

# **VTA's BART Silicon Valley Program**

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## **VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Extension Project**

Environmental Scoping Meetings  
February 2015



# Meeting Schedule

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- Open house

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

- Presentation and comment period

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

# Meeting Agenda

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- Welcome/Meeting purpose
- Project overview
- Environmental process
- Public comments on scope of environmental document
- Next steps
- Adjournment

# What is Scoping?

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- The process of determining the focus and content (scope) of an environmental document through public outreach.
- Provides notice to the public and other agencies that a draft environmental document is being prepared, and initiates their involvement in the process.

# Scoping ~ Environmental Kick-off

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- Scoping period January 30, 2015 - March 2, 2015
- Scoping Meetings:
  - February 12, 2015, 5:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m.**  
City of Santa Clara Council Chambers
  - February 17, 2015, 5:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m.**  
VTA Customer Service Center, Downtown San Jose
  - February 19, 2015, 5:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m.**  
School of Arts and Culture at Mexican Heritage Plaza

# Scoping ~ Environmental Kick-off

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Submittal of comments to VTA:

In person: Verbal comments during formal comment period of Scoping Meeting or submittal of comment card

Mail: Tom Fitzwater  
Environmental Programs and Resources Management, Bldg B-2  
Valley Transportation Authority  
3331 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95134

Email: [BARTPhase2EIS-EIR@vta.org](mailto:BARTPhase2EIS-EIR@vta.org)

**Comments must be received by 5:00 P.M. on March 2, 2015**

# Public Comments at Scoping Meetings

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- Verbal comments at the scoping meetings will be recorded by a court reporter
- Please submit a speaker card if you wish to speak
- Speakers will be called up in order
- Comments will be recorded

# Project Overview

# Approved California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Project



## Berryessa Extension Project

- 10-mile extension under construction
- Two stations: (Milpitas and Berryessa)
- Forecast opening: Fall 2017
- Anticipated opening day ridership: 23,000

## Phase II Extension

- 6-mile extension
- Four stations (Alum Rock, Downtown San Jose, Diridon, Santa Clara), and Newhall Yard maintenance facility
- Anticipated year 2035 ridership: 55,000



# Project Purpose

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- Improve public transit service
- Enhance regional connectivity
- Increase transit ridership
- Support transportation solutions that will maintain the economic vitality and continuing development of Silicon Valley
- Improve mobility options
- Enhance level and quality of transit service to areas of existing and planned affordable housing
- Improve regional air quality
- Support local and regional land use plans

# Alternatives to be Evaluated

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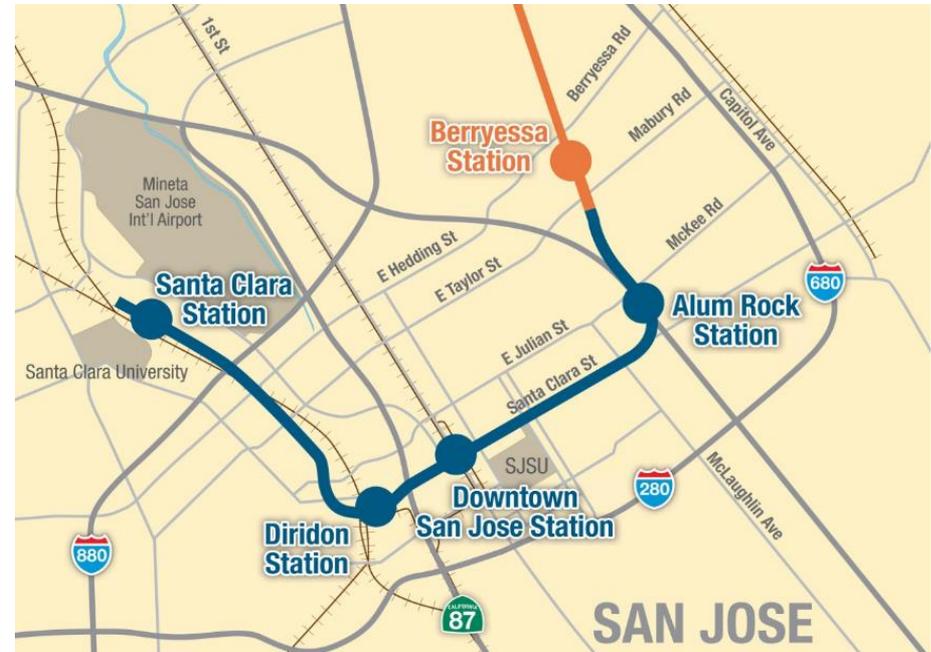


- No-Build Alternative (Berryessa Extension Project)
- Build Alternative (Six-mile, 4-Station extension with maintenance facility)

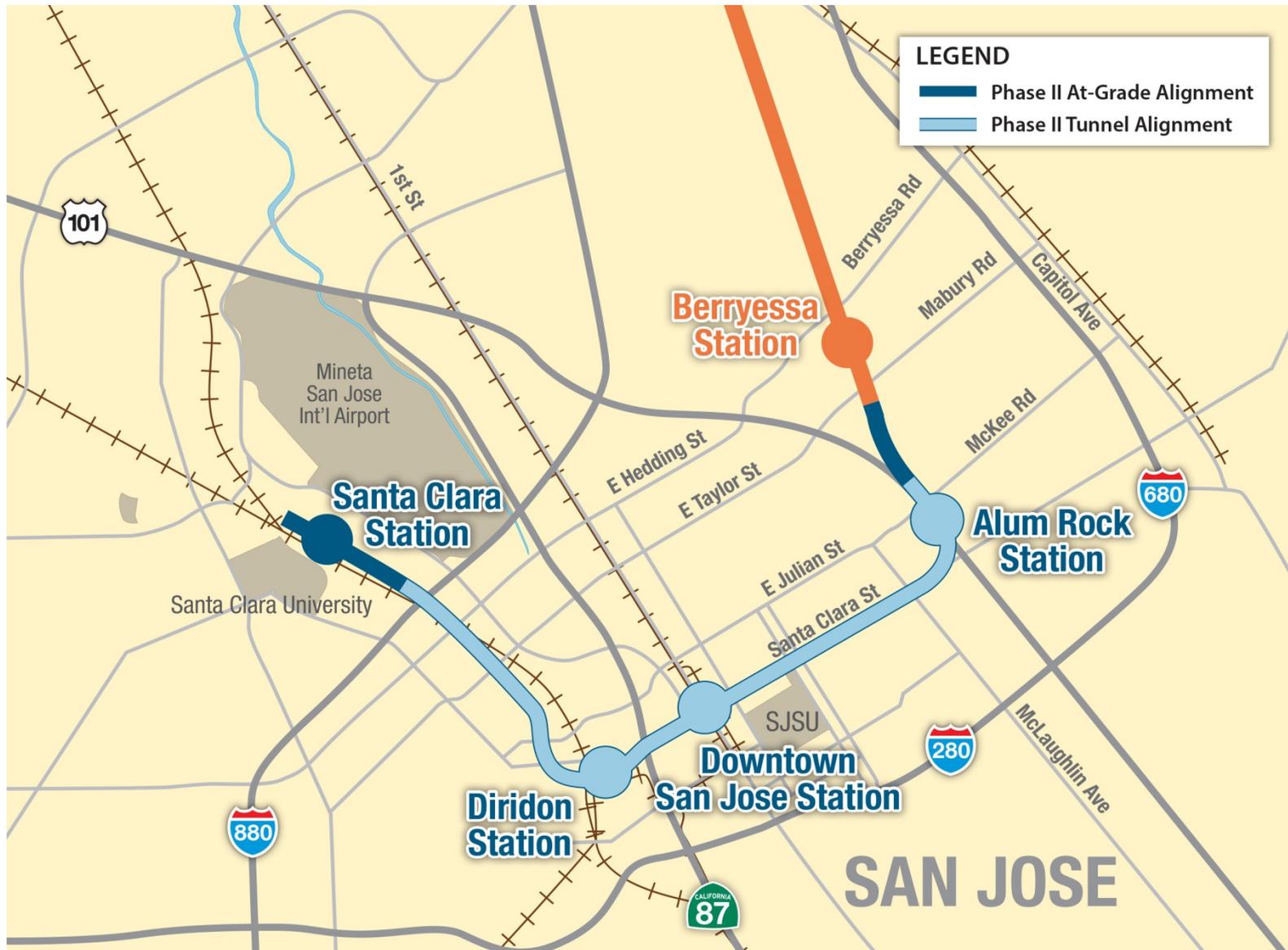
# Build Alternative: Phase II Extension Project

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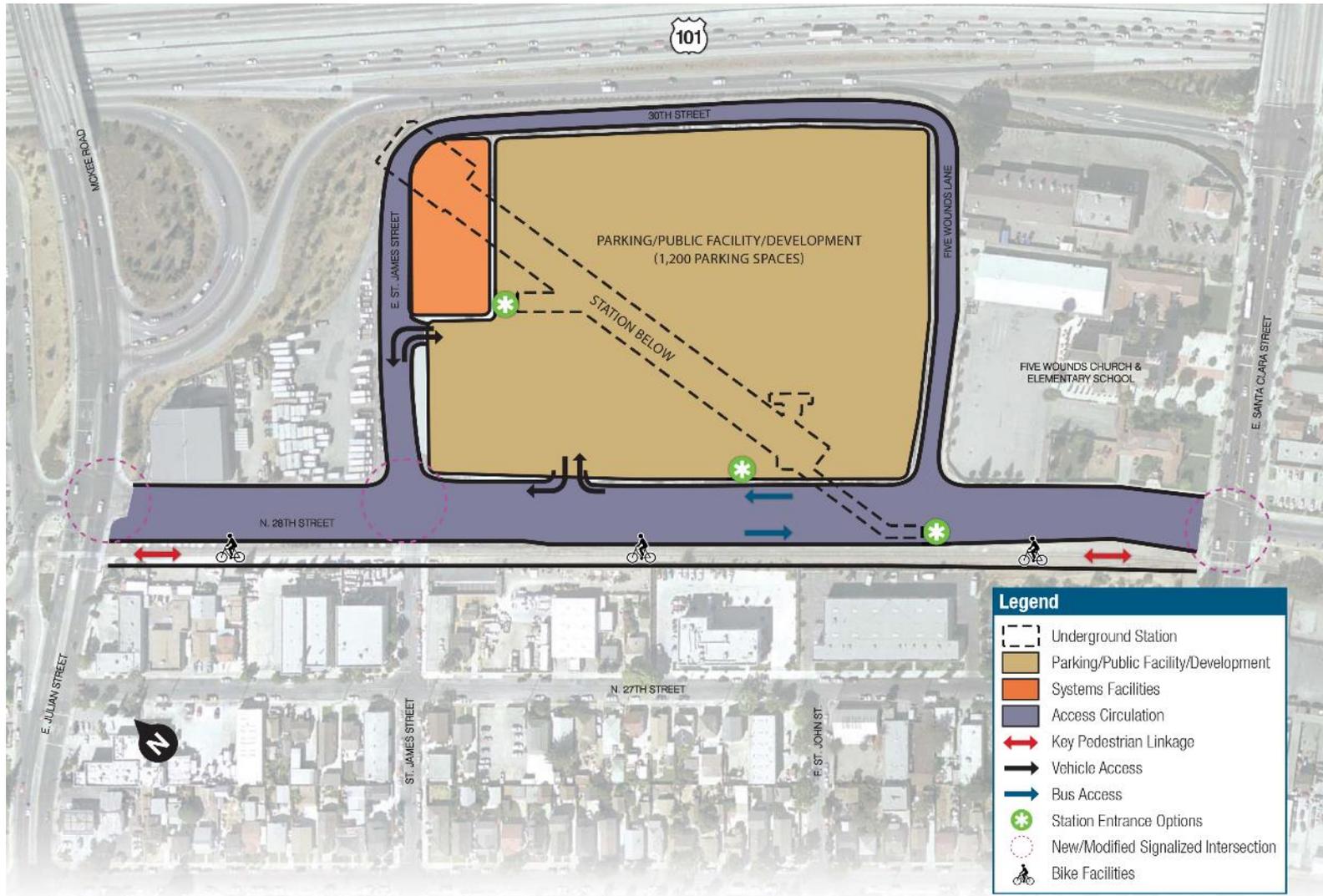
- 6-mile extension
- 4 Stations
  - Alum Rock (underground)
  - Downtown San Jose (underground)
  - Diridon (underground)
  - Santa Clara (at-grade)
- Maintenance Facility in San Jose/Santa Clara
- Anticipated ridership of 55,000



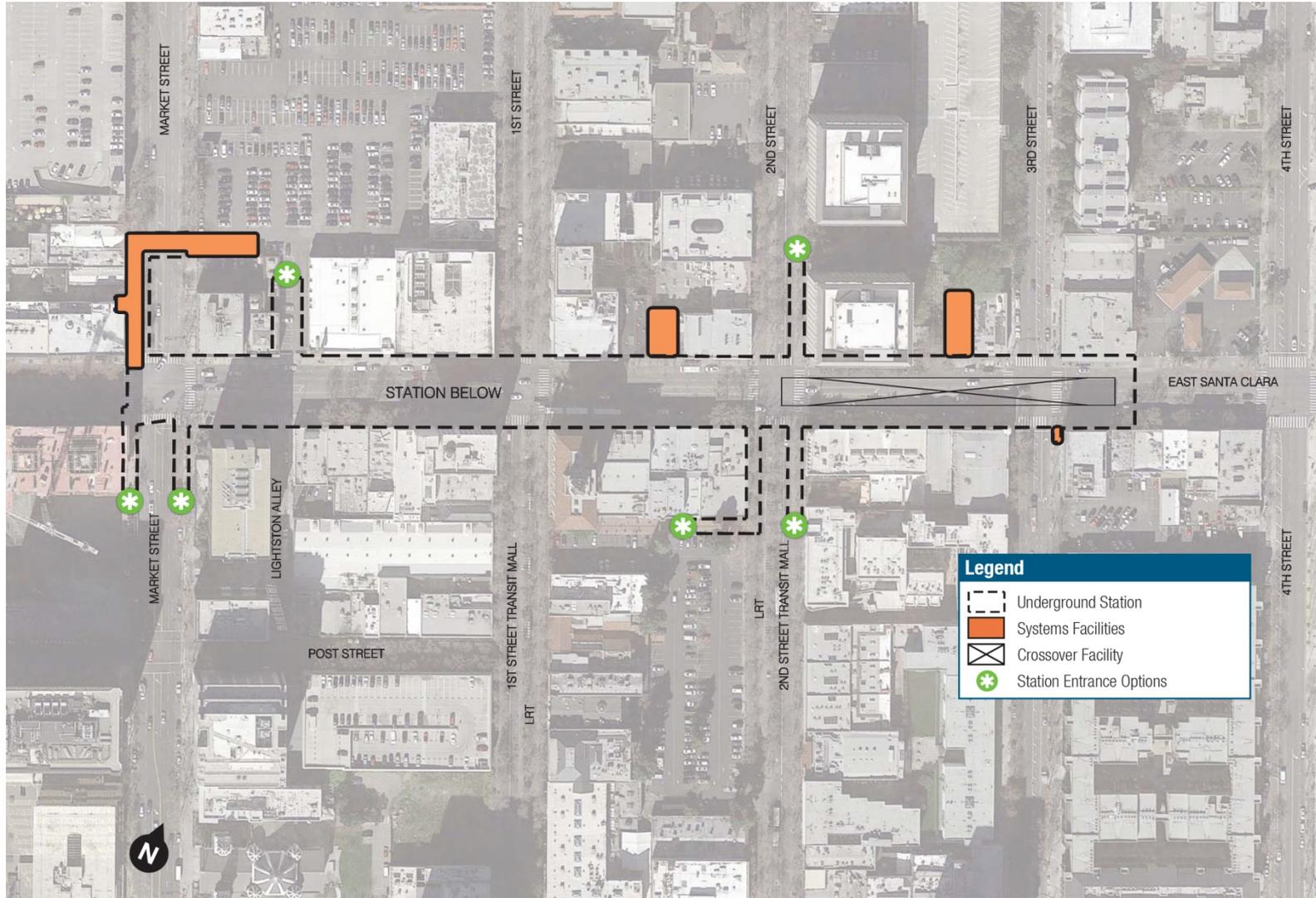
# Build Alternative: Phase II Extension Project



# Alum Rock Station

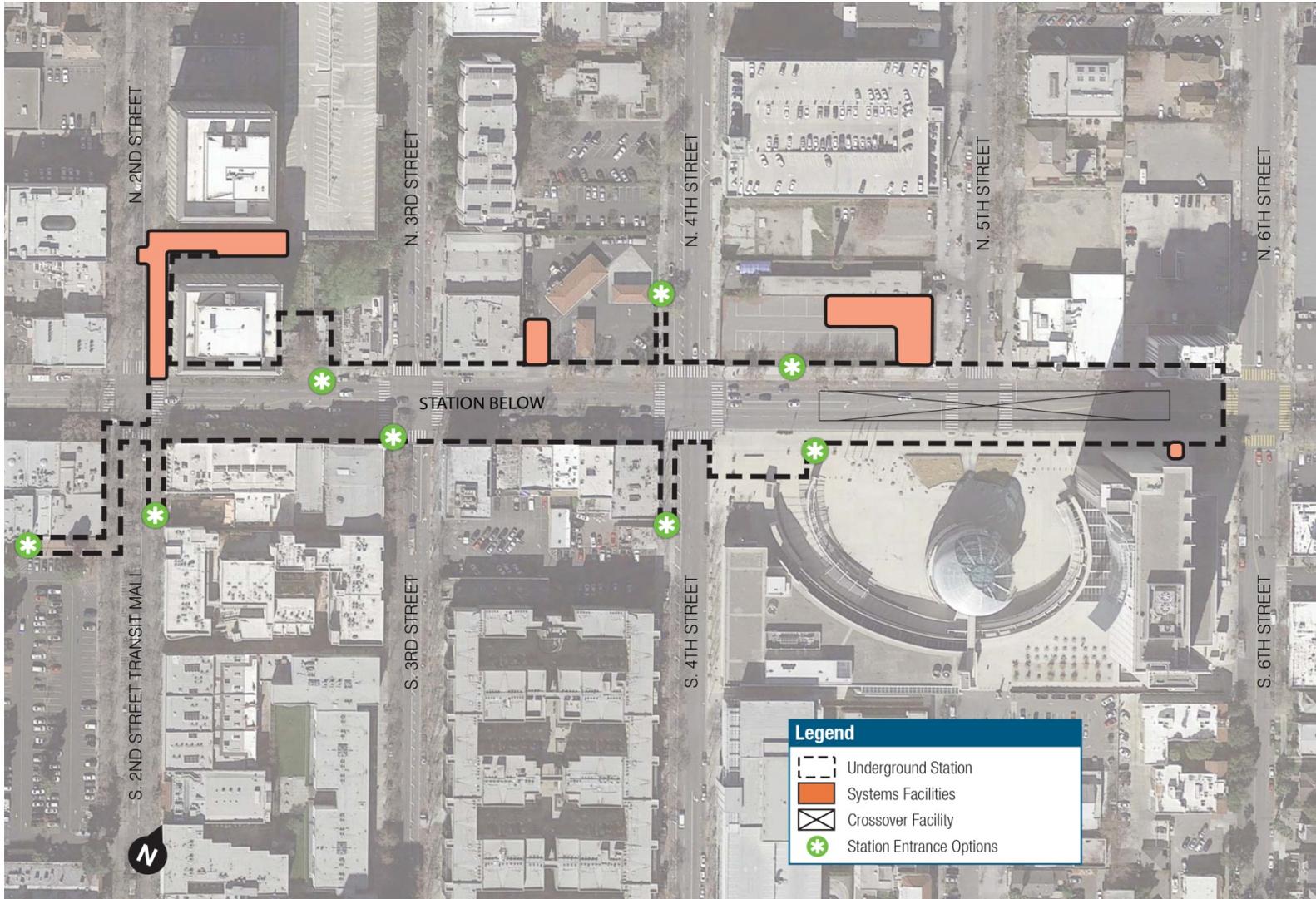


# Downtown San Jose Station – West Option



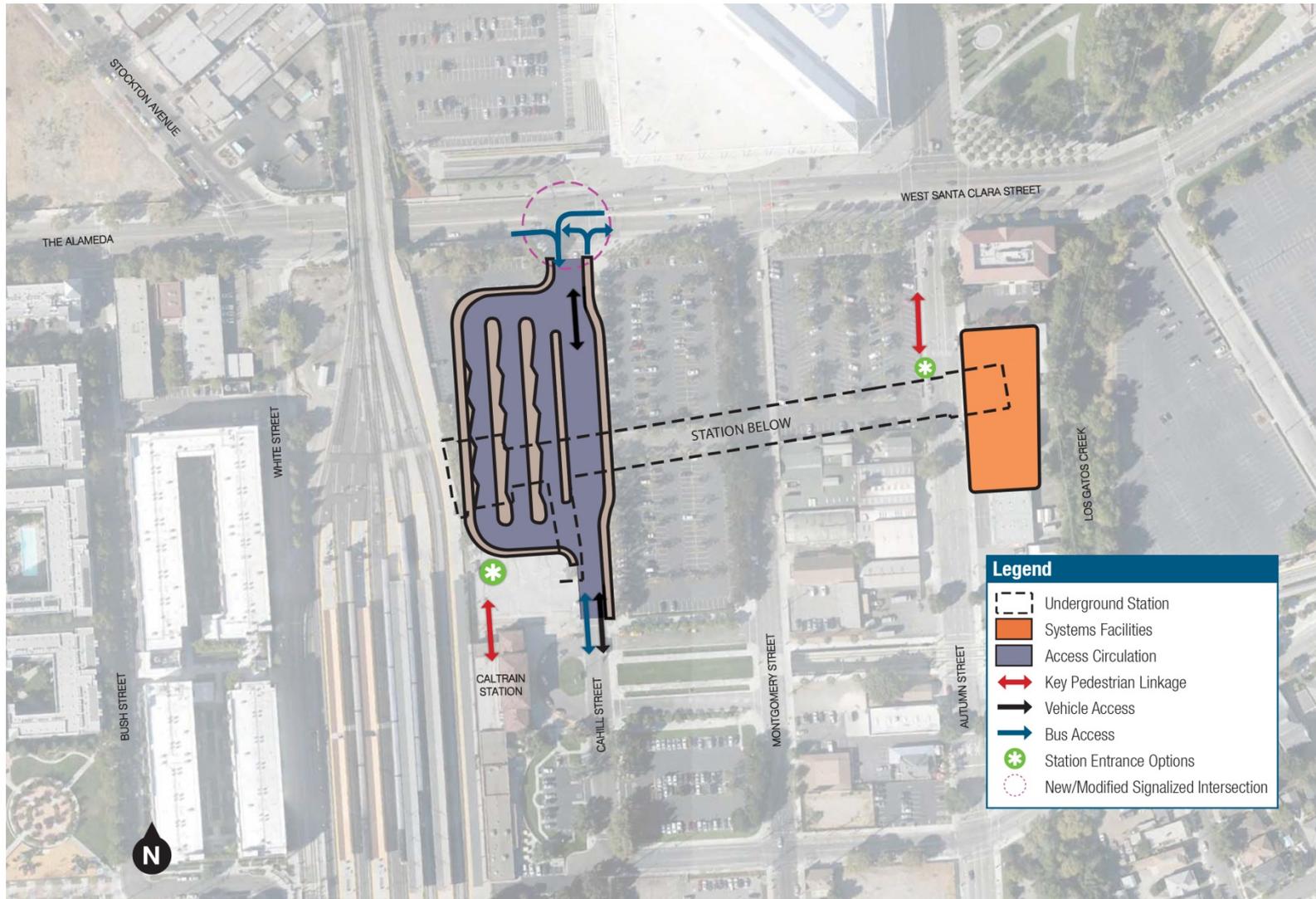
**Downtown Station West Option Conceptual Site Plan**  
Phase II Extension Project

# Downtown San Jose Station – East Option



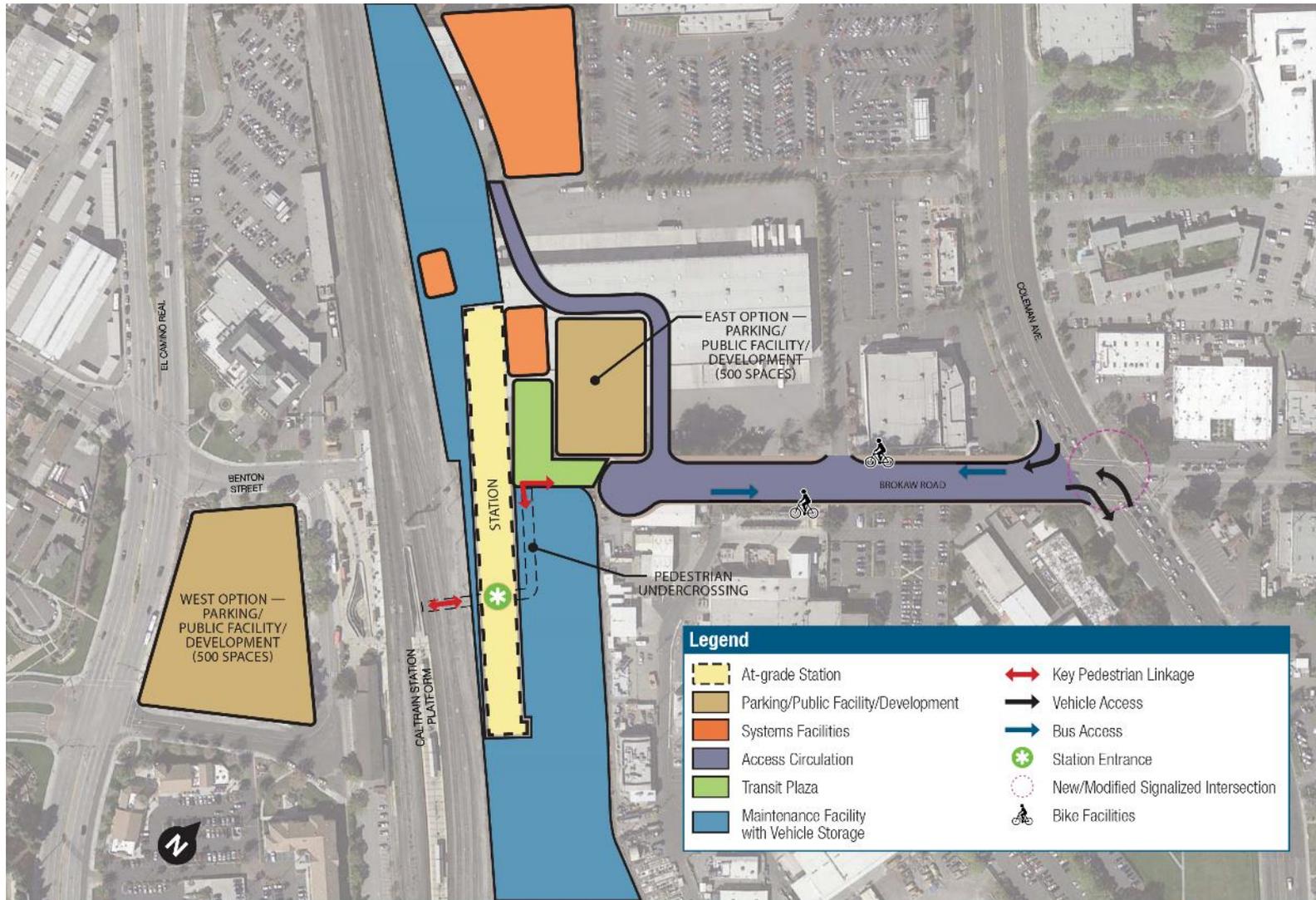
**Downtown Station East Option Conceptual Site Plan**  
Phase II Extension Project

# Diridon Station



**Diridon Station Conceptual Site Plan**  
Phase II Extension Project

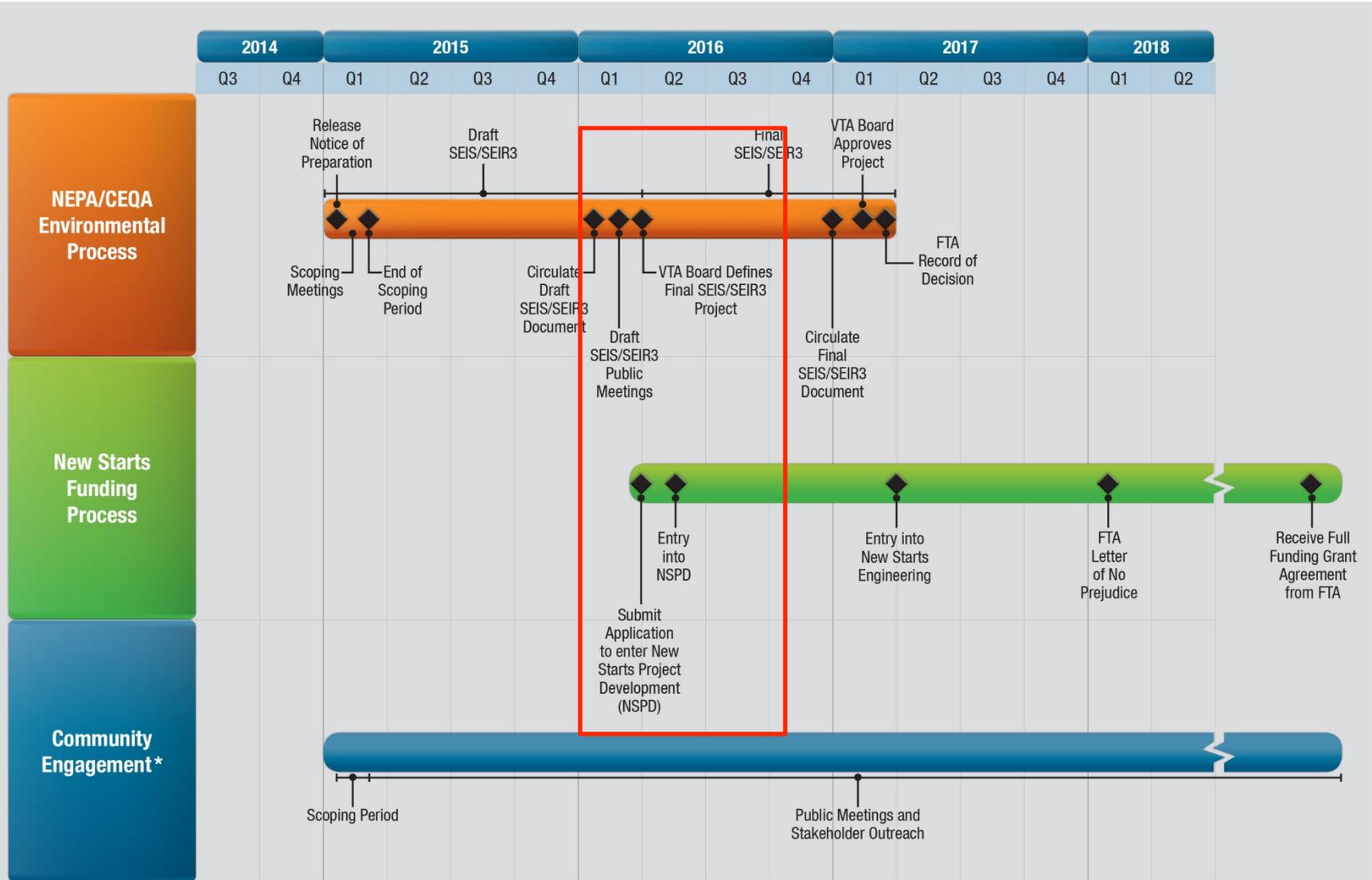
# Santa Clara Station



Legend			
	At-grade Station		Key Pedestrian Linkage
	Parking/Public Facility/Development		Vehicle Access
	Systems Facilities		Bus Access
	Access Circulation		Station Entrance
	Transit Plaza		New/Modified Signalized Intersection
	Maintenance Facility with Vehicle Storage		Bike Facilities

**Santa Clara Station Conceptual Site Plan**  
Phase II Extension Project

# Phase II Project Delivery



\*Community engagement will include scoping meetings, stakeholder outreach, and targeted community forums that fulfill Title VI requirements. A community outreach plan and strategy will be developed to have targeted community forums at all the station areas.

# Future Community Engagement Activities

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- Ongoing community outreach and engagement during environmental process
- Focused Outreach Sessions – Spring 2015, some topics may include:
  - Economic and Community Benefits
  - Funding
  - Station Planning
  - Transportation connectivity
  - Station walking tours
  - Construction Methods

# Environmental Process

# Project History – Environmental Studies

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- 2004 – State clearance (CEQA) on Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR): 16-mile project
- 2007 – CEQA clearance on Final Supplemental EIR (SEIR): 16-mile project
- 2010 – Federal clearance National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): 10-mile project
- 2011 – CEQA clearance on 2<sup>nd</sup> SEIR: 10-mile project
- 2015 – Joint CEQA and NEPA document (SEIS/SEIR3): 6-mile project



# Purpose of Scoping Meeting

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- Describe proposed project and environmental review process
- Early consultation process to solicit input on document scope to address potential major environmental issues
- Scoping does not result in the ultimate decision or selection of an alternative

# **Objectives of the Environmental Document**

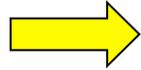
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- Document environmental impacts from project features
- Gather public input
- Coordinate with federal, state, and other agencies
- Provide decision makers with environmental information

# Environmental Review Steps

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## Initiate Environmental Process



Early Consultation/Scoping



Prepare Draft Environmental Document



Comment Period & Public Hearings



VTA Board Defines Project



Prepare Final Environmental Document/Respond to Comments



VTA Board of Directors Approves the Project



Federal Record of Decision for the Project

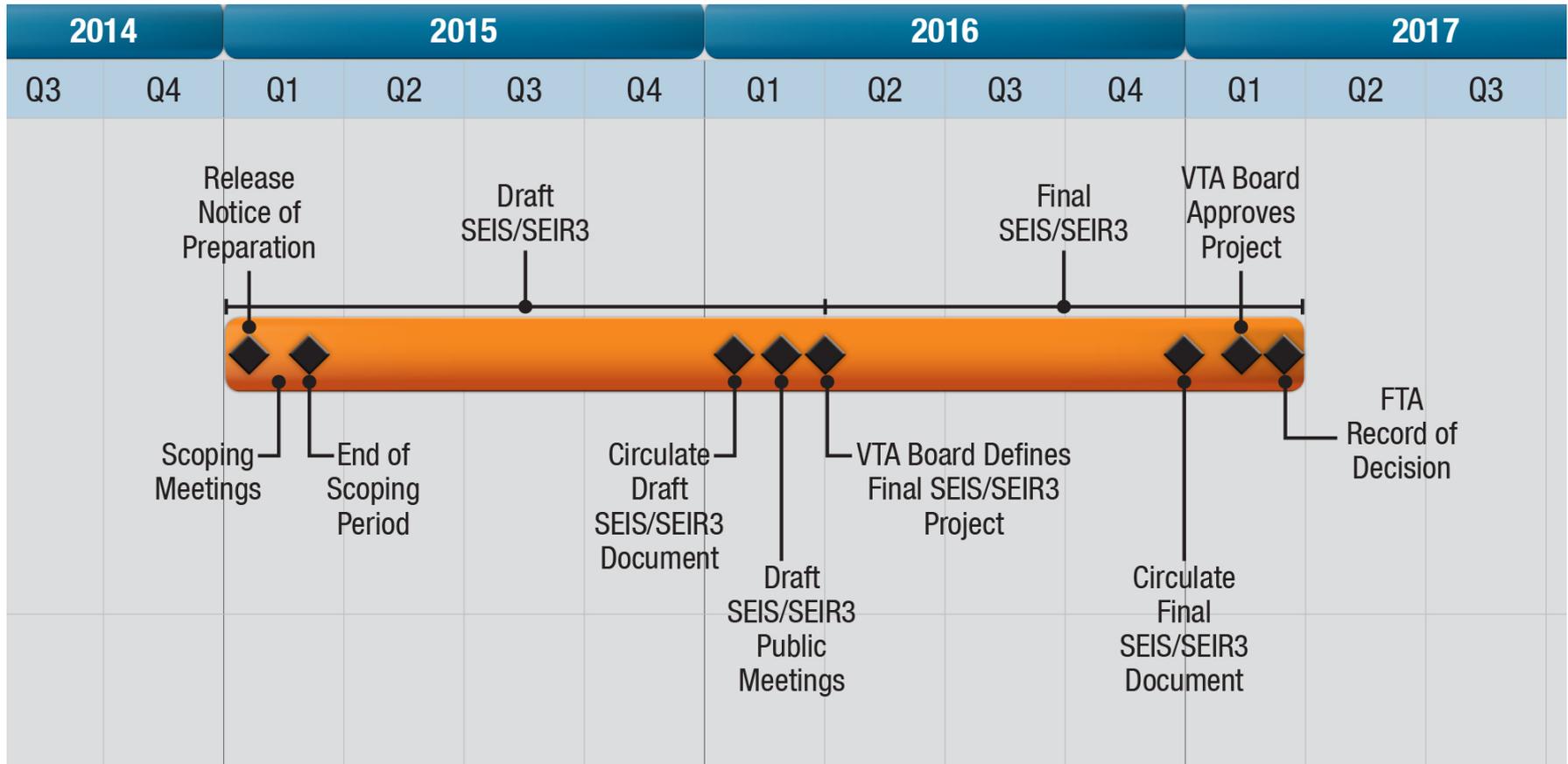
# Environmental Topics

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- Air Quality
- Biological Resources and Wetlands
- Community Services
- Construction
- Cultural Resources
- Electromagnetic Fields
- Energy
- Geology, Soils, & Seismicity
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazardous Materials
- Land Use
- Noise and Vibration
- Security & System Safety
- Socioeconomics
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Visual Quality/Aesthetics
- Water Resources, Water Quality, and Floodplains

# Environmental Process



State (CEQA) and Federal (NEPA) Environmental Process Timeline

# Public Comment

# Speaker Guidelines

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- Please submit a speaker card if you wish to speak
- Moderator will call speakers
- Speakers will have 2 minutes to present
  - Yellow Card – 30 seconds remaining
  - Red Card – speaking time is over
- Tonight, we will not be responding to your comments
- We will document your comments in the Scoping Report
- Time slots will not be traded or yielded
- Please, no interruptions of speaker, side conversations, applause, etc.
- Please turn off cell phones

Thank you for your cooperation!

# Opportunity for Public Comment

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Valley Transportation Authority  
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