



CONNECT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee

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

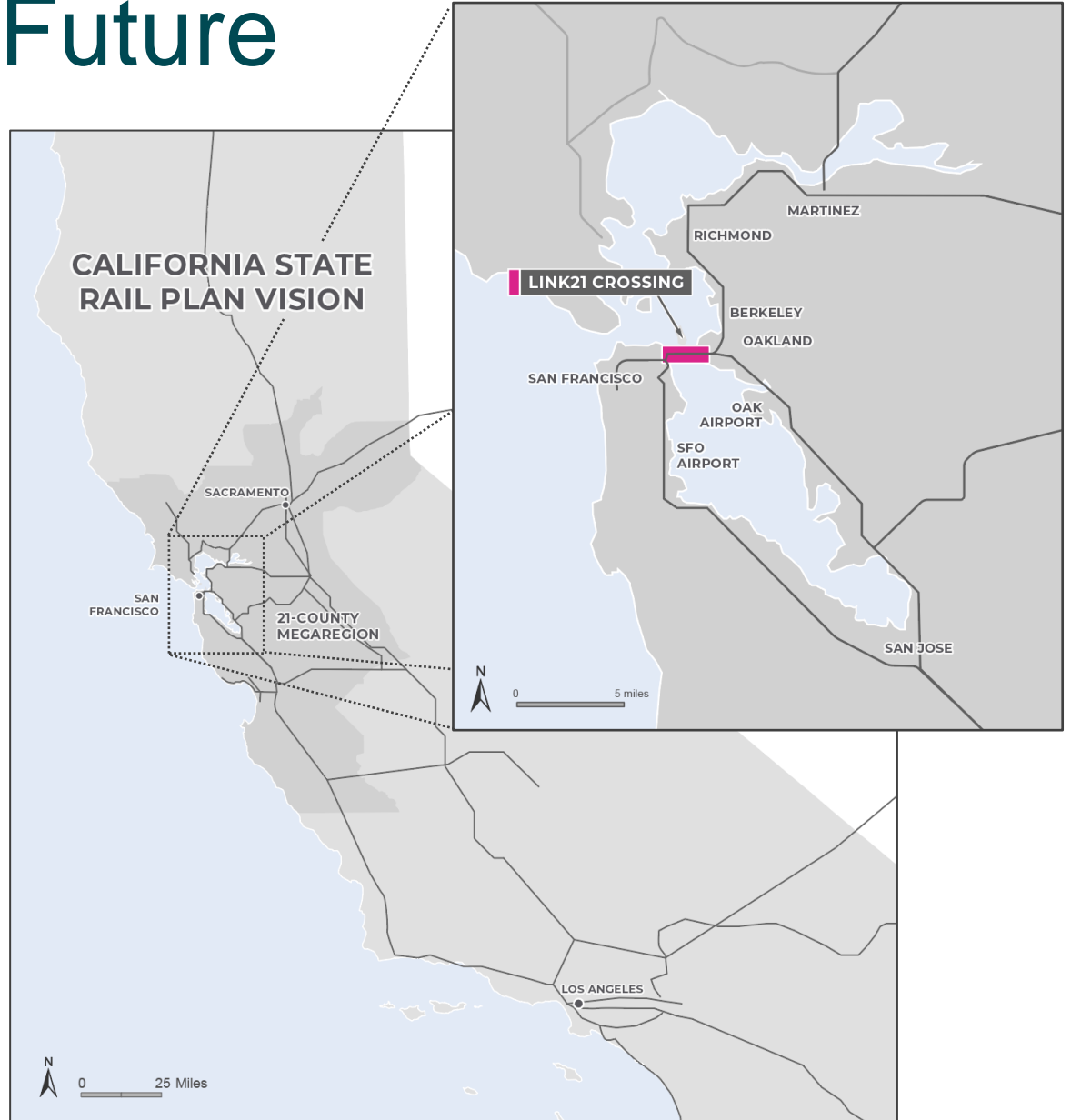
Connecting People & Places

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

2007

2016

CA State Rail Plan

Caltrans identified new Transbay Rail Crossing

Horizon Initiative & Core Capacity Transit Study

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) identified investments

2018

2019

Plan Bay Area 2050

MTC identified strategies and named transportation planning Projects including Link21

2021

Revised CA State Rail Plan

Caltrans identified Link21 - critical to future rail vision

2022

Federal Corridor Identification & Development Program

CalSTA identified corridors including Link21

2023

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



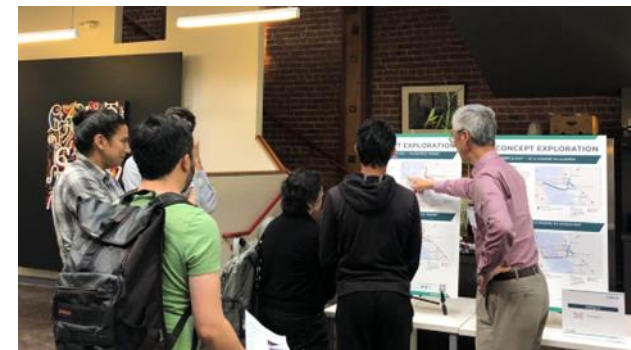
Link21 Commitment to Equity & Engagement

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:

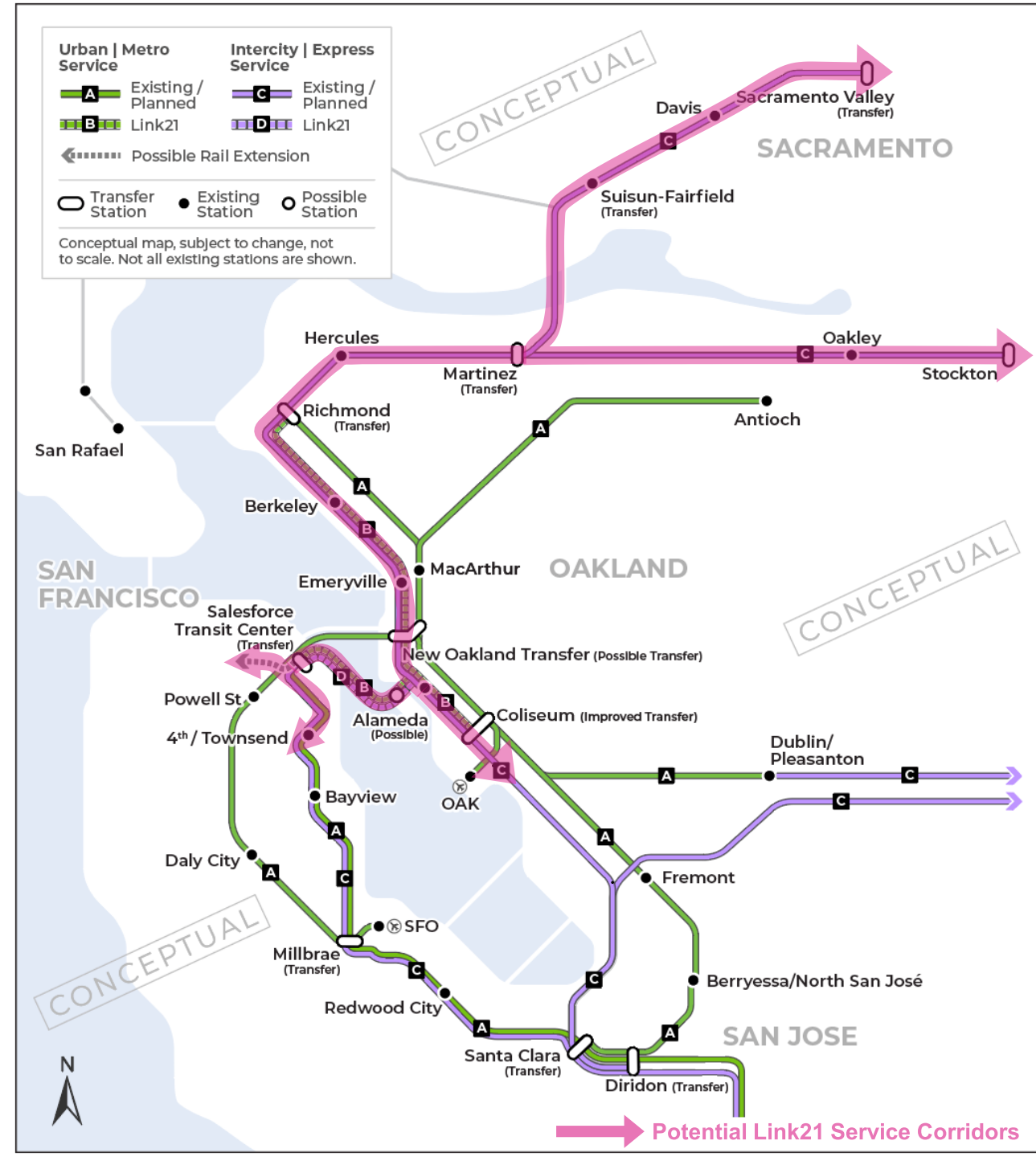
- Decision on Train Technology in the crossing
 - Standard-gauge (Regional Rail)
 - Broad-gauge (BART)
- Further planning to define project (alignment, station locations, etc.)



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

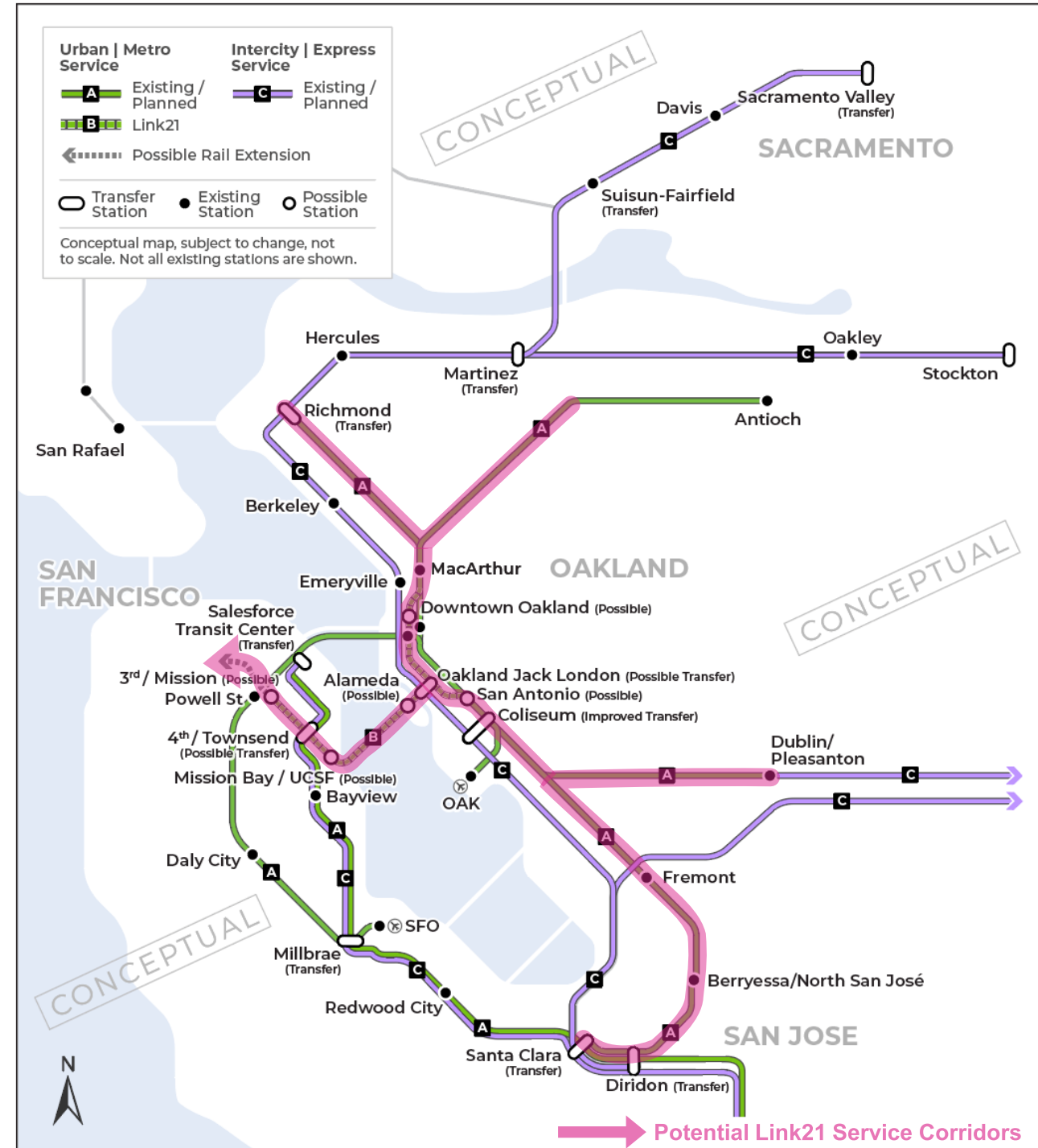


Concept: Broad-gauge (BART) Crossing

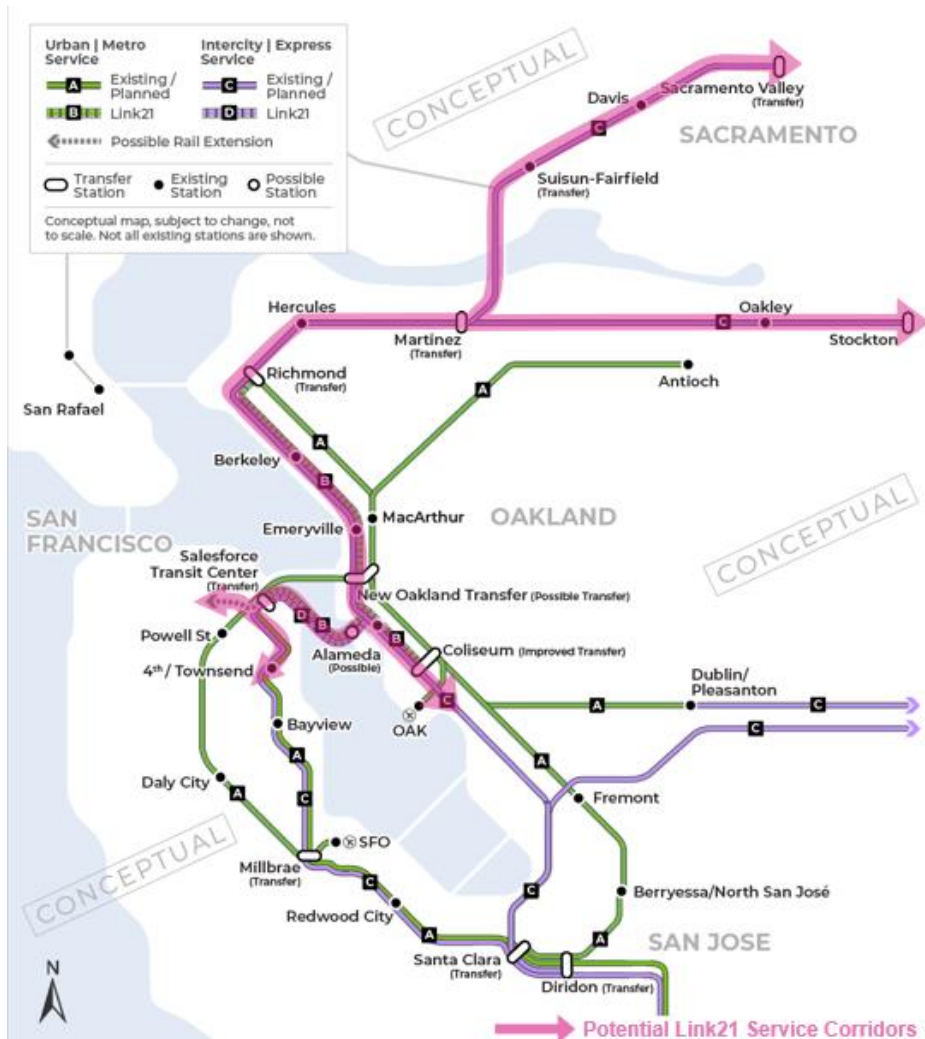
Accommodates only BART service

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

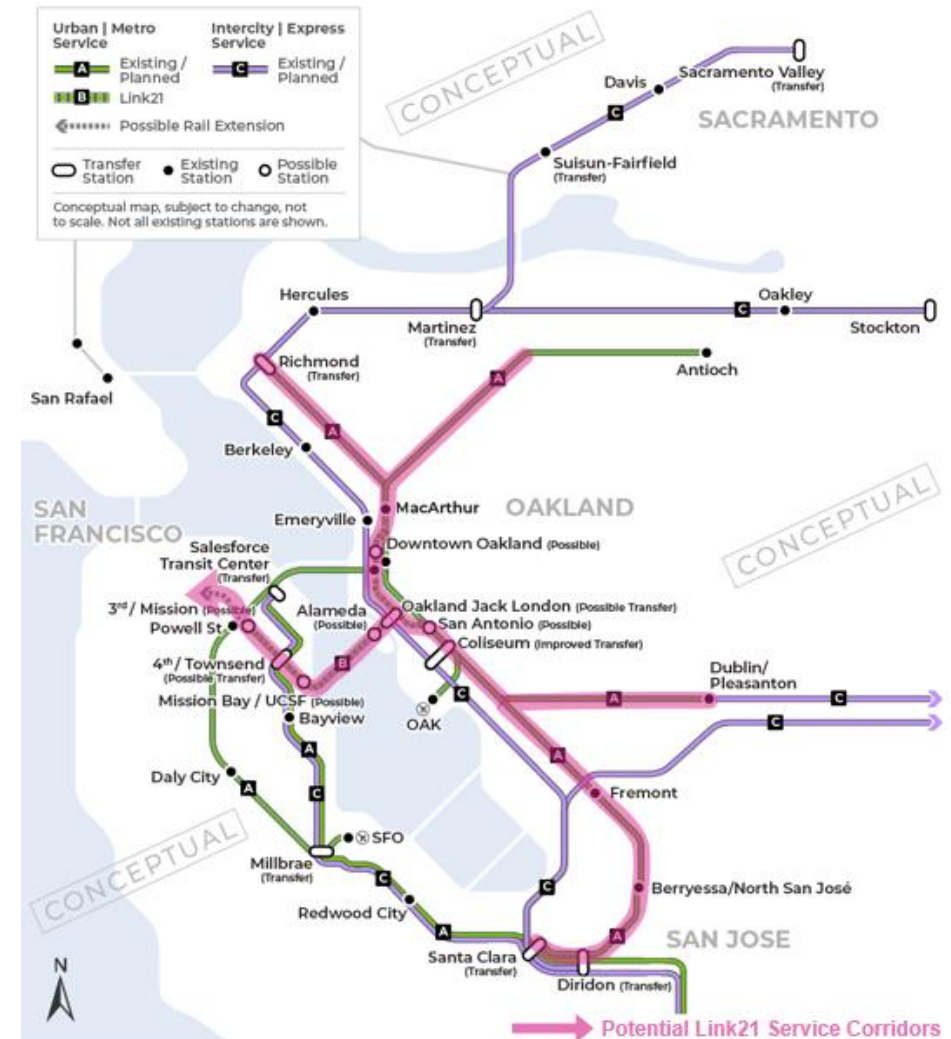


Comparison: Standard-gauge vs. Broad-gauge



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

OR

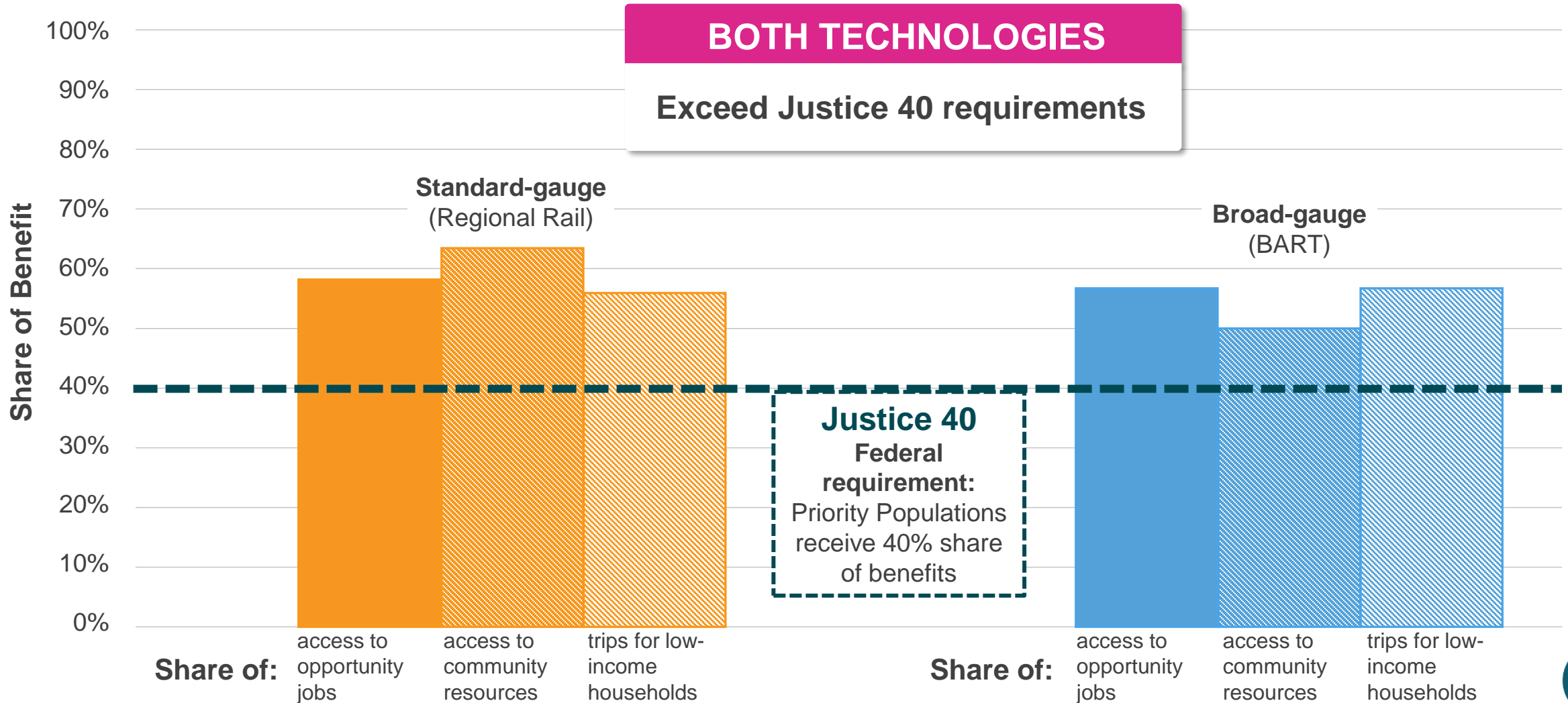


Broad-gauge connects to the BART Network and Regional Destinations



Similarities: Benefits Share to Priority Populations

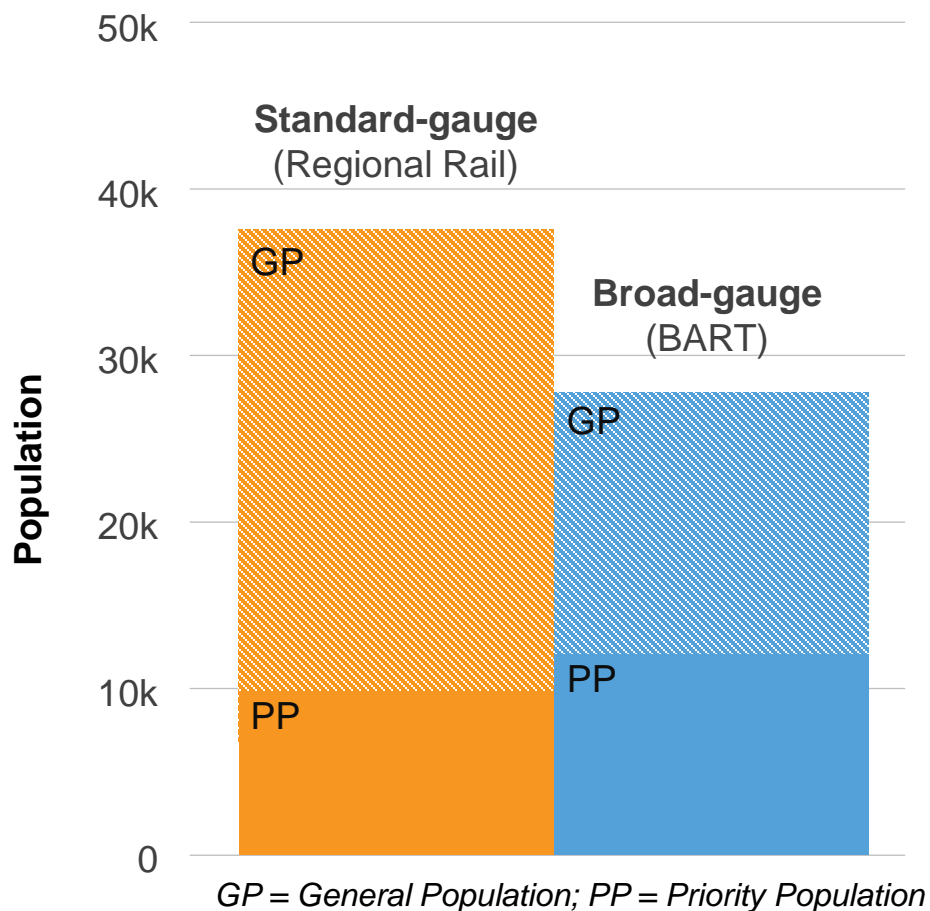
Promoting Equity and Livability



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 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