

Laying the Tracks for Bay Area Regional Rail

Congestion is a problem that is expected to grow as the Bay Area adds people and jobs. Fed up with already long, congested commutes, public transit service cuts and round-the-clock traffic, Bay Area voters approved Regional Measure 2 in 2004. This measure sought to address congestion in the region's bridge corridors and enhance the convenience and reliability of the region's public transit system, including the passenger rail system.

Included in the voter-approved measure was a requirement for a Bay Area Regional Rail Plan — a comprehensive long-range vision for a passenger and freight rail system serving the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.



Improving What We Have, Planning for Our Needs

The Regional Rail Plan study area includes the nine Bay Area counties – Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Solano and Sonoma counties – and parts of nearby Yolo, Sacramento, Placer, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey counties.

The plan will look at improvements and extensions of railroad, rapid transit, and high-speed rail services for the near- (5 to 10 years), intermediate- (10 to 25 years), and long-term (beyond 25 years).

More specifically, the plan will examine ways to:

- Incorporate passenger trains into existing rail systems;
- Improve connections between passenger trains and other transit, such as light-rail, shuttles and buses;
- Expand the regional rapid-transit network; increase rail capacity for both passenger and freight rail systems;
- Coordinate rail investment around transit-friendly communities and businesses;
- Formulate strategies for preserving and acquiring "rights-of-way" for future rail lines;
- Identify urban locations where passenger rail could stimulate redevelopment;
- Consider various rail technologies; and
- Develop options to consolidate rail services and activities to provide better, more efficient rail service.



The plan will also provide a detailed analysis of potential high-speed train routes between the Bay Area and the Central Valley. The goal of this part of the study is to identify which of the alignment alternatives merit further evaluation in the California High-Speed Rail Authority's "Bay Area to Central Valley High-Speed Train Program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS)." The plan will not identify a preferred alignment alternative for the Bay Area. That responsibility remains with the California High-Speed Rail Authority as part of its parallel environmental review process.

For more information, please contact:

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Ashley Nguyen
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607
510.817.5809
anguyen@mtc.ca.gov

Regional Rail Project Offices:

510.464.6151

Or visit:

www.bayarearailplan.info

Planning Process—A Team Effort

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) District, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) and the California High-Speed Rail Authority are jointly developing the Regional Rail Plan – but with plenty of help!



Bay Area residents along with neighboring communities are helping develop the Regional Rail Plan at a series of community workshops.



A regional rail steering committee, comprised of local passenger and freight rail operators, including Amtrak, Capitol Corridor, Altamont Commuter Express (ACE), Union Pacific Railroad and Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railway, as well as county congestion management agencies, are providing direction on the study.



An advisory group of academics, environmentalists, and business people are lending technical expertise. Neighboring regional agencies and county government associations are also study participants.

The steering committee will review and comment on the plan before it is sent to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for final action in July 2007.

Rail Plan Step-by-Step

Phase 1 – Vision

Develop a vision for rail in the region.

Phase 2 – Alternatives

Screen the initial alternatives and identify final alternatives for further evaluation.

Phase 3 – Draft Plan

Prepare draft and final plans identifying intermediate- and long-term rail projects.

Regional Rail Plan Development Timeline

