



The Bay Area Transportation Working Group (BATWG) is a not-for-profit organization with a membership of experienced transportation experts and long-time transportation enthusiasts.

In 2014 the voters of Alameda County approved Measure BB funds to improve Tri-Valley's access to BART. Now, the Alameda County Transportation Authority (ACTC) is poised to divert \$400,000,000 of these Measure BB funds to building a mostly single-track Valley Link rail line to San Joaquin County. BATWG, dedicated to improving Bay Area mobility, strongly opposes this action for the following reasons.

1. The \$400 million for BART-to-Livermore item was the single largest cost item in Measure BB. It was intended to improve Tri-Valley access to BART. Valley Link does little to meet this objective. In fact it mostly helps San Joaquin County and therefore constitutes a major shift of transportation benefits from Alameda County residents to non-Alameda County residents. This is a fundamental change from what the Alameda County voters approved in 2014, and it goes without saying that \$400,000,000 diverted to mostly benefit San Joaquin County are funds denied to important Alameda County alternative projects.
2. There is no commitment from San Joaquin County to provide funding for the project; they simply suggest they will "look for funding" Under the circumstances there is no reason for Alameda County taxpayers to be standing at the front of the line when it comes to paying the bill.

3. The Alternatives Analysis presented to justify Valley Link is seriously inadequate. For one thing it does not consider an efficient network of buses designed to improve travel in the Tri-Valley area. Valley Link's only bus alternative consists of a single bus line duplicating the proposed rail line route. This weak alternative fails to take advantage of the flexibility of bus systems meeting individual travel needs, saving both capital costs and operating costs in the process. Viable bus alternatives to improve non-automotive travel in the Tri-Valley should be fairly evaluated before any decision is made to move ahead with a rail line which offers little benefit to residents of Alameda County.

The proposal to divert Measure BB funds to Valley Link should be rejected. When regional commissioners indulge in this kind of chicanery, it helps no one. Given the excessive cost of extending BART beyond the East Dublin station, the best and cheapest way of achieving Measure BB goals would be via a highly efficient, out-of-traffic bus network, patterned after the popular and well used hi-tech buses. Please help dissuade the Alameda County Transportation Authority (ACTA) from taking this ill-considered action.