



## West Contra Costa High-Capacity Transit Study

### Community Workshops

April 2016



# Meeting Guidelines

## *Please...*

- Hold your questions and comments until the end of the presentation
- Wait until called upon to speak
- Only one speaker at a time
- Provide constructive comments
- Stay on topic
- Turn off or mute cell phones and all devices



# West Contra Costa County High-Capacity Transit Study

Lead Study Sponsor



Study Sponsors



Study Partners



# Study Purpose

- Evaluate high-capacity transit options in West Contra Costa travel corridors
- Consider multimodal transit options including:
  - Freeway-based express bus,
  - Bus rapid transit (BRT),
  - Light rail transit,
  - Commuter rail,
  - Extension of BART, and
  - Ferry
- Provide a planning and road map for West County jurisdictions to pursue funding for transit improvements

# What is “high-capacity” transit?



# Project and Schedule Overview

Public Outreach & Participation

## Assessment

- ✓ Goals & Objectives
- ✓ Relevant Prior Studies
- ✓ Existing & Future Transportation & Land Use
- ✓ Market Analysis

## Alternatives Development & Analysis

- ✓ Conceptual Alternatives
  - ✓ Evaluation Criteria
  - Preliminary Evaluation
  - Alternatives Refinement
  - Ridership Modeling
  - Cost Estimates
  - Funding Options
- We are here*

## Final Alternatives

- Final Alternatives Evaluation

# Public Outreach and Participation

Public Outreach & Participation

## WEST COUNTY TELEPHONE CALL-IN

*\*Note: Toll-free call-in details will be mailed out and posted online*



## ROUND 1 ONLINE SURVEY



## ROUND 1 COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS



## ROUND 2 ONLINE SURVEY



## ROUND 2 COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS



*Learn more about the Study and concurrent planning efforts*

*Provide input on the preliminary list of alternatives*

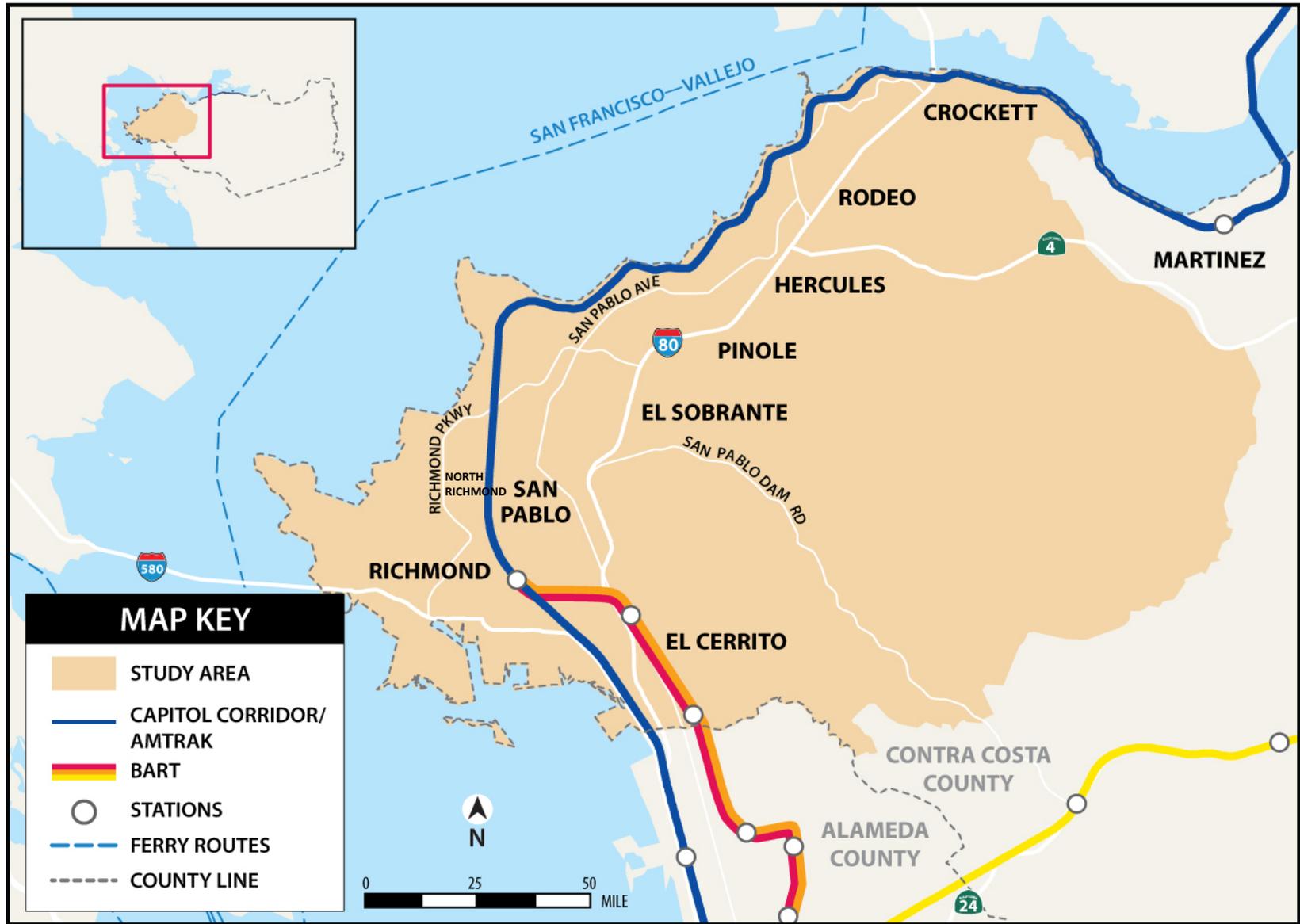
*Provide input on the draft alternatives*

**NOVEMBER 2015**

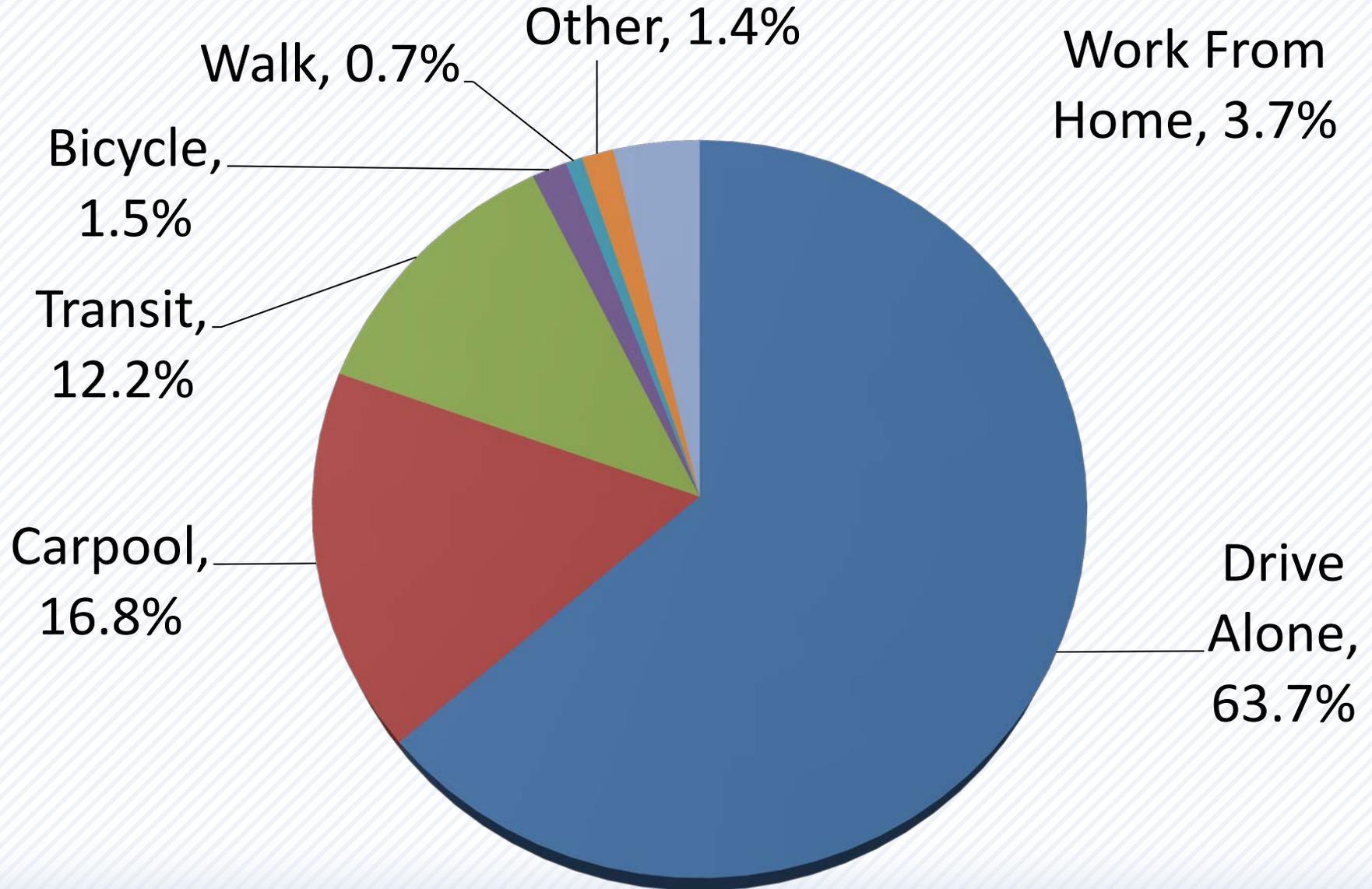
**APRIL 2016**

**FALL 2016**

# Study Area



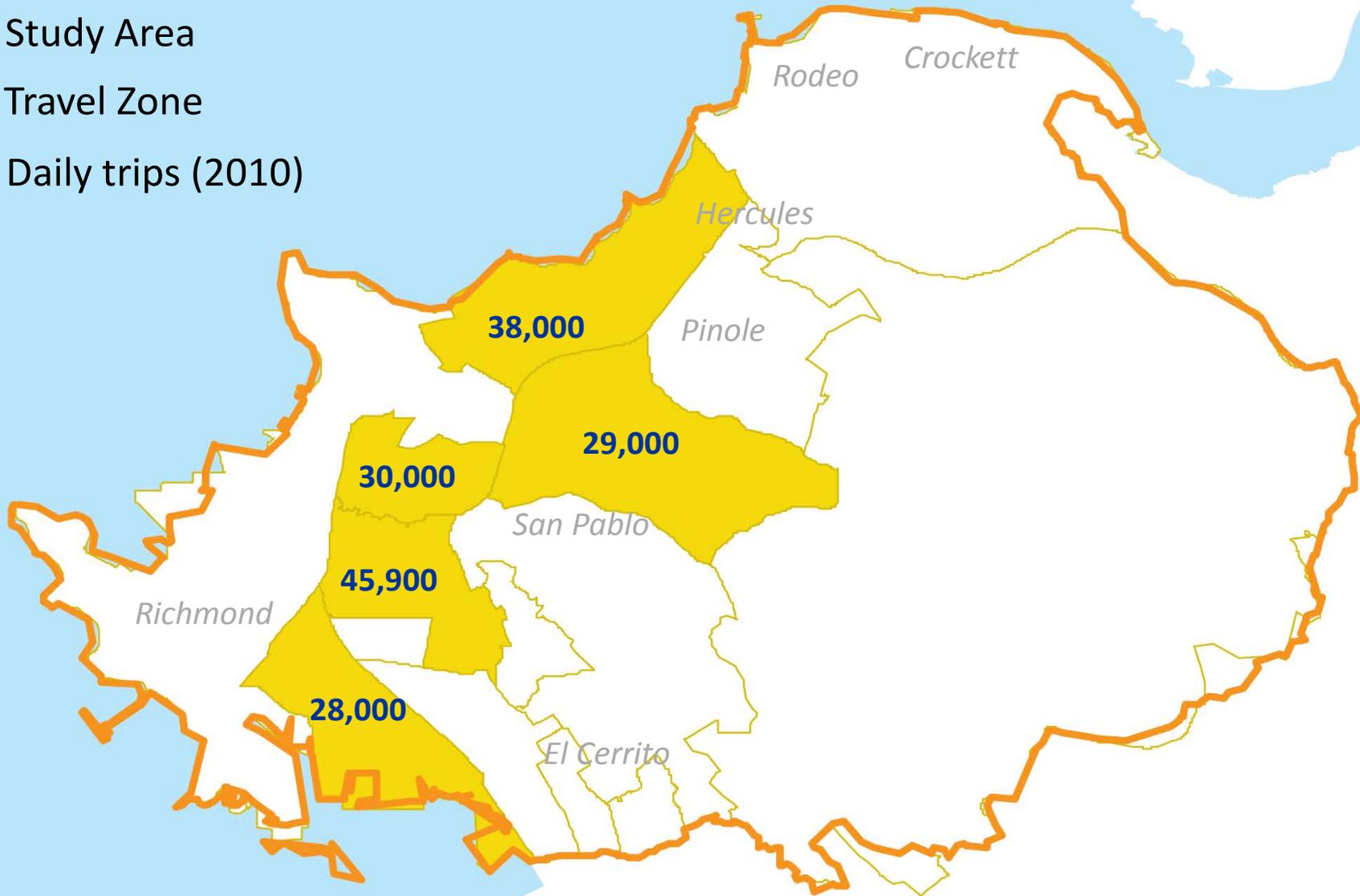
# How do West County residents get around?



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2013

# West County Residents' Top Origins (within Study Area)

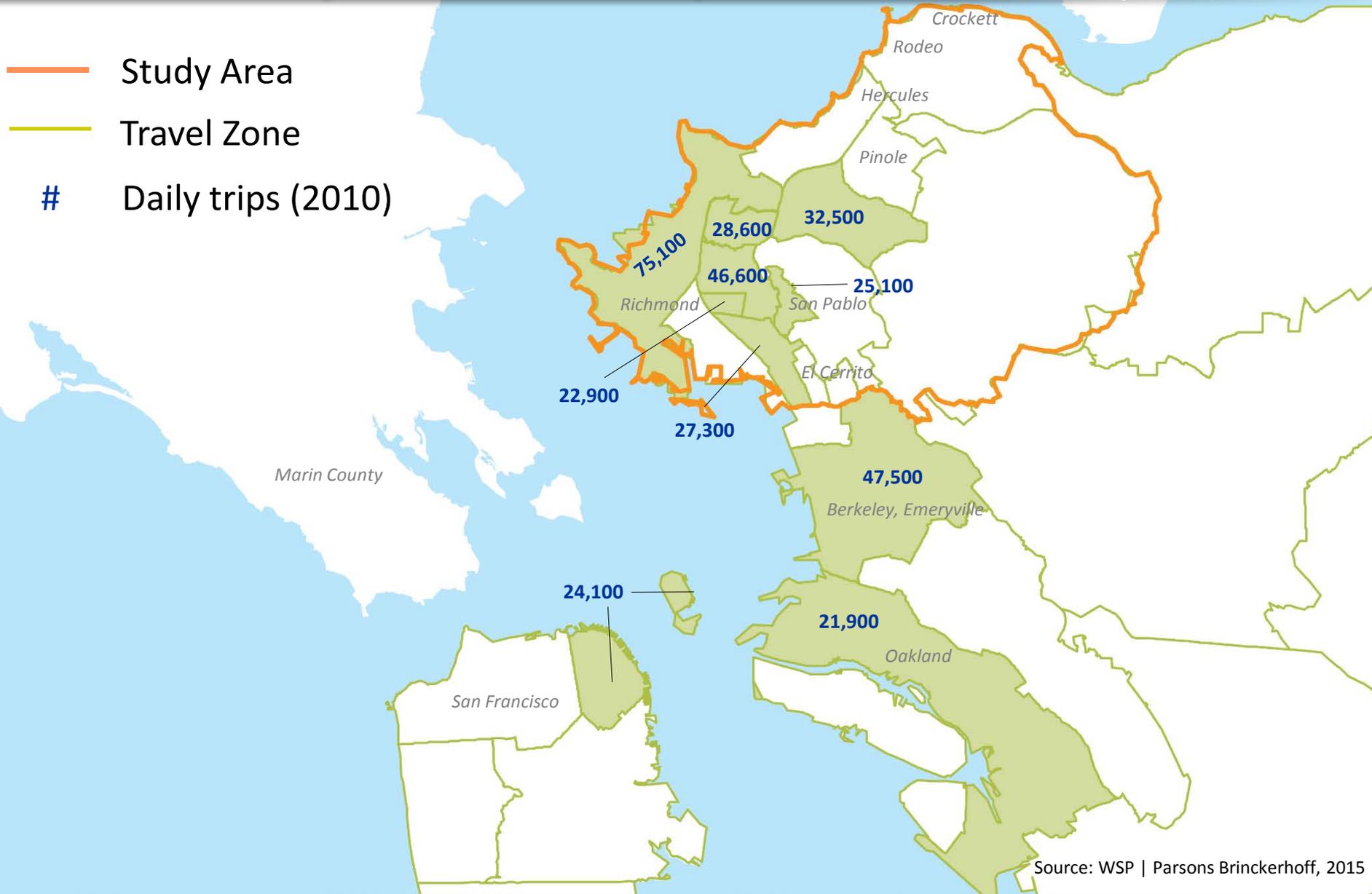
- Study Area
- Travel Zone
- # Daily trips (2010)



Source: WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff, 2015

# West County Residents' Top Destinations (within and outside Study Area)

- Study Area
- Travel Zone
- # Daily trips (2010)



Source: WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff, 2015

# How were the 8 alternatives developed?

- **Previous Studies**
  - Identify most promising alignments and technologies, as well as constraints
- **New Information**
  - Growing congestion and demand for Express Bus on I-80 corridor
  - New developments, growth in Hercules
- **Adopted Plans**
  - Serve anticipated growth areas
  - Connect to new ferry terminal and intermodal station

# Most Promising Transit Markets

- **Existing and future high demand areas**
  - Data sources: U.S. Census, cell phone data, and Contra Costa County travel model
  - Heaviest travel between study area and Alameda, San Francisco, and Marin counties
  - Through travel from Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solana, and Yolo counties to Alameda, San Francisco, and San Mateo counties
- **Projected growth in 2040**
  - Focus on Priority Development Areas → places that cities have targeted for growth
  - Growth to the north in Hercules and Pinole
- **Potential for trips that can be intercepted**
  - Capturing trips from the I-80 corridor
  - Connections at BART stations, rail stations, and bus centers

# Eight Preliminary Alternatives

<i>No.</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	I-80 Express Bus Service
2	San Pablo Avenue/Macdonald Avenue BRT
3	23rd Street BRT
4	UPRR Corridor Commuter Rail
5	UPRR-BNSF Corridor Commuter Rail
6	BART Extension from Richmond Station to Hercules
7A	BART Extension from El Cerrito del Norte Station to Hercules
7B	BART/DMU Extension from El Cerrito del Norte Station to Hercules

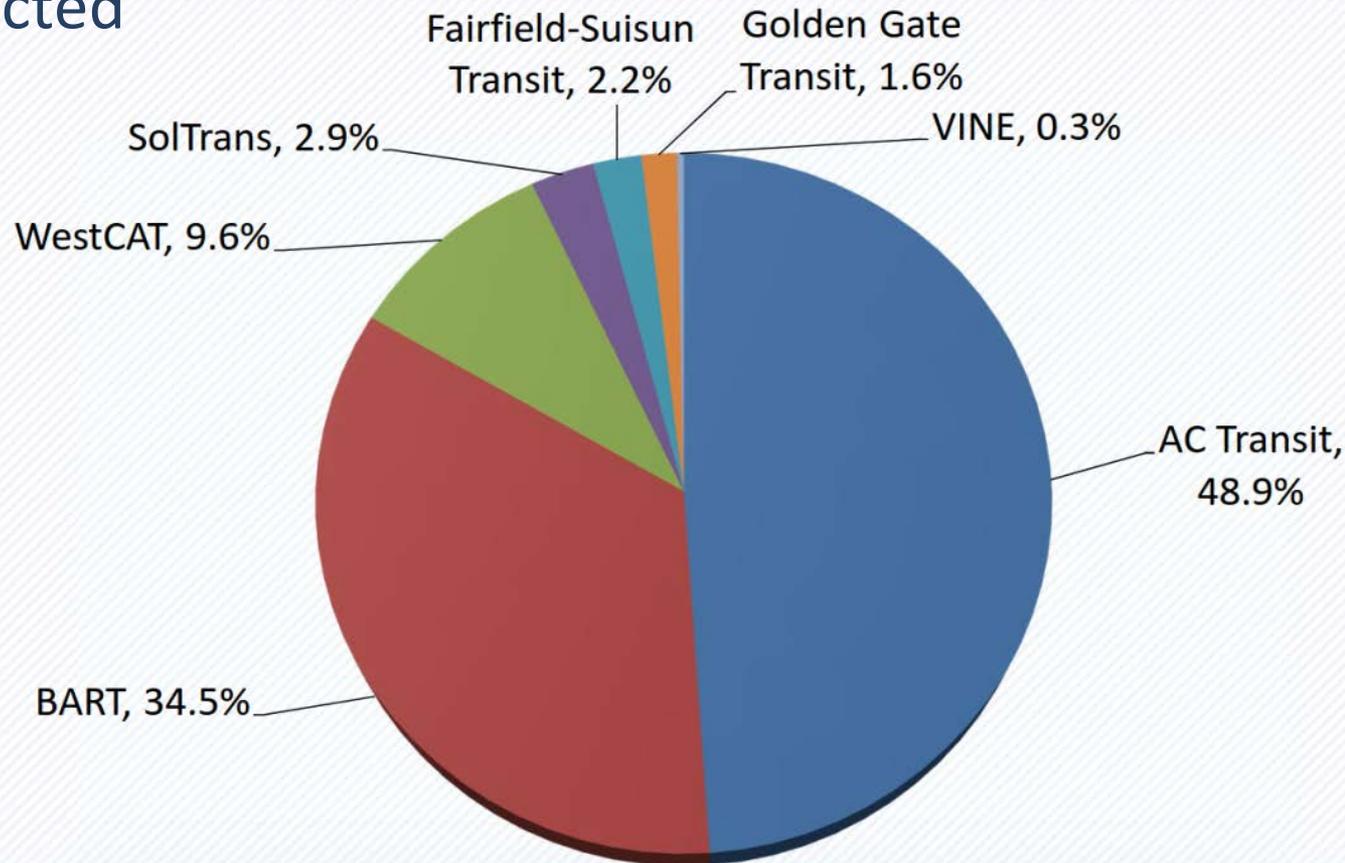


# Why these 8 alternatives?



# Why Expanded Bus Service?

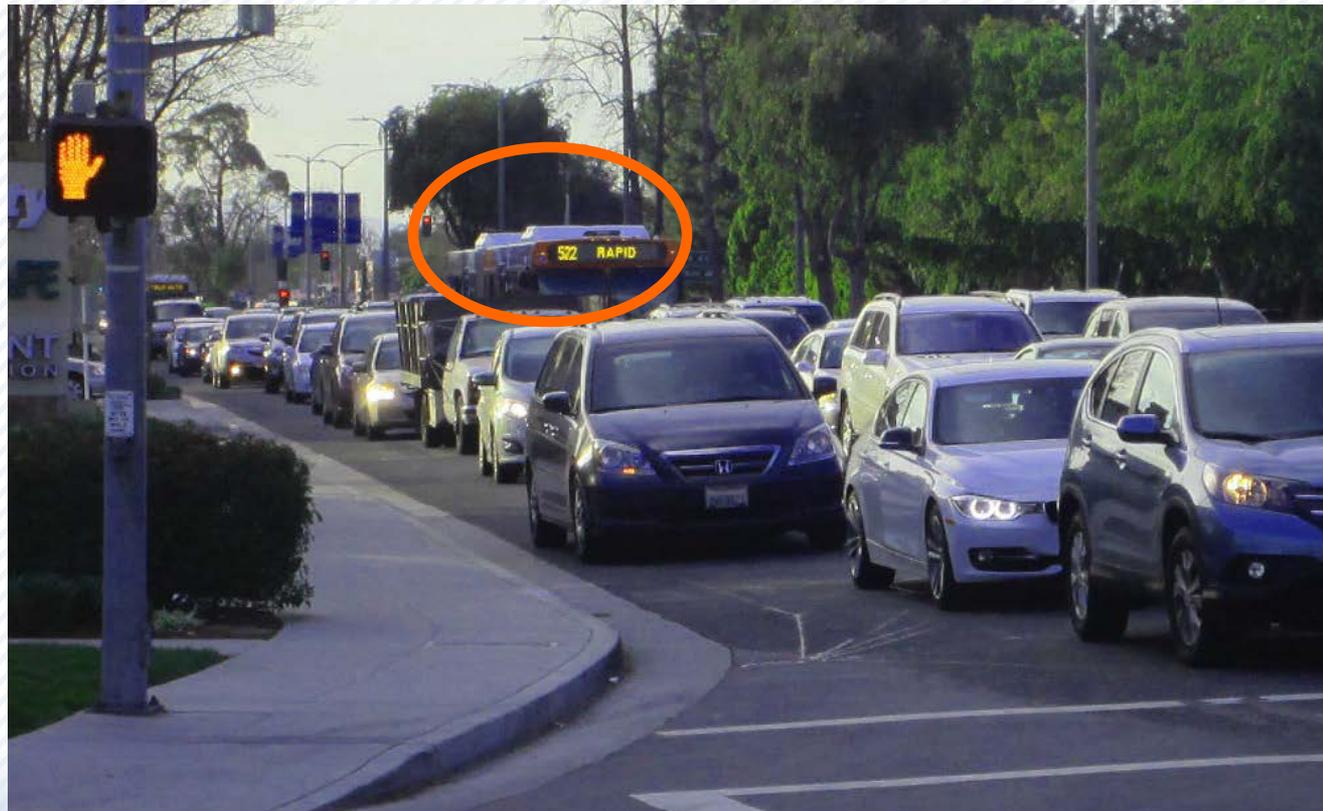
- Local and express buses carry 65% of transit users in West County
- Demand for commuter bus service expected to increase



# Why Expanded Bus Service?

(Continued)

- Improve bus reliability
  - Buses can carry more people, but get stuck in traffic
- Implementation flexible, scalable, and fast
  - Bus projects can be done in stages as funding becomes available



# Alternative 1: Express Bus on I-80

- Linked to freeway and effective use of HOV lanes
- Travel market analysis shows demand to Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland as well as San Francisco
- Alternative includes service to San Rafael
- Can be done in stages:
  - 3 years for operations to East Bay along I-80
  - 10 years for full suite of proposed improvements



# Alternatives 2 and 3: Bus Rapid Transit

## *BRT Light*

\$1-4m per mile



### **Line 72R, AC Transit**

- A. More frequent service
- B. Transit signal priority
- C. Queue-jumps
- D. Branding

## *Hybrid BRT*

\$4-12m per mile



### **EmX, Eugene, OR**

- A-C plus*
- D. Some dedicated bus lanes
- E. More station amenities
- F. Specialized vehicles

## *Full BRT*

\$12-28m per mile



### **Health Line, Cleveland, OH**

- A-F plus*
- G. Dedicated bus lanes for majority of corridor
- H. Off-board fare collection

*BRT is customizable. Specific features will depend on each specific system's needs.*

# Alternatives 2 and 3: Bus Rapid Transit

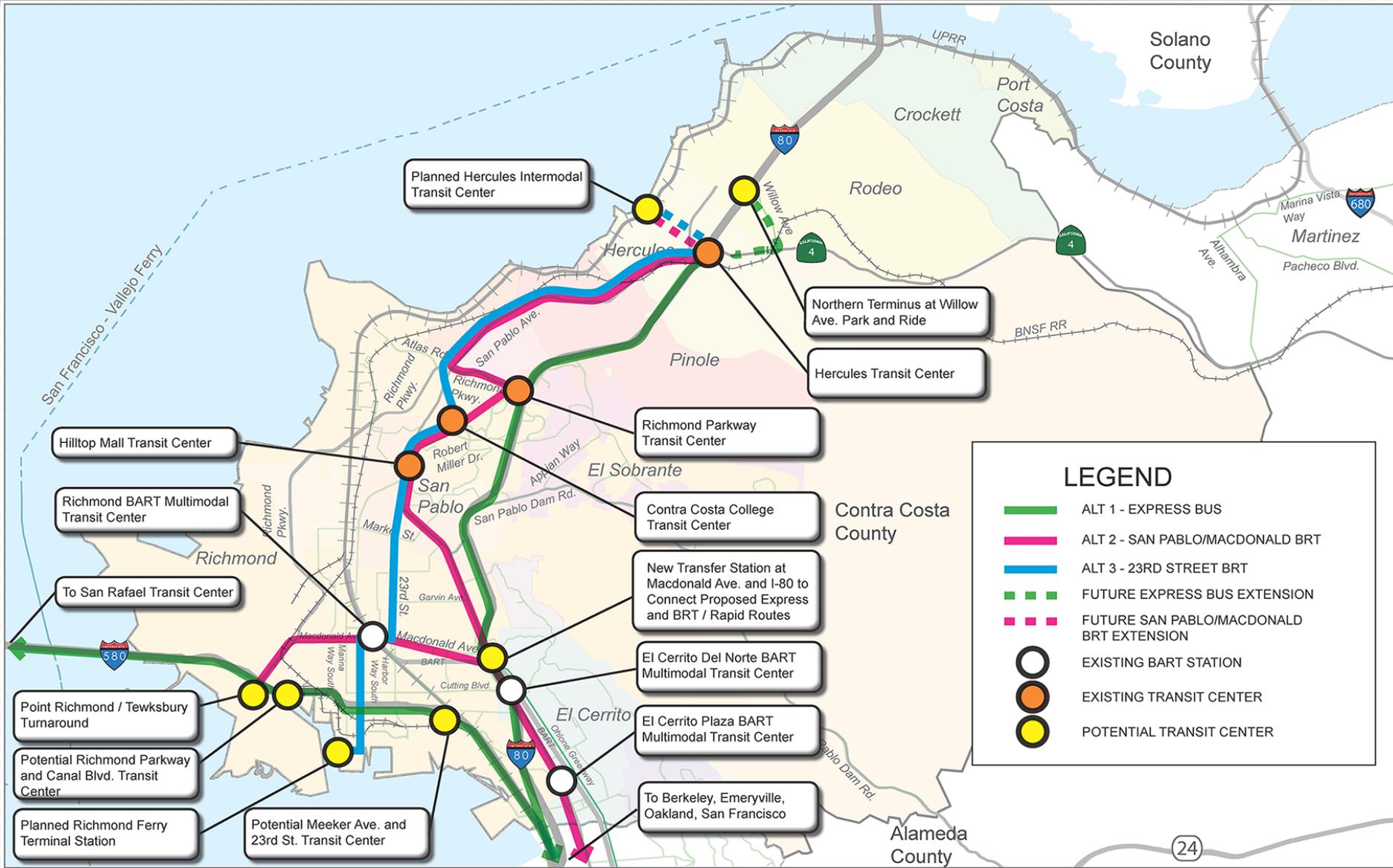
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- Serves the heart of the West County transit market
- San Pablo/Macdonald corridor – extension of potential AC Transit BRT project
- 23rd Avenue serves core of Richmond and ferry terminal
- Service affords flexibility in implementation



Chronicle/Deanne Fitzmaurice

# Alternatives 1, 2, 3: Bus



## LEGEND

- ALT 1 - EXPRESS BUS
- ALT 2 - SAN PABLO/MACDONALD BRT
- ALT 3 - 23RD STREET BRT
- - - FUTURE EXPRESS BUS EXTENSION
- - - FUTURE SAN PABLO/MACDONALD BRT EXTENSION
- EXISTING BART STATION
- EXISTING TRANSIT CENTER
- POTENTIAL TRANSIT CENTER

NOT TO SCALE



# Why Expanded Commuter Rail Service?

- Uses existing rail right-of-way (ROW)
- Intercepts more through trips
- Provides connections to travel markets to the north and south

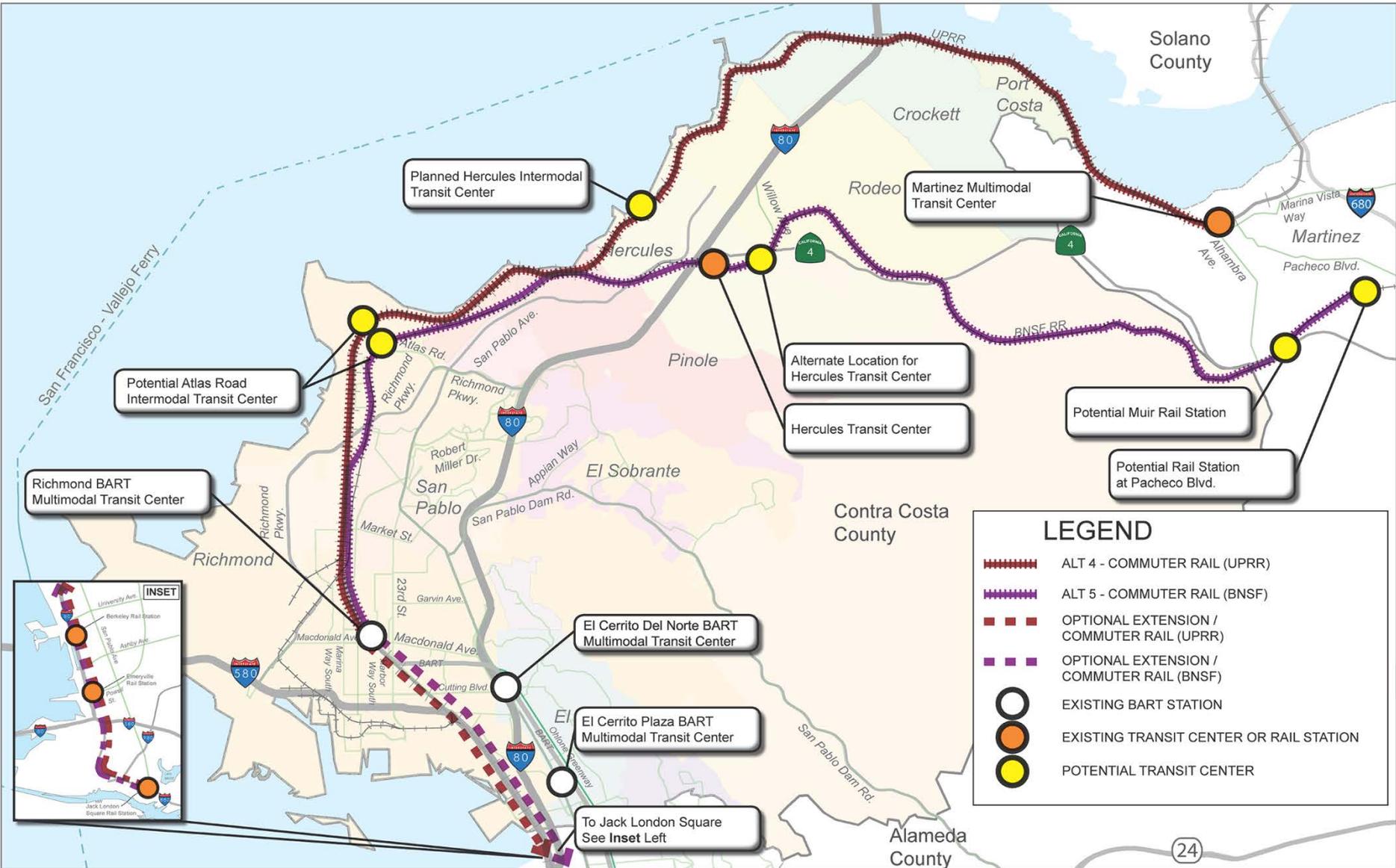


# Alternatives 4 and 5: Commuter Rail

- Uses existing rail ROW – UPRR or BNSF
- Union Pacific Railroad Option:
  - Logical expansion of existing rail service
  - Builds on planned investment at Hercules Intermodal Transit Center
  - Affords opportunity for short-term investment
- Burlington Northern Santa Fe Option:
  - Greater potential capacity in corridor
  - Connects to Hercules Transit Center
  - High intercept potential



# Alternatives 4 and 5: Commuter Rail



# Why Expanded BART Service?

- BART carries 35% of transit ridership in West County on an average weekday
- El Cerrito del Norte BART station is reaching capacity
- Provides most connections to major destinations in Bay Area
- Draws transit riders closer to their trip origin
- Provides most reliable transit service

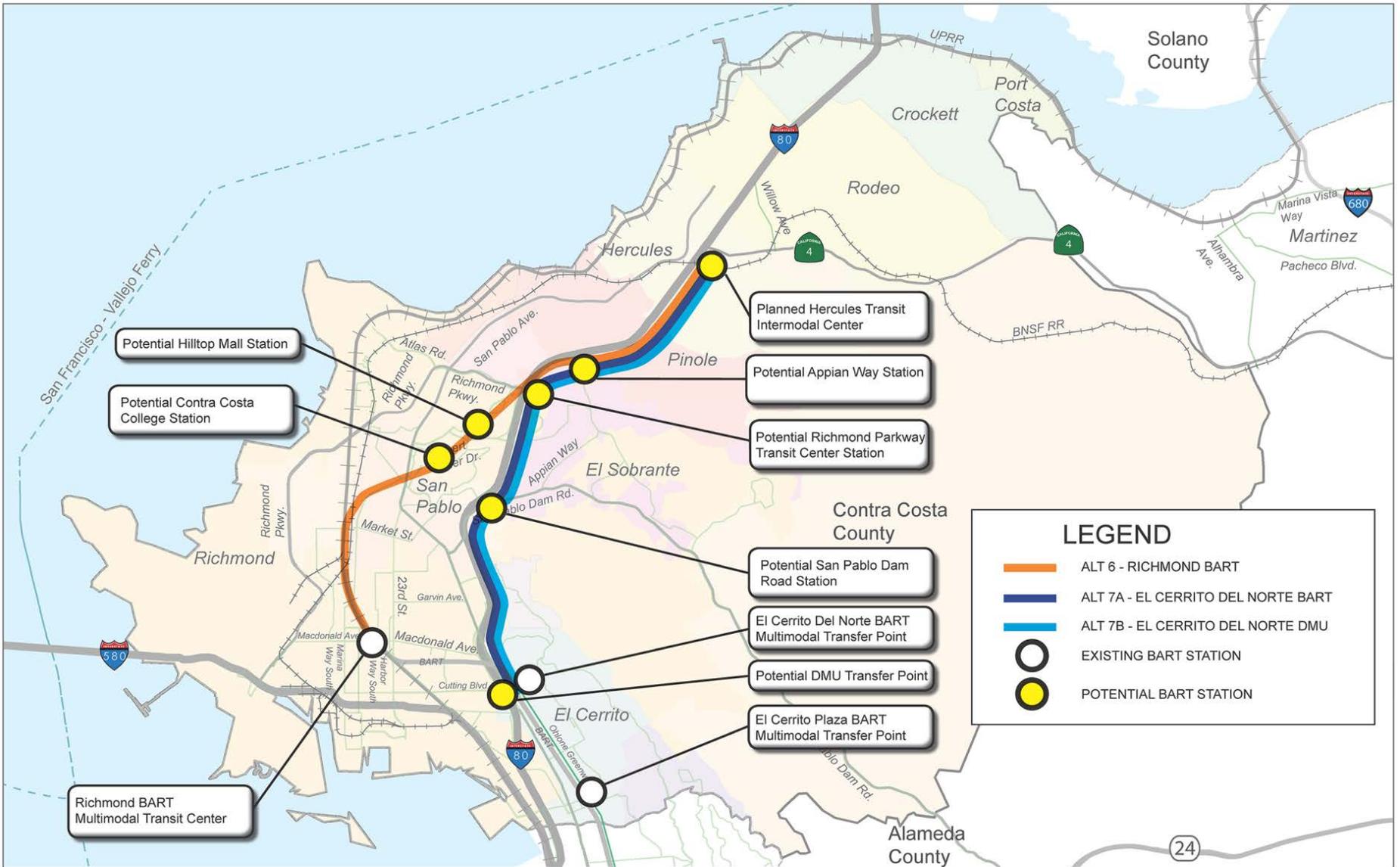


# Alternatives 6, 7A, 7B: BART

- Multiple alignments studied - UPPR, BNSF, I-80, and surface streets
- I-80 alignment from El Cerrito del Norte:
  - Provides most direct access to Hercules
  - Minimizes community impacts
- San Pablo/Rumrill alignment from Richmond:
  - Greater connectivity to major activity centers
  - Takes advantage of proximity to Richmond maintenance yard
  - Less impacts than other approaches to Hilltop Mall



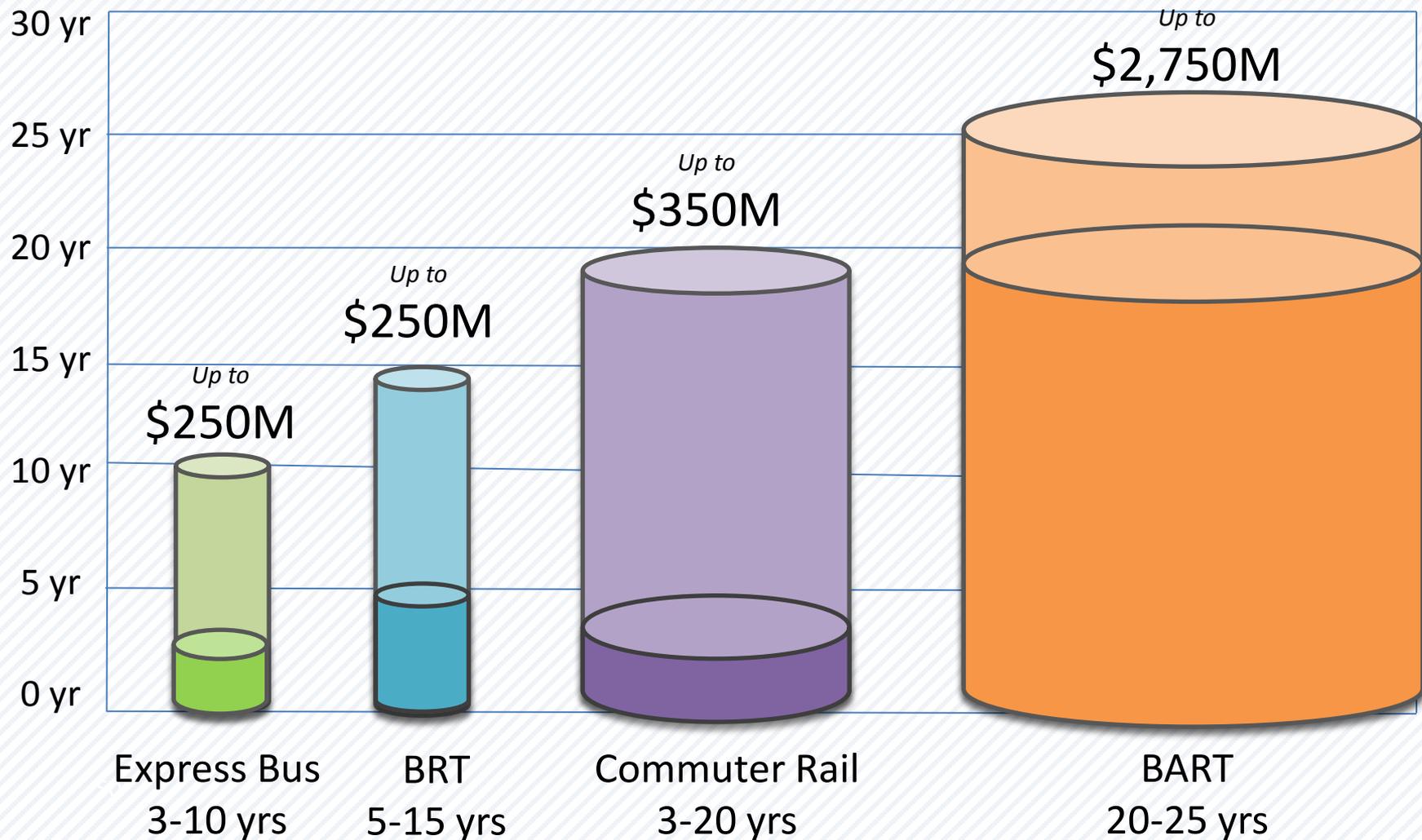
# Alternatives 6, 7A, 7B: BART



## LEGEND

- ALT 6 - RICHMOND BART
- ALT 7A - EL CERRITO DEL NORTE BART
- ALT 7B - EL CERRITO DEL NORTE DMU
- EXISTING BART STATION
- POTENTIAL BART STATION

# Context for Comparing Alternatives



\$ = Estimated capital costs (in millions)

Color shading reflects range of years for the project to be built and put in service

# Evaluation Criteria

- Travel time and reliability
- Potential for transit ridership
- Access and connections to areas where service is needed
- Environmental benefits/impacts
- Consistency with local plans
- Congestion relief
- Cost-effectiveness
- Public and stakeholder support



***Thank you for attending!***

Stay informed. Get involved!

[www.WestCountyTransitStudy.com](http://www.WestCountyTransitStudy.com)

**Make sure your voice is heard!**

- ✓ Submit a comment card.
- ✓ Visit the website to:
  - Learn more about the study.
  - Fill out a survey to tell us about your preferred way of getting around and your favorite destinations.



# Questions and Answers

