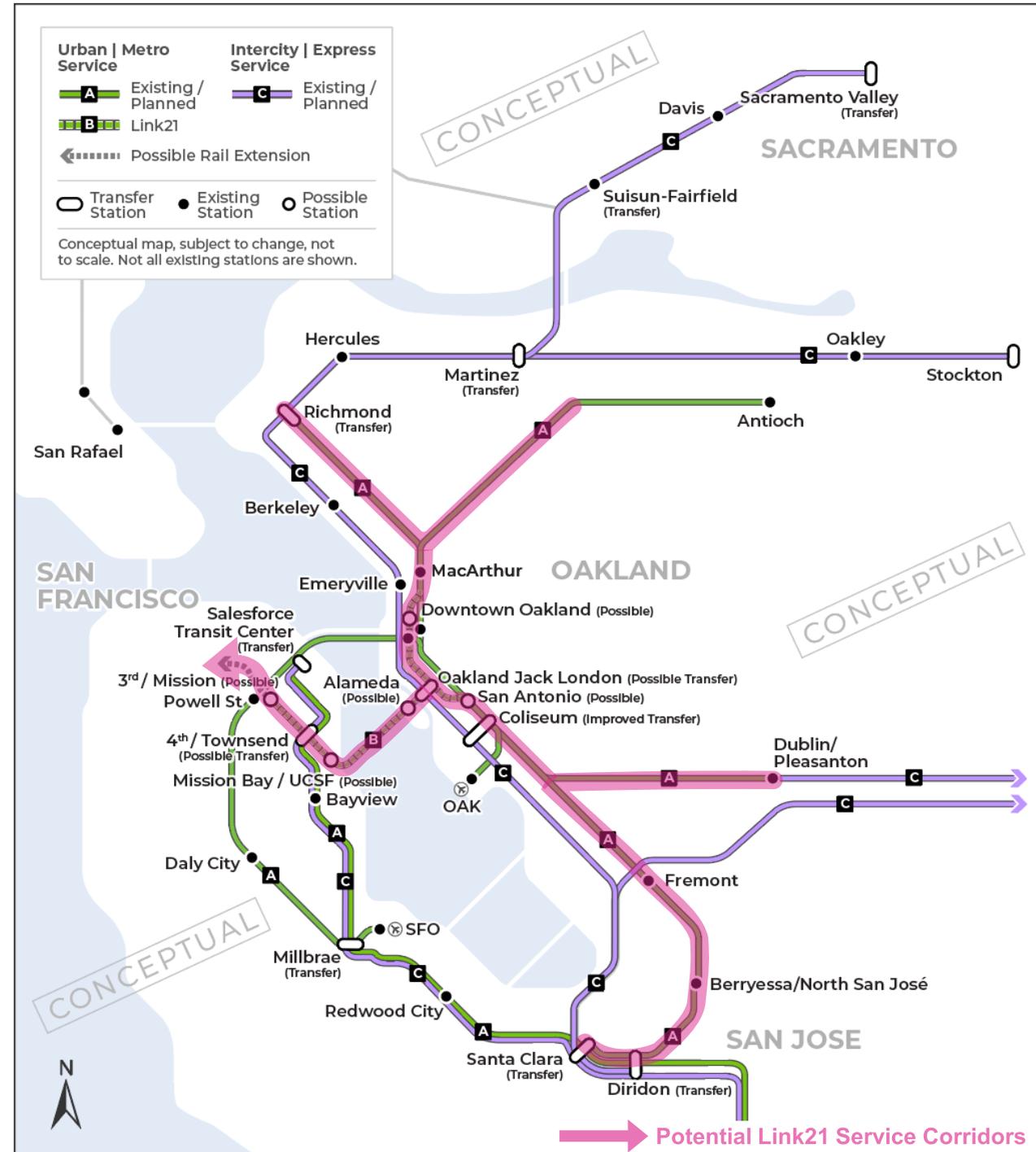


# Concept: Broad-gauge (BART) Crossing

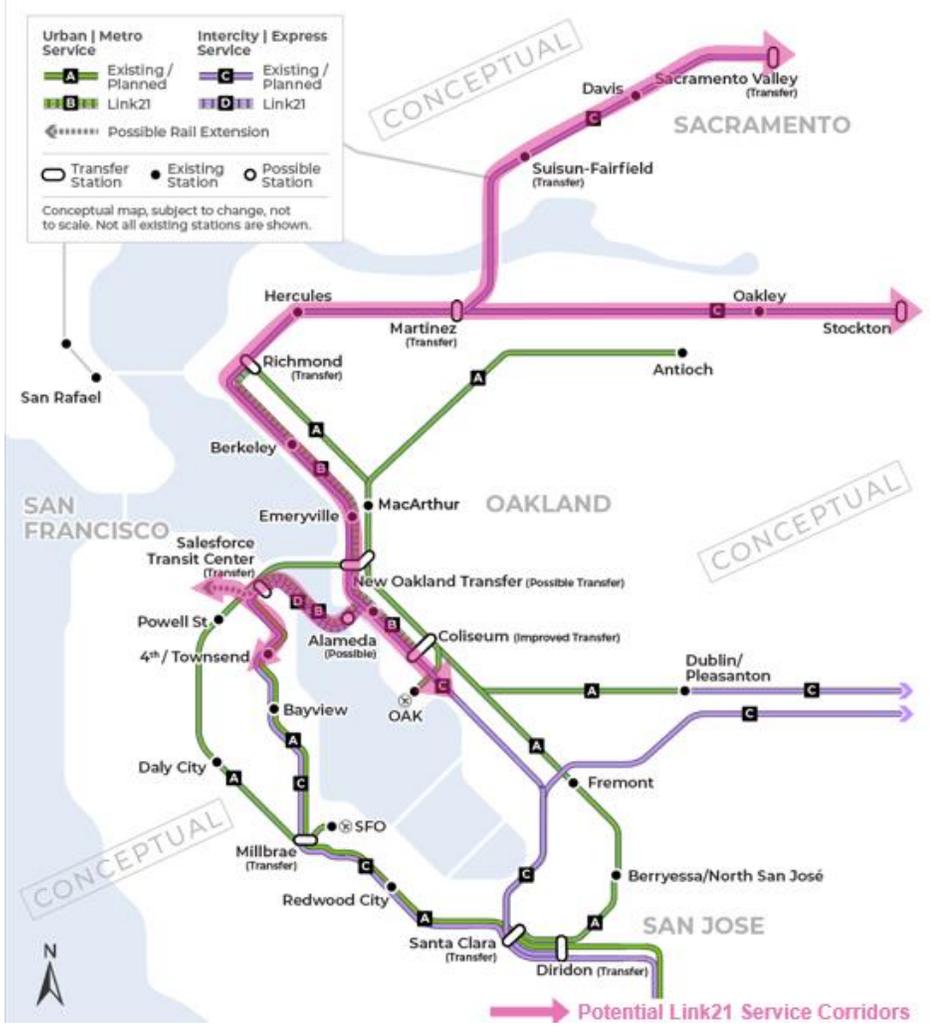
## Accommodates only BART service

### Example Concepts help to understand trade-offs

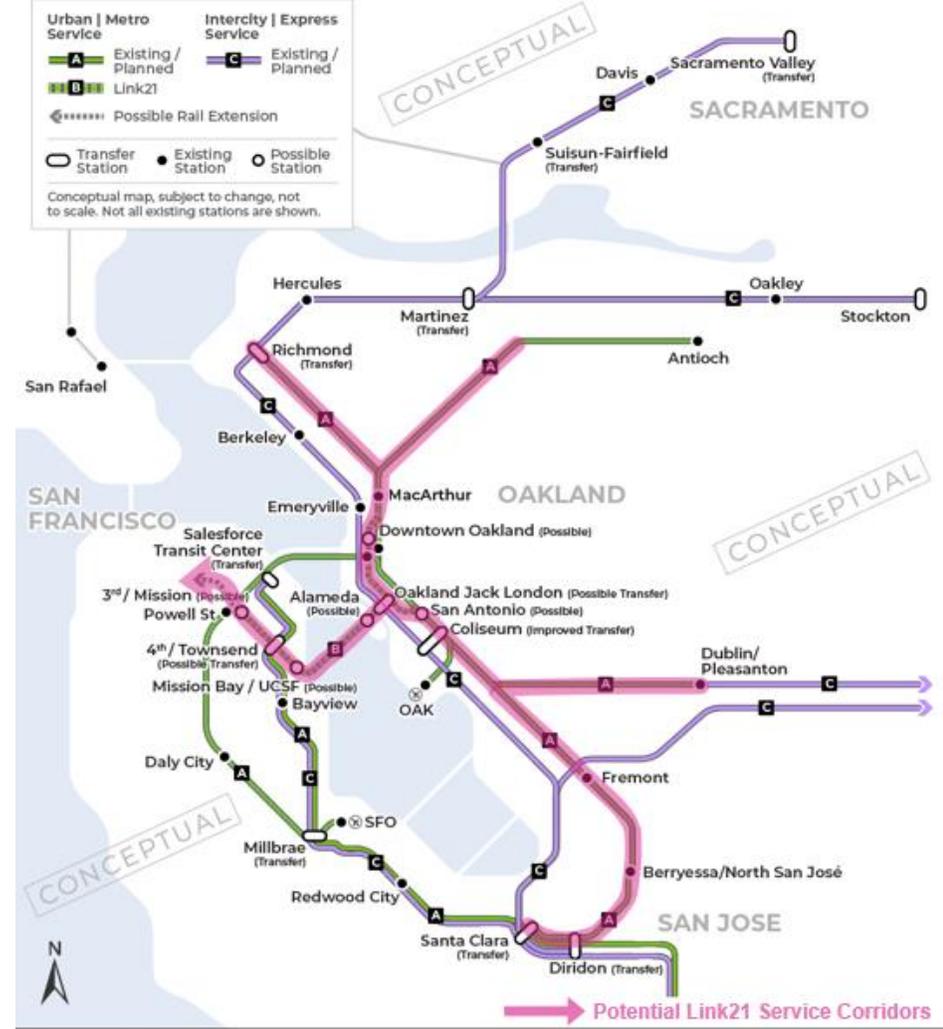
- New Urban | Metro service at new stations
- Includes Oakland transfer between BART & Regional Rail
- Improved service on existing BART lines
- BART trains could use either crossing (provides service redundancy and reduces crowding)
- Utilizing existing rail corridors – new track alignment is underground



# Comparison: Standard-gauge vs. Broad-gauge



OR



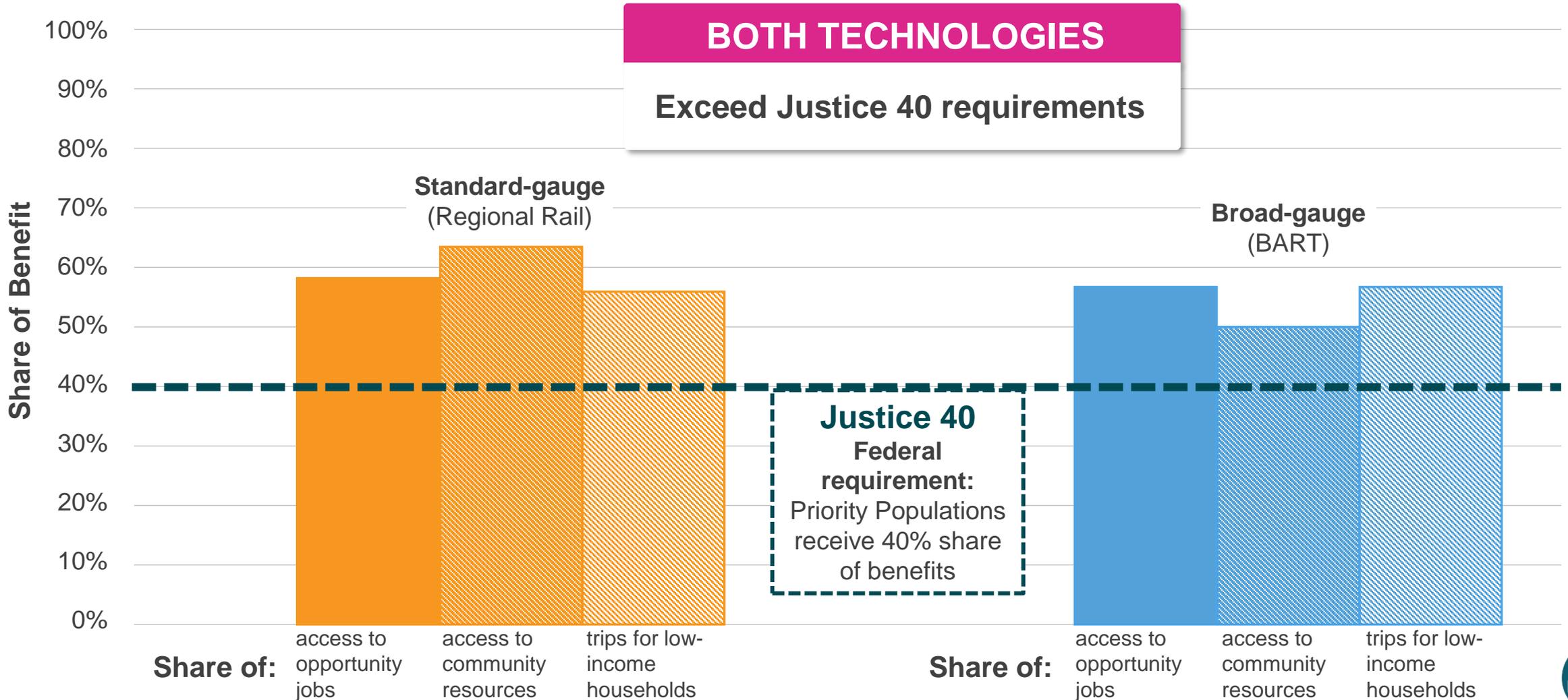
**Standard-gauge** connects to the Regional Rail Network and Megaregional Destinations

**Broad-gauge** connects to the BART Network and Regional Destinations



# Similarities: Benefits Share to Priority Populations

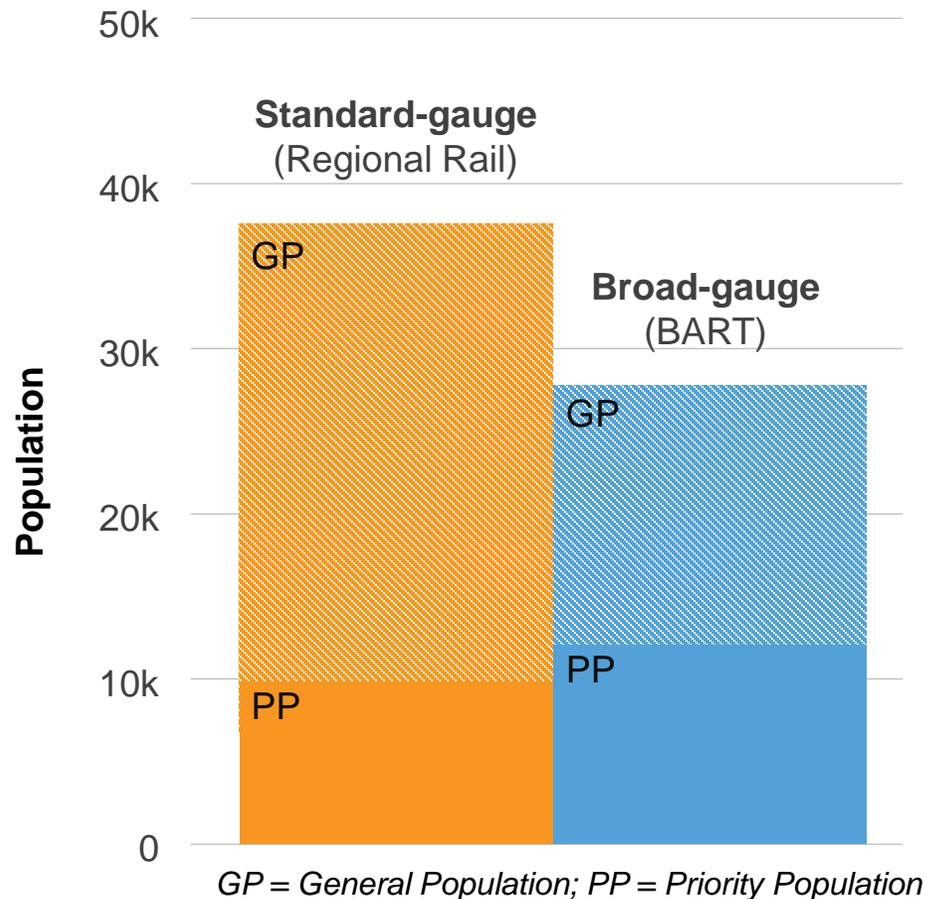
## Promoting Equity and Livability



# Similarities: Access to Stations & Jobs

## Supporting Economic Opportunity & Livability

### Access within ½ Mile of Station



### Jobs within 1 hour commute

- Approximately **45,000 more jobs will be accessible** for the average person with either crossing
- Approximately **80,000 more jobs will be accessible** for the average person within priority population areas with either crossing

### BOTH TECHNOLOGIES

support economic opportunity & livability by improving access to stations and jobs



# West County Considerations

## Benefits of Standard-gauge (Regional Rail):

- Potential new urban metro service (10 min frequency or better) at existing Richmond and Berkeley stations that connects to the inner East Bay, San Francisco, and the Peninsula
- Faster travel times between West County and Oakland, potentially Alameda, San Francisco, and the Peninsula
- Potential for improvements to existing at-grade rail crossings along UP rail corridor

## Benefits of Broad-gauge (BART):

- Increased frequency of BART service at stations along BART Richmond line
- Potential new service to Alameda and Mission Bay in San Francisco

## Benefits of both technologies:

- Improved access to jobs and destinations for West County residents
- Improved safety, health, and air quality
- Substantial investment to advance equity



# Engagement & Outreach Activities

## Link21 Virtual Community Meetings

Attend to hear a presentation and ask questions.

- **Thursday, June 6** – 6-7:30 pm
- **Monday, June 10** – 6-7:30 pm

Visit [Link21Program.org/events](https://Link21Program.org/events) to register for Zoom



## Online Open House

This **June**, join the conversation anytime, 24/7, to participate when it works for you.



## Community Events

- In-Station/Community Tabling – Select Locations
- Community Stakeholder Coordination
- Equity Advisory Council Meeting:  
**Tuesday, July 16** – 6-8:45 pm



# Next Steps: Identifying a Project For Link21

## Planning Focus Areas



Identify Crossing Train Technology



Project Definition & Refinement



Funding Strategy



Governance & Key Stakeholder Coordination



Ongoing Public Engagement & Equity





Thank you

[www.Link21Program.org](http://www.Link21Program.org)