

VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Extension Project ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

Opportunities for Public Participation and Input *(continued)*

Prepare and Circulate Final SEIS/SEIR (Summer 2016-Early 2017)

What VTA will do:

- Prepare responses to comments on the Draft SEIS/SEIR for inclusion in the Final SEIS/SEIR.
- Circulate the Final SEIS/SEIR for public review in early 2017.

What the public can do:

- Review the Final SEIS/SEIR and provide comments to the VTA Board of Directors and/or FTA for them to consider before project approval.

VTA Board Defines Final SEIS/SEIR Project (Late 2016)

What VTA will do:

- Present the findings of the Draft SEIS/SEIR to the VTA Board of Directors. The VTA Board will define the Final SEIS/SEIR project that will be entered into the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Starts funding program to seek federal funding.
- Submit application to FTA to enter the New Starts Project Development phase in the funding process.

What the public can do:

- Attend VTA's BART Silicon Valley Program Working Committee (PWC) meeting in late 2016.
- Provide comments to the VTA Board on the project in late 2016 to be submitted into the New Starts evaluation process.

VTA and FTA Approval of SEIS/SEIR (Spring 2017)

What VTA will do:

- Present the findings of the Final SEIS/SEIR to the VTA Board of Directors who will consider certifying the SEIR and approving the project in Spring 2017.

What FTA will do:

- Consider the project and environmental impacts and consider amending the 2010 Record of Decision (ROD) in Spring 2017. The 16-mile, 6-station project was evaluated in the 2009 Draft EIS, but FTA issued the ROD for a 10-mile, 2-station project. FTA will now consider approving the remaining 6 miles and 4 stations.

Important Key Dates:

Outreach Sessions

Spring/Summer 2016

Public Meetings on the Draft SEIS/SEIR

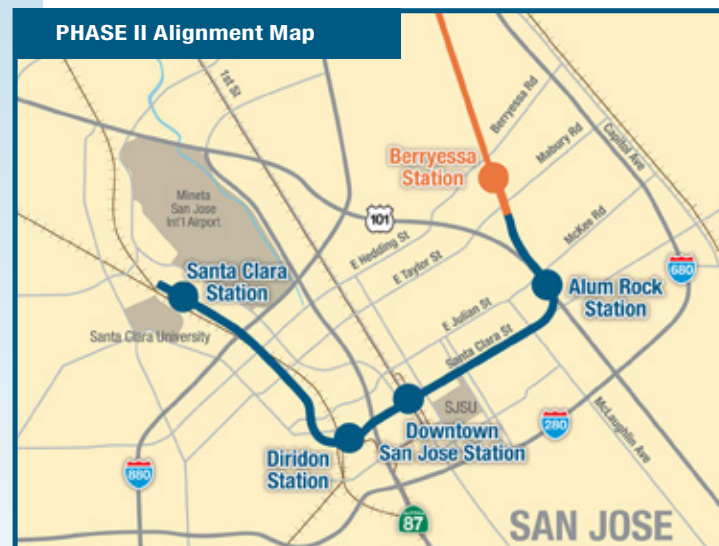
Spring 2016

VTA Program Working Committee (PWC) Meetings

Ongoing bi-monthly

VTA Board of Directors Meeting

Board defines final project to seek federal funding
Late 2016



This fact sheet includes information related to the environmental analysis for VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Project and summarizes opportunities for the public to gain information, be engaged, and provide valuable feedback.

Phase II Overview

VTA's Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Silicon Valley Program is a voter-approved, regional transportation project that is planned to extend BART from southern Fremont in Alameda County through the cities of Milpitas, San Jose, and Santa Clara in Santa Clara County. Once completed, the project will close a significant gap in the regional rail system and provide commuter rail connections to the region's three major metropolitan centers: San Jose, San Francisco, and Oakland.

VTA's BART Silicon Valley Program is being built in phases. VTA's BART Silicon Valley Berryessa Extension Project (Phase I) is currently under construction and is projected to open in late 2017. VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Extension Project (Phase II) will include a 5-mile long subway tunnel through downtown San Jose and will extend the BART system from the future Phase I terminus for approximately six miles. Four stations are proposed for Phase II: Alum Rock, Downtown San Jose, Diridon, and Santa Clara.

VTA obtained California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) clearance (required by state law) in 2004 and in 2007 for the full 16-mile, six-station BART Silicon Valley Program. Following the 2004 and 2007 CEQA clearances, and at the recommendation of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), VTA decided to build the project in phases. VTA entered into the FTA New Starts grant funding program in 2009 and received National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance

(required by federal law) in 2010 for Phase I. FTA's New Starts program is the federal government's primary discretionary financial resource for supporting major transit infrastructure projects. An FTA New Starts funding agreement for Phase I was executed in 2012.

Phase II of VTA's BART Silicon Valley Program requires an approved Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/SEIR) to become eligible for federal and state funding. A combined SEIS/SEIR will be developed to evaluate and environmentally clear Phase II of VTA's BART Silicon Valley Program.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS
(2+ YEARS)

ENGINEERING
(2 - 6 YEARS)

CONSTRUCTION
(6 - 8 YEARS)

PASSENGER SERVICE

2015

2017

2026



ON-GOING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Meetings, Open Houses, Focused Outreach Sessions, Public Hearings, Social Media



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Why an SEIS/SEIR?

NEPA and CEQA require government agencies to identify adverse environmental impacts associated with a project and to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those adverse impacts.

- Preparation of a Supplemental EIS (SEIS) for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required to receive federal funding, and preparation of a Subsequent EIR (SEIR) for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is required to environmentally clear the Phase II Project.
- Although state environmental clearances were obtained in 2004 and 2007 for a 16-mile, 6-station project, VTA decided to build the project in phases and, in 2011, environmentally cleared the construction of a 10-mile, 2-station project, now called Phase I. The draft federal environmental document that was circulated in 2009 also addressed a 10-mile, 2-station project and a 16-mile, 6-station project. FTA

approved the 10-mile, 2-station project in 2010. The remaining 6-mile alignment, including 4-stations, did not receive federal environmental clearance. An update for the remaining 6 miles, called Phase II, is necessary under both CEQA and NEPA due to changed background conditions, changed laws and regulations, and changes to the project. Therefore, because of these changes, a combined SEIS/SEIR will be prepared.

- The combined environmental document will:
 - Define the project.
 - Identify potential effects of project construction and operation.
 - Develop measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts.
 - Disclose project impacts, mitigation, and public comments and responses.

Opportunities for Public Participation and Input

Scoping (Early 2015)

What it is:

- The first step in an open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed project.
- Public scoping period began on January 30, 2015 and ended on March 2, 2015. VTA recorded and included all comments in the Scoping Report, which is available to the public on the web site.

What VTA did:

- Developed and presented project alternatives and options.
- Conducted public scoping meetings.
- Publicized meetings via mail, email, newspaper advertisements, and media.

Opportunities for Public Participation and Input *(continued)*

What the public did during scoping:

- Attended public scoping meetings to learn about the project – three meetings were held in February 2015 in the Alum Rock neighborhood, downtown San Jose, and in Santa Clara.
- Provided input on what should be studied in the Draft SEIS/SEIR.
- Reviewed and commented on the scope and focus of the environmental analysis via mail, email, or at the scoping meetings. VTA received over 350 comments.

Prepare Draft SEIS/SEIR (Spring 2015-Spring 2016)

What VTA will do:

- Prepare technical studies and Draft SEIS/SEIR.
- Analyze project impacts and evaluate alternatives and options.
- Draft mitigation measures based on potential impacts and ongoing community input.
- VTA is committed to an ongoing, transparent, community outreach process which includes community update meetings at important project milestones, as well as ongoing outreach to key stakeholder groups in the project region.

What the public can do:

- Attend and engage in outreach sessions in Spring 2015 through Spring of 2016 on proposed topics such as funding and finance, access and station connectivity, and construction methods.

Public Review and Comment On Draft SEIS/SEIR (Spring-Summer 2016)

What VTA will do:

- Circulate Draft SEIS/SEIR.
- Host public meetings to present results of the analysis and receive comments on Draft SEIS/SEIR.

What the public can do:

- Attend public meetings to provide formal comments about the project as part of the environmental process.
- Review Draft SEIS/SEIR during 45 day public review period and provide comments to VTA via mail, email, or at the public meetings.

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