



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2017

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
BEN REYES, CITY ATTORNEY

FROM: MICHELLE FITZER, CITY MANAGER

PLACES TO BE

Date and Time	Event	Location
Monday, February 27, 2017 7:00 pm	Planning Commission	City Council Chamber 2131 Pear Street
Tuesday, March 7, 2017 6:00 pm	City Council Meeting	City Council Chamber 2131 Pear Street
Monday, March 13, 2017 7:00 pm	Possible Continued Planning Commission	City Council Chamber 2131 Pear Street
Tuesday, March 21, 2017 6:00 pm	City Council Meeting	City Council Chamber 2131 Pear Street

ITEMS OF INTEREST

- **POLICE OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR NAMED**

Please join me in congratulating Police Officer Kyle Breckenridge and Fire Captain Jim Brooks for being selected by their peers as Police Officer and Firefighter of the Year. And thank you again to the Pinole Rotary Club for hosting the annual crab feed at which they were honored. It was a very nice event.

- **WCCTAC REQUESTS COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON TRANSIT STUDY OPTIONS**

The West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee (WCCTAC) is seeking community-wide feedback on possible transit options for West County. The transit options are part of a study that WCCTAC is conducting to help improve transit in our area.

Starting in late February, WCCTAC will gather public input at local Council presentations and through a short online survey. The presentation and online survey will review the options under consideration for Express Bus, Bus Rapid Transit, Capitol Corridor/Amtrak, and BART. The online survey is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Chinese](#). The presentations are scheduled for the dates and times below. Each Council meeting will receive the same information, so people can attend as their schedules permit.

CITY	DATE	TIME	ADDRESS
Richmond	Tuesday, February 28	6:30 PM	City Hall 440 Civic Center Plaza
San Pablo	Monday, March 6	7:00 PM	City Hall 13831 San Pablo Ave
Pinole	Tuesday, March 7	7:00 PM	City Hall 2131 Pear Street
El Sobrante	Wednesday, March 8	6:00 PM	El Sobrante Library 4191 Appian Way
Hercules	Tuesday, March 14	6:00 PM	City Hall 111 Civic Drive
El Cerrito	Tuesday, March 21	7:00 PM	City Hall 10890 San Pablo Ave

WCCTAC wants to gather as much feedback as possible and requested that we publish the upcoming meeting schedule and provide their fact sheet for the study. The English version is attached. Spanish and Chinese versions are available on their website: westcountytransitstudy.com

- **[RAILROAD MAINTENANCE EFFORTS](#)**

Please note that the Railroad will be installing new tracks at the Tennent Avenue crossing. Tennent Avenue will be closed on February 25th at 11:00 pm and reopened on February 26th at 7:00 am.

- **[CON FIRE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CONTRACT PROJECT](#)**

As was discussed at the February 21st Council meeting, the Rodeo/Hercules Fire District voted earlier this month to discontinue pursuing the Administrative Services Contract with Con Fire. At this time, Con Fire is not in a position to pick up the other half of the Chief position we would have shared with RHFD, so we are no longer able to move forward with this opportunity either. However, as was also discussed, I am in discussions with Con Fire to see what portions of the draft agreement we can salvage for execution between just Con and Pinole. There will be more information to come on this topic.

-END-



RETHINK YOUR COMMUTE!

WEST COUNTY HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT STUDY

The I-80 corridor is one of the most congested in the Bay Area. Better transit options could provide West County residents with more convenient, reliable, and faster access to destinations throughout the Bay Area.

The West County High-Capacity Transit Study is evaluating options for potential transit improvements along important transportation corridors where people live and travel now and will in the future. The options include Express Bus, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Capitol Corridor/Amtrak, and BART.

WHAT IS HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT?

High-capacity transit provides substantially higher levels of passenger capacity with typically fewer stops and higher speeds than local bus service.

EXPRESS BUS



Express Bus Service: Potential routes and stops

Express Bus service makes a few stops to pick up passengers and then travels non-stop to its final destination. The Express Bus alternative would offer service between the Hercules Transit Center and Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland. On its way, the Express Bus would stop at the Richmond Parkway Transit Center and at a potential new transit center near Macdonald Avenue and San Pablo Avenue in Richmond.

Express Bus Benefits:

- » Fast, direct service between West County and San Francisco, Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland
- » Buses every 10 to 12 minutes during commute hours and every 30 minutes during non-commute hours
- » New, direct access to carpool lanes to bypass freeway congestion

Timeline:

1 – 5 YEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » More frequent service » New service to Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland » Bus priority improvements (such as signals and “queue jumps” to let buses move through intersections more quickly)
5 – 15 YEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » More parking at Richmond Parkway and Hercules Transit Centers
15+ YEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Freeway ramp improvements for buses at transit centers so buses can get on/off freeway faster » Transit center at Macdonald Avenue and I-80 so riders can transfer between Express Buses and Bus Rapid Transit service

BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT)



Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is a specialized service that lets buses move through congested streets more quickly. It gives priority to buses at traffic signals, can include bus-only lanes, and makes it faster for passengers to get on and off buses.

Other improvements can include sidewalk extensions or more visible sidewalks and crosswalks for pedestrian safety. Changes can be made quickly and customized to local needs, so riders get benefits sooner.

BRT on San Pablo Avenue and Macdonald Avenue

This alternative includes two branches of BRT service that would run on San Pablo Avenue between El Cerrito and Hercules and on Macdonald Avenue between Point Richmond and El Cerrito. Both of these routes also include service to San Pablo and Pinole. The service is similar to AC Transit's existing Route 72R and is consistent with AC Transit's future plans for San Pablo Avenue in Alameda County.

BRT on 23rd Street

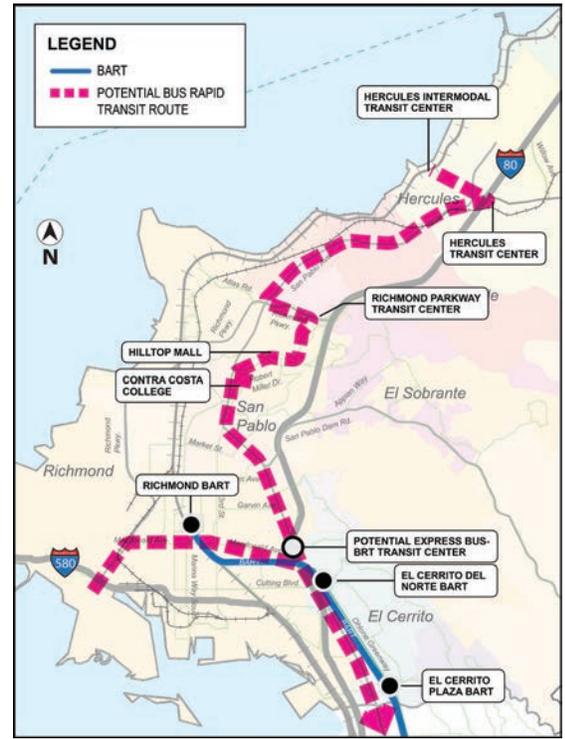
This alternative would provide BRT service on 23rd Street in Richmond to Contra Costa College and Hercules via San Pablo Avenue. This alternative would connect the new Richmond ferry service and the UC Berkeley field station with the Richmond BART station, Contra Costa College, Hilltop Mall, Pinole, and the Hercules Transit Center.

BRT Benefits:

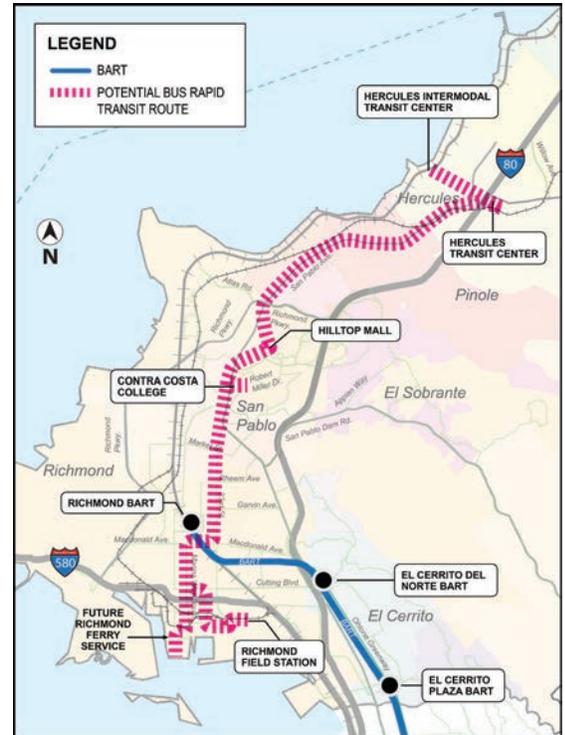
- » Faster travel time and greater reliability due to priority at traffic signals and bus-only lanes
- » Provides more bus stops for access to more destinations
- » Changes can be made quickly and customized to local needs, so riders get benefits sooner
- » Frequent service - every 10 minutes throughout the day
- » State-of-the-art buses for a more comfortable ride

Timeline:

1 – 5 YEARS	5 – 15 YEARS	15+ YEARS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Bus priority treatments (such as signals and "queue jumps") to let buses move through intersections more quickly » Bus-only lanes in limited locations » Improvements extended to Richmond Parkway Transit Center (<i>BRT on San Pablo Avenue/Macdonald Avenue only</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » More bus-only lanes and priority treatments » Improvements extended to Hercules Transit Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Improvements extended to new Hercules Intermodal Transit Center » Bus-only lanes between 23rd Street and Richmond Parkway Transit Center » Transit center at Macdonald Avenue and I-80 so riders can transfer between Express Buses and Bus Rapid Transit service (<i>BRT on San Pablo Avenue/Macdonald Avenue only</i>)



Potential route: BRT on San Pablo & Macdonald Ave.



Potential route: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on 23rd St. & San Pablo Ave.

BART



BART provides faster travel time because it runs on its own track. Passengers also get more direct access to Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, and soon Santa Clara Counties. But it is expensive and would take a long time to build.

This BART alternative would extend service from the existing Richmond BART station to a new station near the I-80 and State Route 4 interchange in Hercules. There are two potential routes, each with the possibility of one to two stations in between. Potential station locations include: Contra Costa College, Hilltop Mall, Richmond Parkway Transit Center and Appian Way.

Route Option #1 runs along the northern segment of Rumrill Boulevard. It has stations at Contra Costa College and the Richmond Parkway Transit Center. This option serves the city of San Pablo and supports city plans for new housing development in the vicinity of Contra Costa College. It could allow for BART stations at Hilltop Mall and Appian Way. In total, only one to two stations between the existing Richmond BART station and Hercules would likely be built.

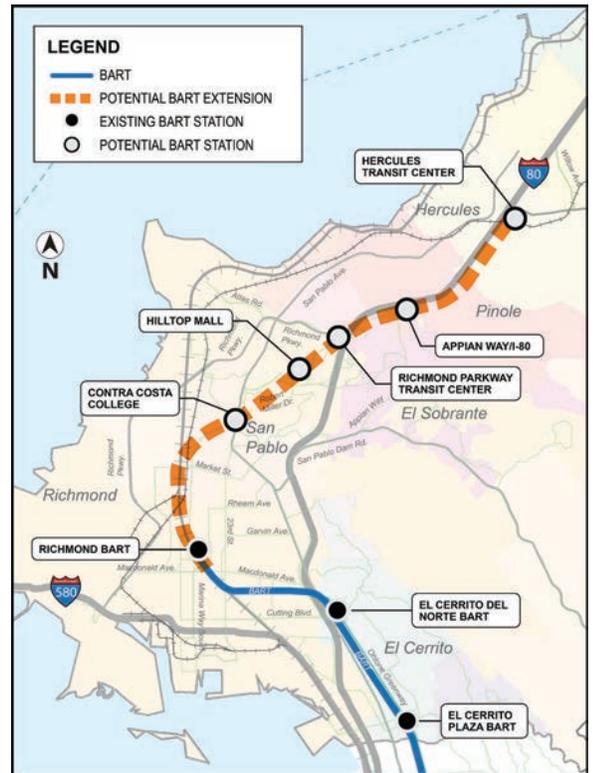
Route Option #2 shows BART stations at Hilltop Mall and Appian Way. Hilltop Mall is a viable site for transit oriented development. This option reduces the potential impacts along Rumrill Boulevard, but would not allow a BART station at Contra Costa College. This option could accommodate a BART station at Richmond Parkway Transit Center. In total, only one to two stations between the existing Richmond BART station and Hercules would likely be built.

BART Benefits:

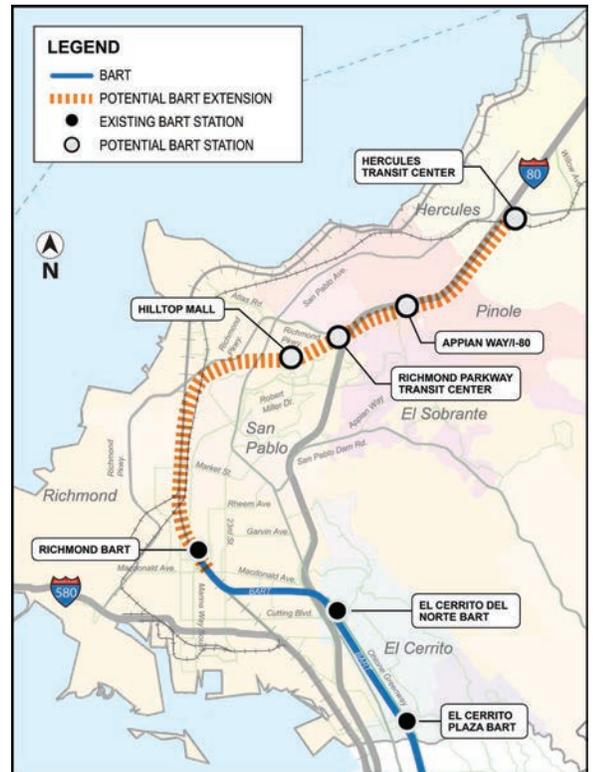
- » Faster travel time and greater reliability due to dedicated trackway
- » More direct access to other parts of the greater Bay Area, such as Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties

Timeline:

1 – 5 YEARS	15 – 25+ YEARS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Preliminary engineering design and environmental review to select alignment and potential station locations » Early right-of-way acquisition (with environmental clearance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Final design and construction



Potential BART extension and stations for Route Option #1. Only one or two stations would be constructed.



Potential BART extension and stations for Route Option #2. Only one or two stations would be constructed.

CAPITOL CORRIDOR FARE SUBSIDY

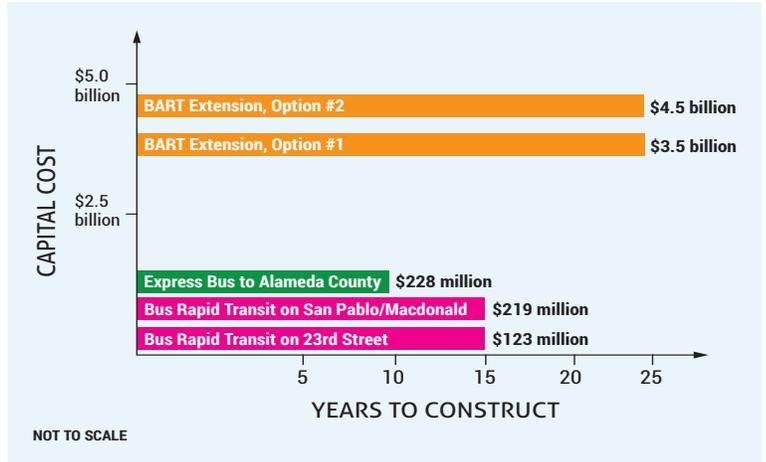
Commuter rail offers transit between downtowns/city centers and areas outside of these cities, such as suburbs or other locations that draw large numbers of daily commuters.

Amtrak provides commuter rail service on its Capitol Corridor route serving the Bay Area between San Jose and Sacramento, with stops in Richmond, Martinez, West Berkeley, Emeryville, and Jack London Square. Due to dedicated track, trains can provide a quicker trip than congested roadways, but rail is not currently priced competitively for local travel.

This study is looking at a potential three-year pilot to subsidize fares on the Capitol Corridor route. This subsidy would reduce train fares by 50 to 75 percent for West County travelers. For example, with a 75 percent subsidy, one-way travel from Richmond to Martinez could be reduced from \$12.00 to \$3.00.

CONSTRUCTION COST AND IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINES

Big changes in transportation take time and money. Improvements require making choices that balance trade-offs between various options. The chart below shows (1) how long the alternatives may take to build and (2) cost estimates to build them.



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

We want to know how *you* would prioritize transit improvements to best suit your current and future travel needs.

- » Take our quick online survey at <http://westcountytransitstudy.com/>
- » Scan the QR code to the right to access the online survey
- » Attend a council presentation*



- » Submit a formal comment at <http://westcountytransitstudy.com/contact-english/>
- » Visit WestCountyTransitStudy.com to check out what we've learned:
 - » How West County residents and employees get around
 - » What are the most common destinations for West County residents and employees
 - » What transit options were studied

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*Check your local council agenda to confirm meeting date and time

LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE

If you need language assistance services, please call (510) 464-6752.

Si necesita servicios de asistencia de idioma, llame al (510) 464-6752.

如需語言協助服務，請致電 (510) 464-6752。

Kung kailangan mo ang tulong ng mga serbisyo ng wika, paki tawagan ang (510) 464-6752.

Nếu quý vị cần dịch vụ trợ giúp về ngôn ngữ, xin vui lòng gọi số (510) 464-6752.

통역이 필요하신 분은, 510-464-6752 로 문의하십시오.

WCCTAC is an association of cities and transportation agencies in West County and one of four Regional Transportation Planning Committees in Contra Costa County. WCCTAC serves the residents of El Cerrito, Hercules, Pinole, Richmond, San Pablo, and unincorporated areas of West County. Find out more about WCCTAC at WCCTAC.org.

