

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation (Draft SEIS/SEIR) for Public Review and Announcement of Public Hearings



PROJECT: VTA's BART Silicon Valley - Phase II Extension Project (SCH# 2002022004)

LEAD AGENCIES: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

PROJECT LOCATION & DESCRIPTION: FTA and VTA have prepared a Draft SEIS/SEIR to address environmental effects of VTA's BART Silicon Valley - Phase II Extension Project (See Figure 1). The Draft SEIS/SEIR supplements the analysis in the 2010 Final EIS and 2004 EIR, 2007 SEIR, and 2011 2nd SEIR for the BART Silicon Valley Program. The BART Silicon Valley Program consists of a 16-mile extension of the BART system from BART's Warm Springs Station in Alameda County into Santa Clara County. VTA's BART Silicon Valley Program is planned to be implemented in two phases. This Draft SEIS/SEIR has been prepared to address Phase II, which is the remaining 6 miles of the Silicon Valley Program from Berryessa to San Jose that was not approved in the 2010 EIS. Although the 16-mile, 6-station, BART Silicon Valley Program was approved in previous EIRs, this SEIR will be the first CEQA document to evaluate a 6-mile, 4-station extension.

There are two alternatives evaluated in this document in accordance with NEPA: the No Build Alternative and the BART Extension Alternative. The BART Extension Alternative consists of a 6-mile extension of the BART system from the Berryessa BART Station (currently under construction) through downtown San Jose to the Santa Clara Caltrain Station. The alignment would include an approximately 5-mile tunnel, or subway, through downtown San Jose. Four stations are under consideration: Alum Rock/28th Street, Downtown San Jose, Diridon, and Santa Clara. Two options are currently under consideration for the location of the Downtown San Jose Station (East and West) and for Diridon Station (North and South). Two tunnel construction methodology options, the Twin-Bore Option (two 20-foot-diameter tunnels) and the Single-Bore Option (one 45-foot-diameter tunnel), are under consideration. Depending upon funding availability, initial revenue service on the BART Extension is targeted to begin in late 2025/2026.

There are three alternatives evaluated in this document in accordance with CEQA: the No Build Alternative, the BART Extension Alternative, and the BART Extension with Transit-Oriented Joint Development (TOJD) Alternative. The CEQA No Build Alternative is the same as the NEPA No Build Alternative. The CEQA BART Extension Alternative is also the same as the NEPA BART Extension Alternative described above. The additional CEQA BART Extension with TOJD Alternative consists of the 6-mile BART Extension as described above, in addition to TOJD at the four BART stations and two mid-tunnel ventilation structure sites. The BART Extension with TOJD Alternative's TOJD component does not involve a federal action or federal funding and is evaluated only under CEQA. The TOJD has independent utility and is included to support local and regional land use planning.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS: The Draft SEIS/SEIR describes the purpose and need, alternatives, environmental setting, potential impacts from construction and operation, and mitigation measures to reduce impacts. After implementation of mitigation measures, the BART Extension Alternative would result in adverse effects under NEPA and significant and unavoidable impacts under CEQA for Transportation during construction (NEPA and CEQA), Air Quality during construction (NEPA and CEQA), Noise during construction (NEPA and CEQA), and Socioeconomics during construction (NEPA only). After implementation of mitigation measures, the BART Extension with TOJD Alternative would result in significant and unavoidable impacts under CEQA for Transportation during construction and operation, Air Quality during construction and operation, Greenhouse Gas Emissions during operation, and Noise during construction.

The NEPA BART Extension Alternative would result in no adverse effect under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act on historic properties listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. However, the corridor includes areas of sensitivity for encountering buried archaeological resources, and the effect on to historic properties cannot be fully determined prior to project approval due to limited access for surveys on private properties. Therefore, a Programmatic Agreement (PA) has been prepared for the phased identification and evaluation of potential historic properties, and the resolution of any adverse effects on historic properties within the area of potential effect, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(b)(2) and 36 CFR 800.5(a)(3). The Draft PA is included in the appendix of the Draft SEIS/SEIR. The NEPA BART Extension Alternative would not result in a use or temporary occupancy of a public park, wildlife refuge, recreational resource, or historic property protected under Section 4(f).

FTA and VTA's Board of Directors will use the Draft SEIS/SEIR, comments received, and responses to select an alternative and options. The FTA may issue a single Final SEIS/Record of Decision document pursuant to Public Law 114-94 and 23 U.S.C. 139 (n)(2), unless the FTA determines statutory criteria or practicability considerations preclude issuance of the combined document. In that case, FTA would issue a Final SEIS followed by an amendment to the 2010 Record of Decision, as needed.

AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SEIS/SEIR: The Draft SEIS/SEIR and supporting documentation are available online at www.vta.org/bart. Printed copies of the Draft SEIS/SEIR are available for public review at the following locations during business hours.

Location #1: VTA's Building B Lobby at 3331 North 1st Street San Jose, CA 95134

Location #2: Local Public Libraries

Biblioteca Latinoamericana
Branch Library
921 South First St.
San Jose, CA 95110

East San Jose
Carnegie Branch Library
1102 E. Santa Clara St.
San Jose, CA 95116

Mission Library
Family Reading Center
1098 Lexington Street
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Central Park Library
2635 Homestead Road
Santa Clara, CA 95051

Joyce Ellington Branch Library
491 E. Empire St.
San Jose, CA 95112

Northside Branch Library
695 Moreland Way
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Dr. Roberto Cruz -
Alum Rock Branch Library
3090 Alum Rock Ave.
San Jose, CA 95127

King Library
150 E. San Fernando St.
San Jose, CA 95112

PUBLIC HEARINGS: The public hearing format will include an open house where plans, maps, and other displays will be available for viewing, and VTA staff will be available for questions. The open house will be followed by a formal presentation on the proposed project, purpose and need, alternatives, and the findings of the environmental analysis. A public comment period will follow the presentation where agencies and the public can verbally state their comments, which are recorded by a court recorder. Attendees may also fill out comment cards and leave them at the meeting site or mail them in prior to the end of the review period. All comments received will be addressed in the Final SEIS/SEIR. Public hearings will be held on the following dates to receive comments on the Draft SEIS/SEIR.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Meeting 1 – Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Open House:
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Formal Presentation & Comments:
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Mexican Heritage Plaza, Gallery
1700 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose, CA 95116

Meeting 3 – Monday, January 30, 2017

Open House:
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Formal Presentation & Comments:
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
San Jose – City Hall, Rooms 118 - 120
200 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95113

Meeting 2 – Thursday, January 26, 2017

Open House:
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Formal Presentation & Comments:
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Santa Clara Senior Center, Room 222
1303 Fremont Street, Santa Clara, CA 95050

How to Submit Comments on the Draft SEIS/SEIR: The public review and comment period for the Draft SEIS/SEIR will end on February 20, 2017. Written comments on the Draft SEIS/SEIR should be sent to:

Mail: Tom Fitzwater, SVRT Environmental Planning Manager
VTA Environmental Programs & Resources Management, Building B-2
3331 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95134

Email: BARTPhase2EIS-EIR@vta.org

Comments must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 20, 2017. For additional information on the Draft SEIS/SEIR, please contact VTA's Community Engagement Department at 408-321-7575.

Individuals who require language translation, American Sign Language, or other assistance are requested to call (408) 321-7575/TTY (408) 321-2330 at least five (5) business days before the public hearing. All meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities.

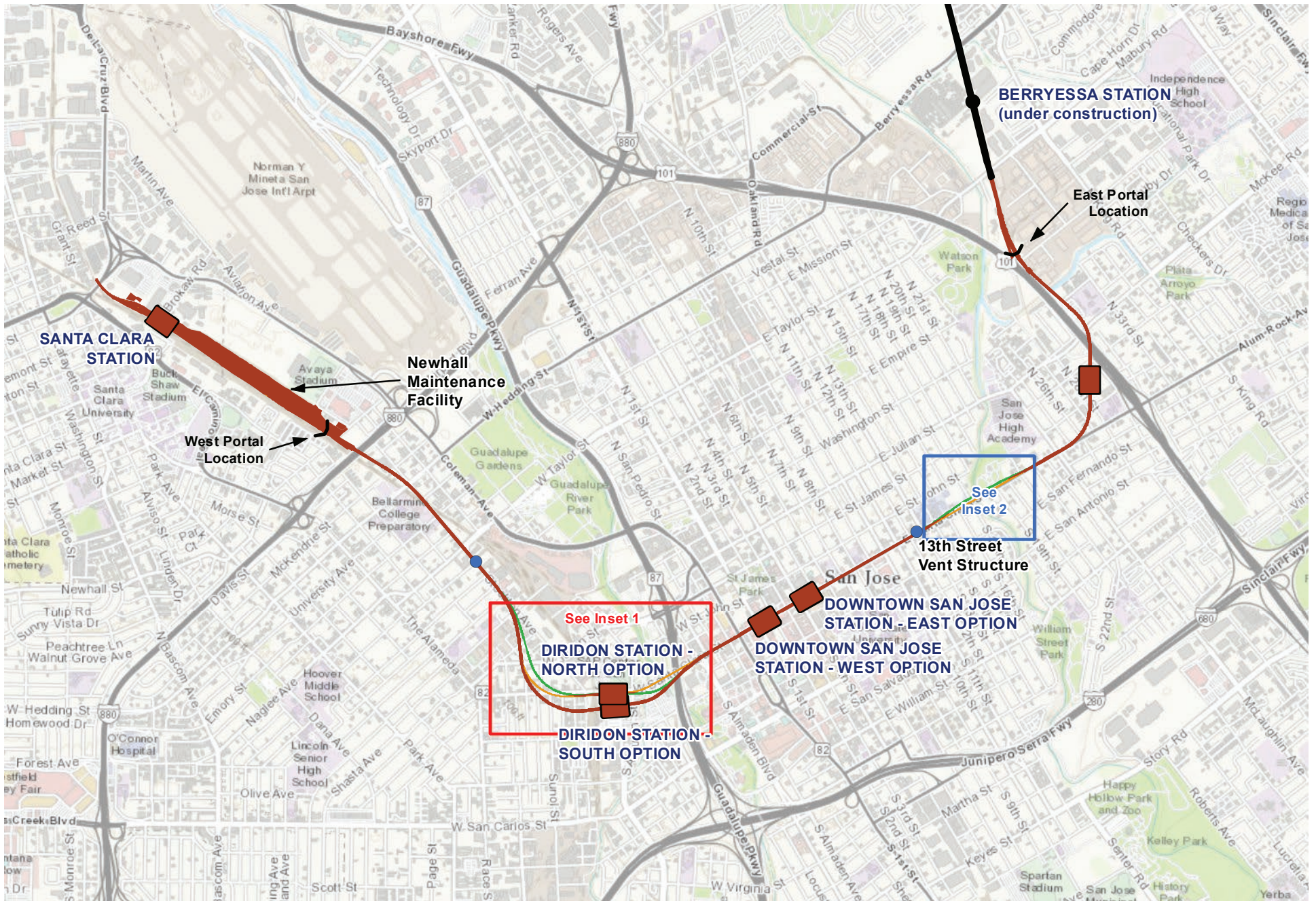


Figure 1
BART Extension (with Station Options) and Transit-Oriented Joint Development
 VTA's BART Silicon Valley-Phase II Extension Project