

Memorandum

TO: Joint MTC Planning Committee with the
ABAG Administrative Committee

DATE: January 4, 2019

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1517

RE: Transit Rail Planning Update

Background

Over the past several months, MTC has initiated several new transit rail planning studies in close coordination with our partners and policymakers. Although much of this work remains in early stages of development, staff believes it is important to bring these related efforts to the Committee's attention, given the ongoing work on major transit rail improvements across our region. Staff has worked to align these studies to the ongoing *Horizon* initiative, as well as the ongoing planning efforts of our transportation partners. These studies should also help inform future policies for Regional Measure 3, which makes a significant investment in transit rail improvements across numerous regional corridors.

Regional Rail Synthesis

The San Francisco Bay Area Regional Rail Plan (2007) was completed over ten years ago. The Plan envisioned a \$45 billion capital investment on multiple corridors spanning the 9-county Bay Area (and the surrounding San Joaquin and Sacramento “megaregion”). Since that time, the Bay Area has moved forward on funding and delivering many of the Plan's improvements, although a number of challenges remain.

The purpose of this study is to tie together loose ends from the Bay Area and State's recent rail planning and project delivery efforts. The synthesis will describe the progress— in terms of planning, funding and project delivery— for implementing passenger rail projects over the last ten years. It will also identify and describe a set of near-term strategic regional “focal points”— specific policy areas where MTC and our regional partners are best positioned to focus future planning, funding, and delivery. Ultimately, this effort will help inform transit priorities in Plan Bay Area 2050 and policy decisions related to RM3 allocations. The synthesis is scheduled for release in spring 2019.

Crossings Perspective Paper

Over the last three decades, MTC has led the development of three major regional planning efforts examining a new Bay crossing between the Bay Bridge and San Mateo Bridge corridors. These three studies — the Bay Crossing Study (1991), a second Bay Crossing Study (2002, updated in 2012), and the Core Capacity Transit Study (2017) — identified and analyzed seven Bay crossing concepts (some of which include multiple sub-options with marginal alignment differences).

Under the umbrella of *Horizon*, MTC staff will prepare a new report, *Crossings - Transformative Investments for an Uncertain Future* ("Crossings"). The report will perform a comparative analysis of San Francisco Bay Crossing projects, across multiple potential future scenarios, to inform Bay Area residents and policymakers. Crossings will be an integral part of *Horizon* and begin by developing a reasonable range of alternatives- spanning both transit and highway concepts- for examination. The final report is expected in spring 2019.

Bay Area Transit Use Study Project

MTC has partnered with the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs (UCLA) to develop a transit ridership trend study for the Bay Area. This study is broader than just rail, and will focus especially on recent ridership losses on many of the region's bus systems. Nonetheless, the study will include findings to inform current and future rail service/investment. The effort is modeled on a similar effort completed in early 2018 by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the UCLA research team. MTC has formed a Technical Advisory Committee to provide input and review findings and recommendations. Research questions include how and where Bay Area transit use is changing, how riders are changing in terms of sociodemographic, locational, and trip characteristics, and what impact these changes and services are having on transit use across the region. The final report is expected in summer 2019.

Southern Alameda County Integrated Rail Analysis

This upcoming study will evaluate passenger rail needs and opportunities for expanded and more seamless and connected rail service in the central and southern Alameda County area. The initial geographic focus includes Oakland heading south through Fremont to San Jose, with east-west connections to the Tri-Valley and Peninsula. This area is a major bottleneck for Capitol Corridor and Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) expansion and includes the potential Dumbarton Rail Corridor, making it key to planning for rail expansion in the Northern California megaregion.

MTC and the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) will work in close partnership managing the project and technical analysis, which will include planning, evaluation of alternatives, conceptual engineering and initial design. MTC and ACTC have already assembled a rail operators group composed of staff from ACE, BART, Caltrain, Capitol Corridor, LAVTA/Valley Link, SamTrans, and VTA. The agencies have also presented the scope of work to a number of local elected officials and interested state legislators.

The work is funded via a State appropriation administered by the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), and the agencies will work in close coordination with CalSTA and Caltrans throughout this effort. The study will kick off in early 2019 and we foresee a roughly eighteen-month effort toward completion.

Next Steps

Staff will return to the Planning Committee throughout 2019 to provide updates on these efforts.



Steve Heminger

Attachment:

- Presentation

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Transit Rail Planning Update

Joint MTC Planning Committee with the ABAG Administrative Committee

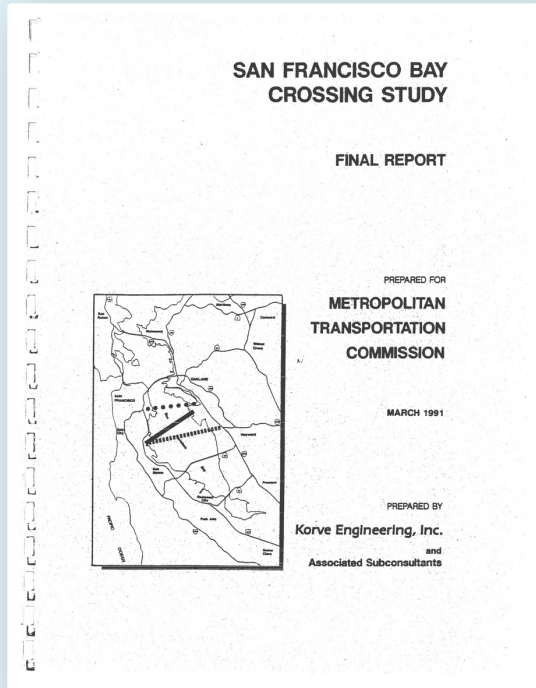
January 11, 2019

Matt Maloney,
Integrated Regional Planning Program

Outline

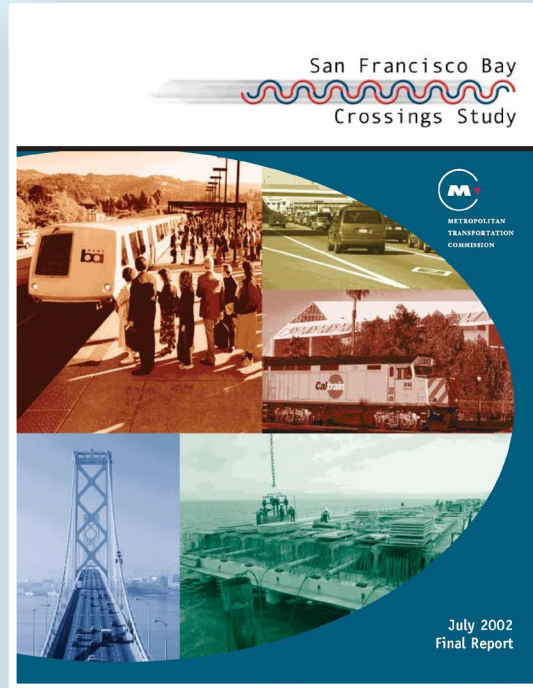
- **Brief background & context**
- **Current MTC-led efforts:**
 - Regional Rail Synthesis
 - Crossings Perspective Paper
 - Bay Area Transit Use Study
 - Southern Alameda County Integrated Rail Analysis
- **Other efforts with MTC involvement**

Brief sampling of some of the rail planning efforts over the last three decades



Bay Crossings Study

1991



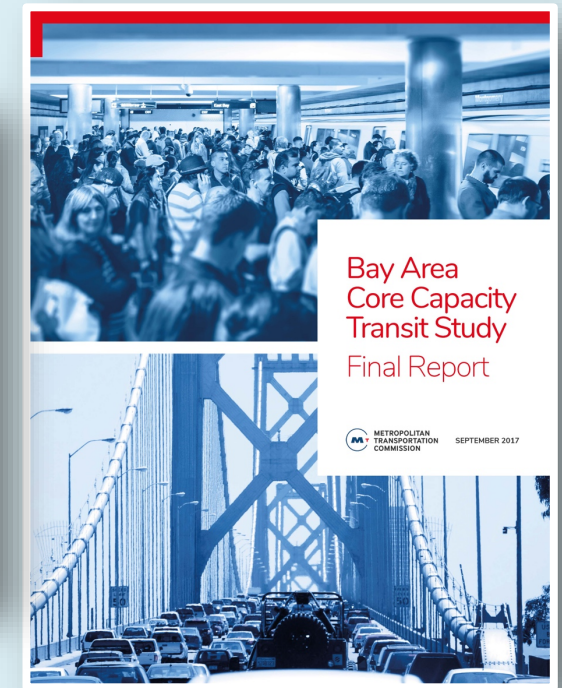
Bay Crossings Study

2002



Regional Rail Plan

2007



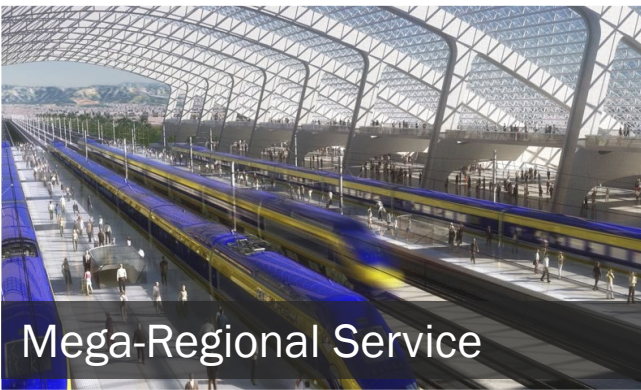
Core Capacity Transit Study

2017

RM3 major transit improvements and corridors

| Project/Corridor | RM3 (\$M) |
|--|-----------|
| BART to Silicon Valley Phase 2 | \$375 |
| SMART | \$40 |
| Capitol Corridor Connection | \$90 |
| Caltrain Downtown Extension | \$325 |
| Core Capacity Transit Improvements | \$140 |
| Transbay Rail Crossing | \$50 |
| Tri-Valley Transit Access Improvements | \$100 |
| Eastridge to BART Regional Connector | \$130 |
| San Jose Diridon Station | \$100 |
| Dumbarton Corridor Improvements | \$130 |
| North Bay Transit Improvements | \$100 |





Mega-Regional Service



Land Use and TOD Policy



Governance

Purpose

- Reconnaissance of regional, mega-regional, and state led initiatives



Reinforcing Trunk Lines

Partners

- AECOM (consultant)



Electrification



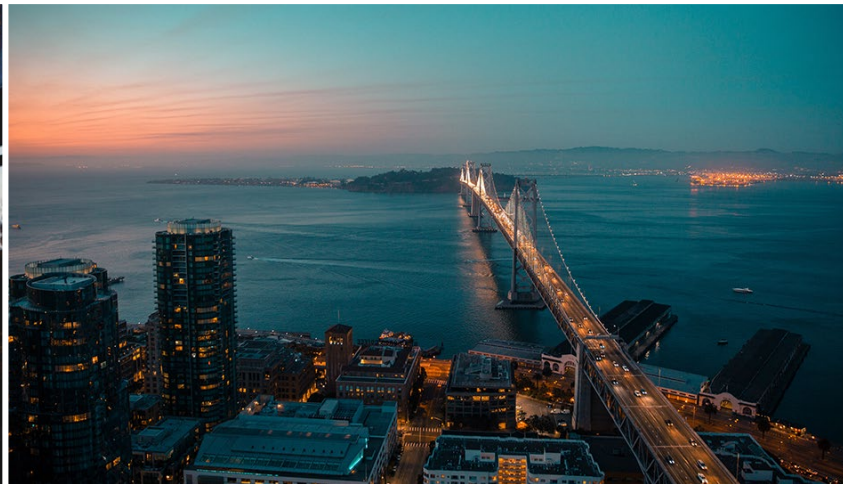
Core Capacity



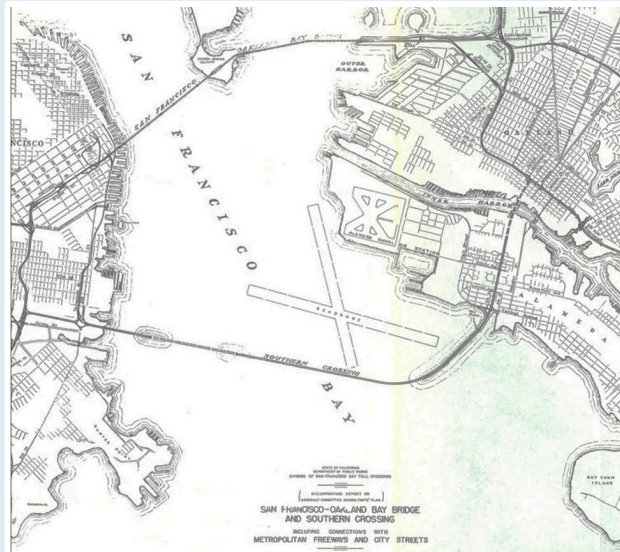
System Extensions

Timeline

- Underway, completion Spring '19



Crossings Perspective Paper



Purpose

- Evaluate a reasonable range of crossings alternatives (for all modes) to relieve pressure on the Bay Bridge corridor.

Partners

- Transit operators, SFCTA, ACTC, CalSTA, Caltrans, and other stakeholders, Arup (consultant)

Timeline

- Underway, completion Spring '19

Crossings Concepts

BART
Crossing

Rail
Crossing

Highway
Crossing

BART +
Highway
Crossing

1 – Southern Crossing

2 – Mission Street Redundancy

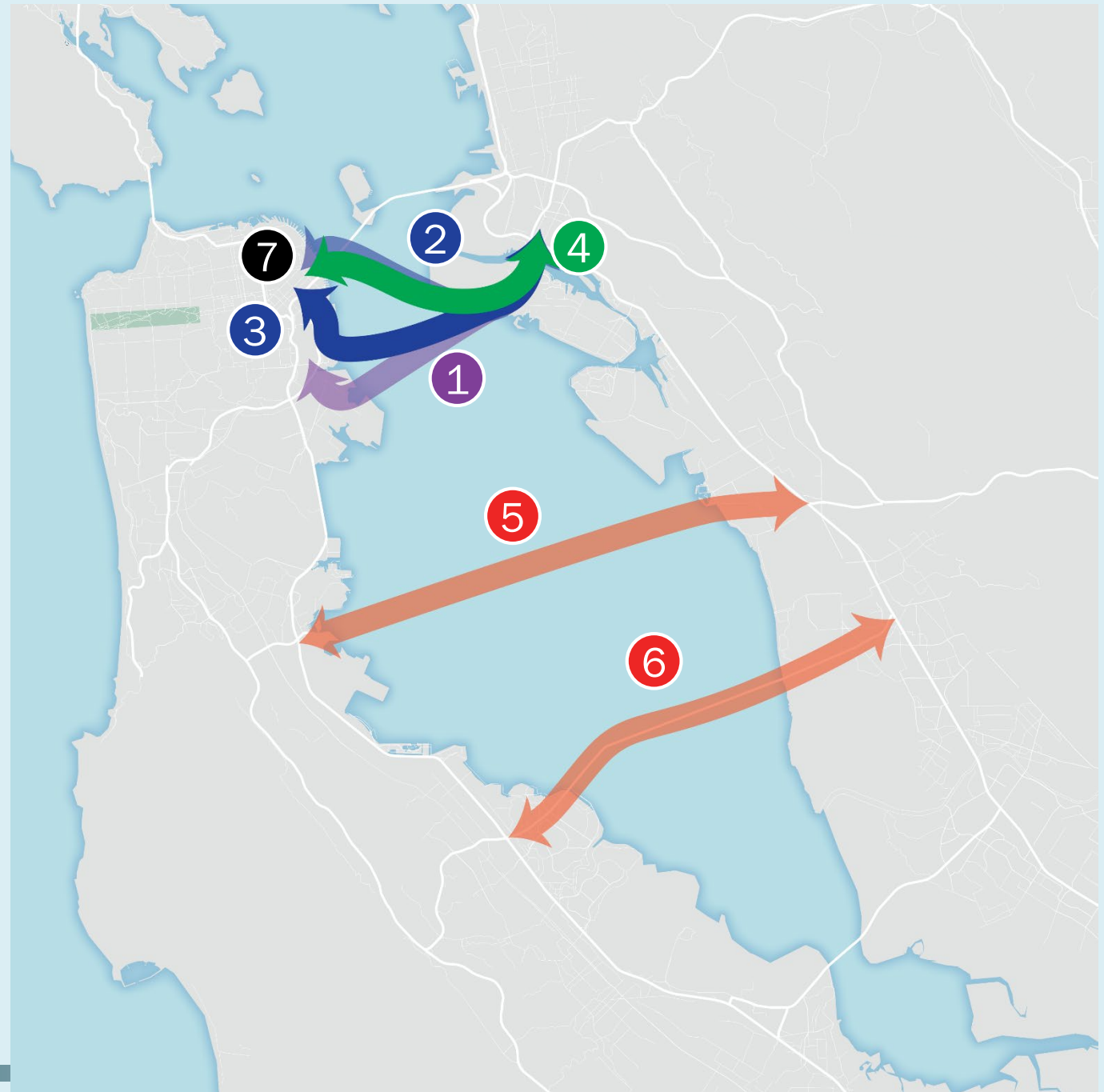
3 – New Markets

4 – Greater Regional Rail

5 – Mid-Bay Bridge

6 – San Mateo-Hayward Bridge Widening

7 – New Markets (#3) + Greater Regional Rail (#4)





Bay Area Transit Use Study

Purpose

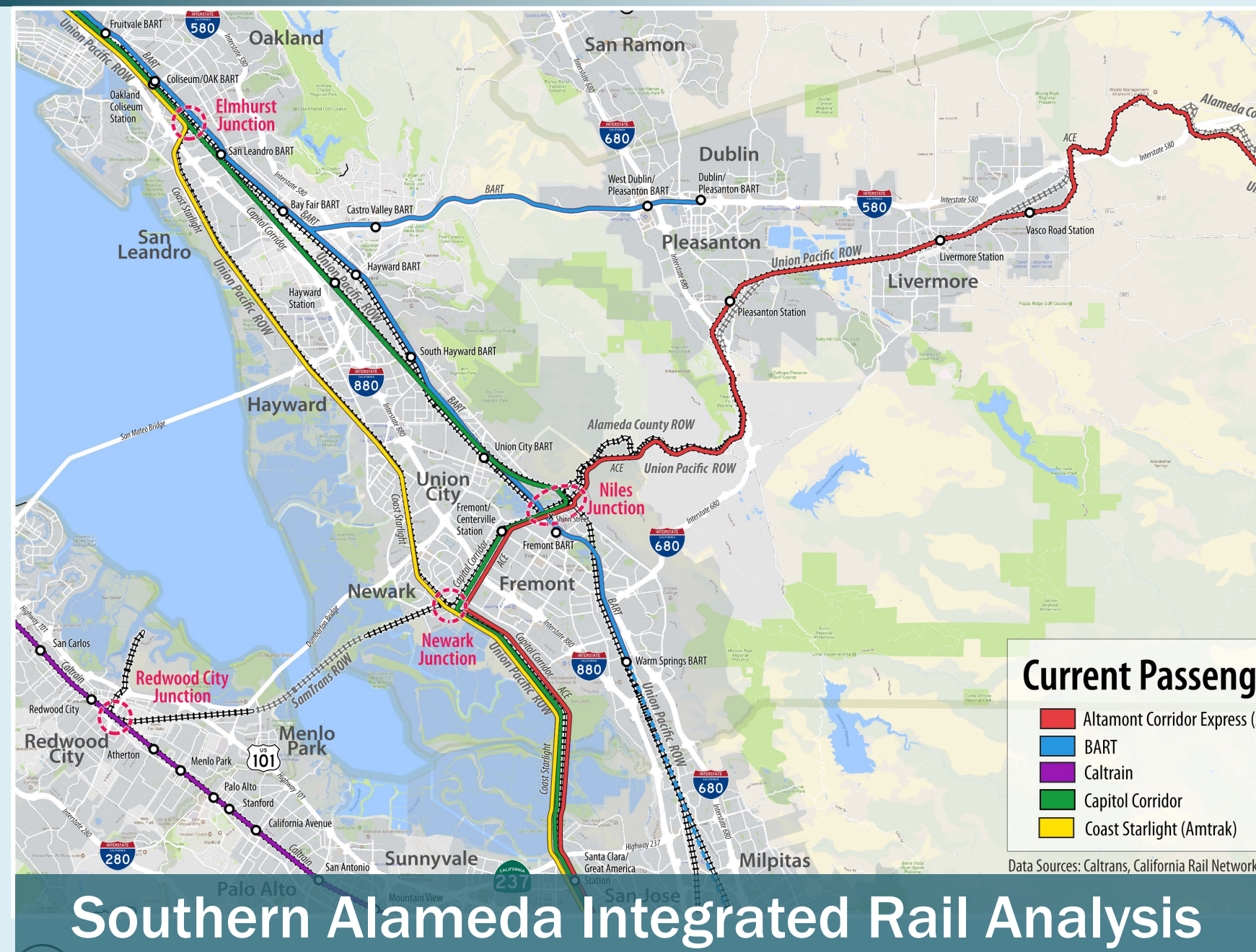
- How, where, and why is transit use changing in the Bay Area

Partners

- UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, transit operators

Timeline

- Underway, completion Summer '19



Purpose

- Evaluate passenger rail needs and opportunities for expanded and more seamless service (planning, conceptual engineering, initial design)

Partners

- CalSTA, ACTC, rail operators, and other stakeholders, HDR (consultants)

Timeline

- Underway, completion Spring/Summer '2020

Southern Alameda Integrated Rail Analysis

Next Steps

