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*From Tri-City Voice, October 2, 2012*

**U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer visits future Berryessa BART station**

Submitted By Brandi Childress

On Tuesday, August 21, 2012, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer toured the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA) BART Silicon Valley Berryessa Extension Project, the largest transportation infrastructure project in Santa Clara County. Boxer, a national leader on infrastructure, has a long history as a proponent of bringing BART to Silicon Valley. She, along with other ardent advocates and supporters in Washington, helped secure a \$900M federal grant for the Berryessa Extension Project earlier in 2012.

In November 2000, a package of transit improvements known as Measure A was overwhelmingly approved by a 70.3 percent majority vote, authorizing a 30-year, 1/2 cent sales tax to construct the largest infrastructure project in Silicon Valley. Eight years later, Santa Clara County residents passed a 1/8 cent sales tax to fund the operating and maintenance costs of the BART Extension.

The cost of the Berryessa Extension Project is approximately \$2.3 billion, which includes annual allocations of the \$900M federal grant ranging from \$59M-150M over the next seven years, \$251M in state funding and \$1.179 billion from Measure A sales tax.

For more information about BART Silicon Valley, contact VTA Community Outreach at (408) 934-2662, (TTY only) (408) 321-2330, or visit [www.vta.org/bart](http://www.vta.org/bart)