



CONNECT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

City of Oakland Planning Commission

June 5, 2024



Today's Meeting

Purpose:

Information item for feedback and discussion

Topics:

1. Overview of the Link21 Program
2. Upcoming Key Milestone: Technology/network decision for **new train crossing** between Oakland and San Francisco
 - **Standard-gauge** that connects to Regional Rail network and destinations in larger megaregion; or
 - **Broad-gauge** that connects to BART network and regional destinations
3. Considerations for Oakland
4. Next Steps



Link21: Planning A Better Future

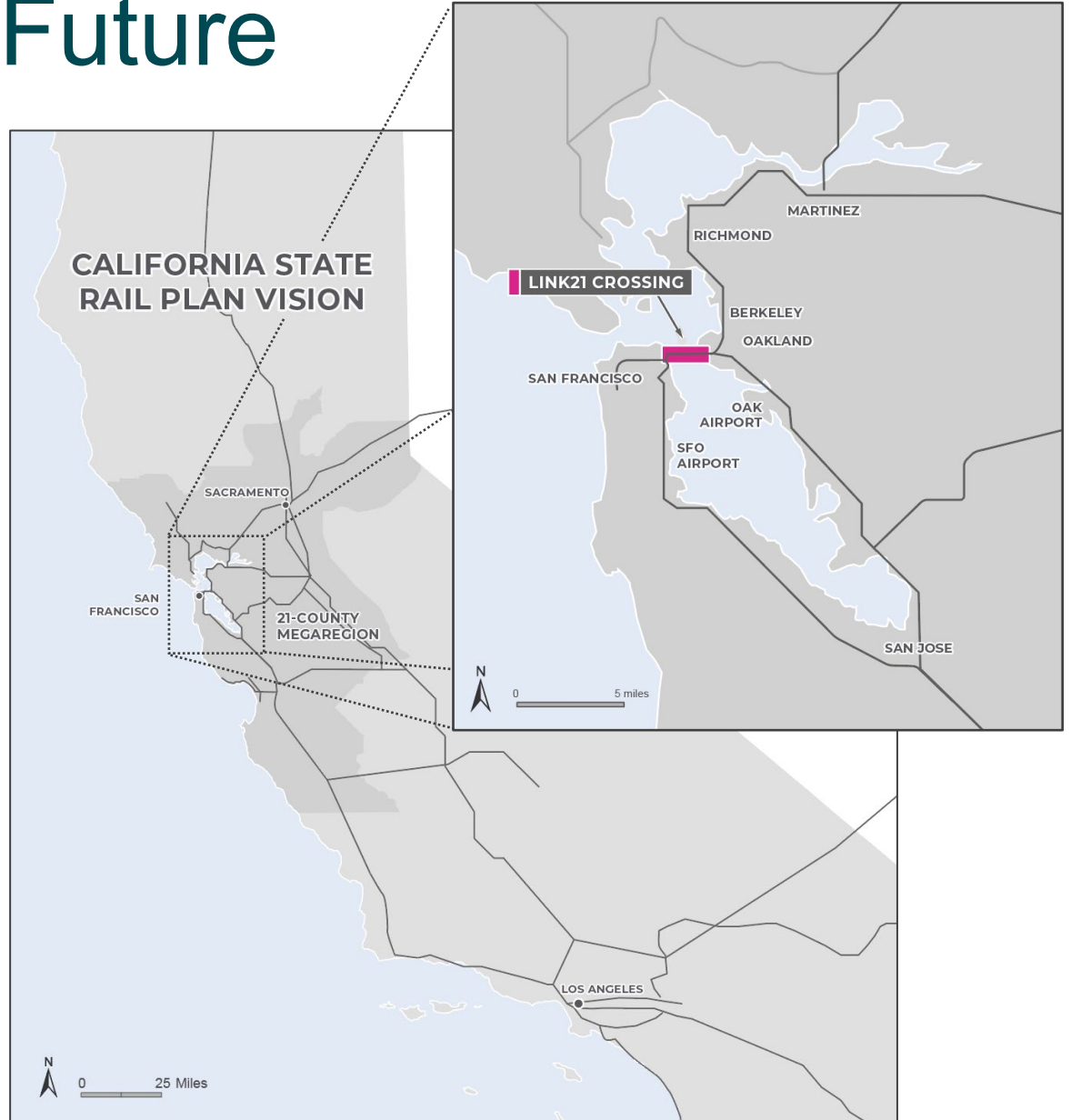
Connecting People & Places

The Vision:

Link21 & its partners will provide faster, more connected, equitable, affordable, & accessible train service for the megaregion

The Program:

- Construct new Transbay rail crossing
- Improve BART & Regional Rail service connections



Finding The Right Solution

The Challenge (Problem Statement):

Megaregional Access

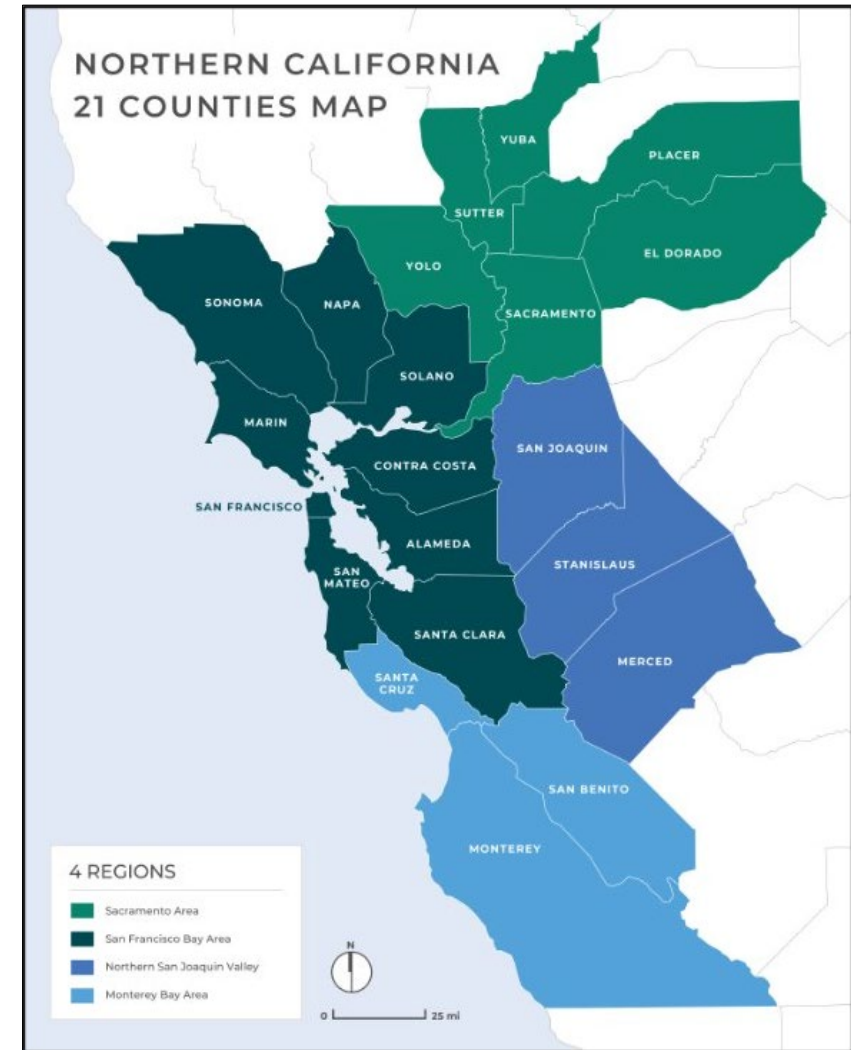
- Insufficient rail access to destinations

Equity

- Priority Populations face inequitable access

Transbay Capacity

- Transbay rail capacity may be insufficient in future



Link21 Goals & Objectives

**Transform
the Passenger
Experience**



Link21 Commitment to Equity & Engagement

Advancing Equitable Outcomes

- Community Partnerships & Co-Creation
- Targeting Priority Populations
- Equity Advisory Council
- Equity Metrics & Analysis

Program Shaped by Public Input

- Briefings, presentations, large events & meetings
- Community events and in-station outreach
- In-person & digital communications



Link21 Program Key Milestone

Phase 1 Work Completed:

- ✓ Concept Development & Analysis
- ✓ Service Planning
- ✓ Options Evaluation
- ✓ Engagement & Outreach

Next Steps:

- Identify train technology in the crossing
 - Standard-gauge (Regional Rail)
 - Broad-gauge (BART)
- Further planning to define project (alignment, station locations, etc.)
- Stakeholder and public engagement

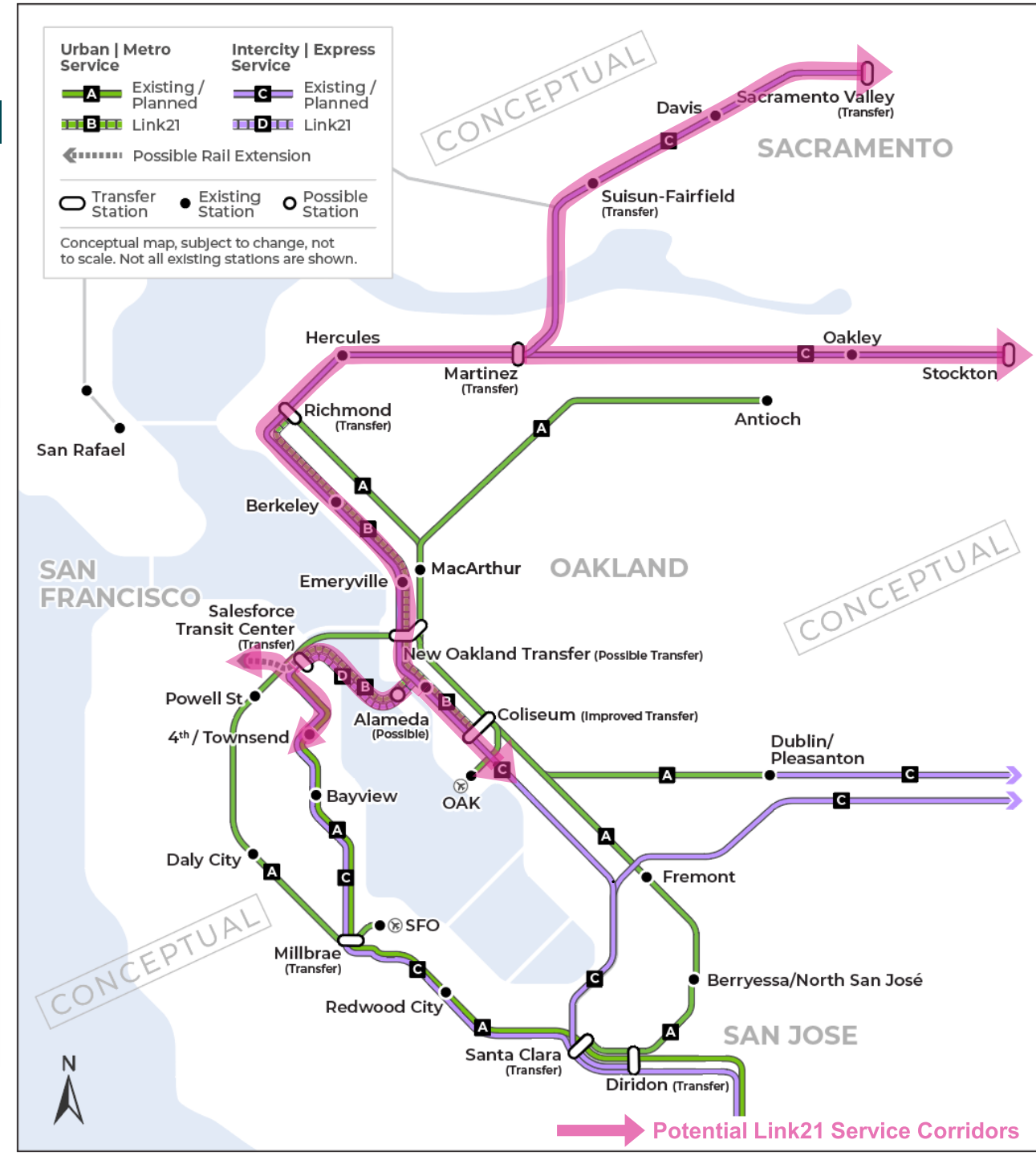


Concept: Standard-gauge (Regional Rail) Crossing

Accommodates multiple train services

Benefits for Oakland

- Direct (one-seat) rail service between Oakland and the Peninsula, Emeryville, Alameda, West Berkeley
- Direct connection to future California High-Speed Rail
- Faster and better-connected rail service to Sacramento, Stockton, I-80 corridor
- New rail transfer hub in Downtown Oakland
- Potential new rail stations in Oakland (Downtown, West Oakland, Jack London Sq)
- New alignment of passenger rail through Oakland is underground

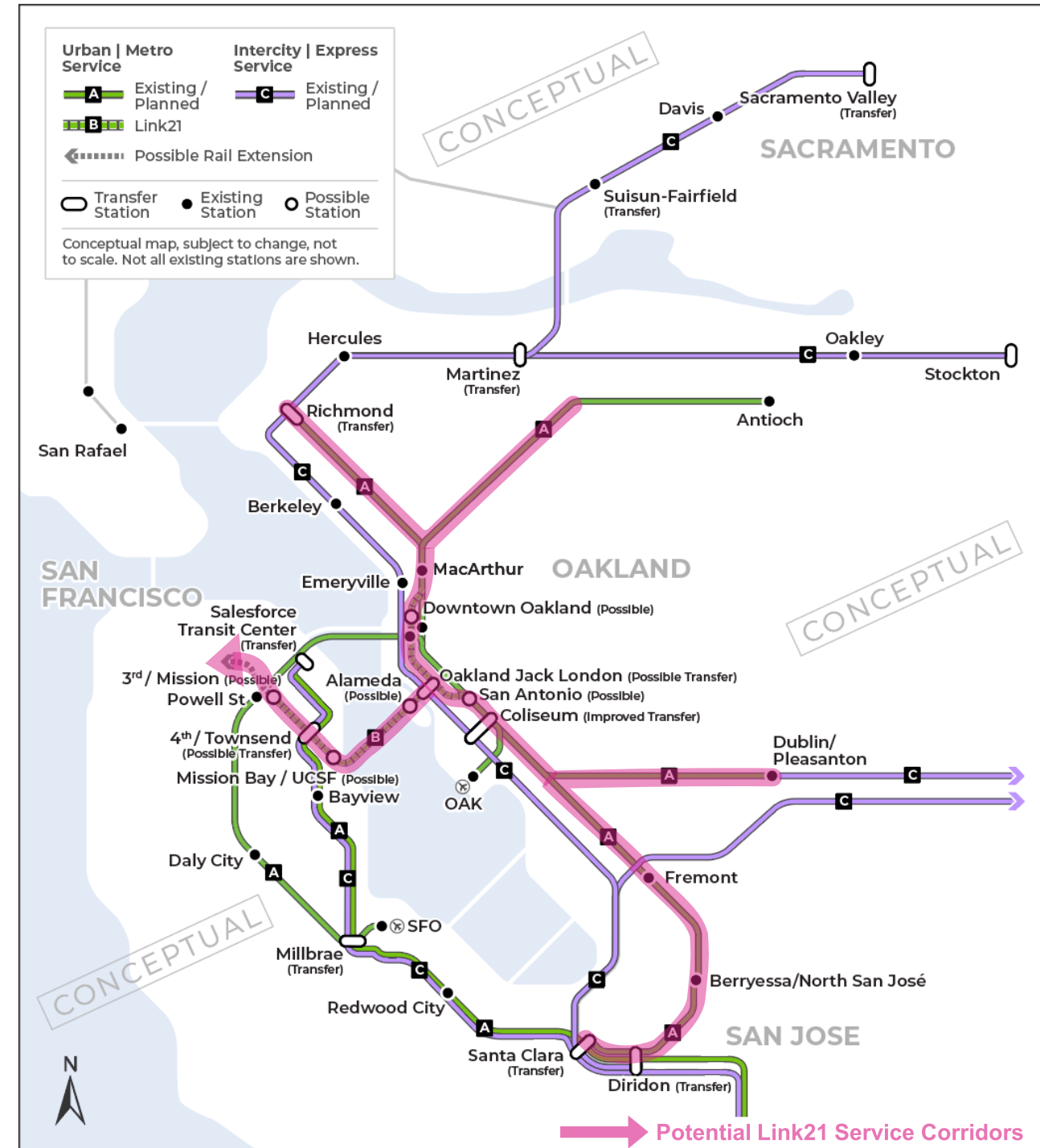


Concept: Broad-gauge (BART) Crossing

Accommodates only BART service

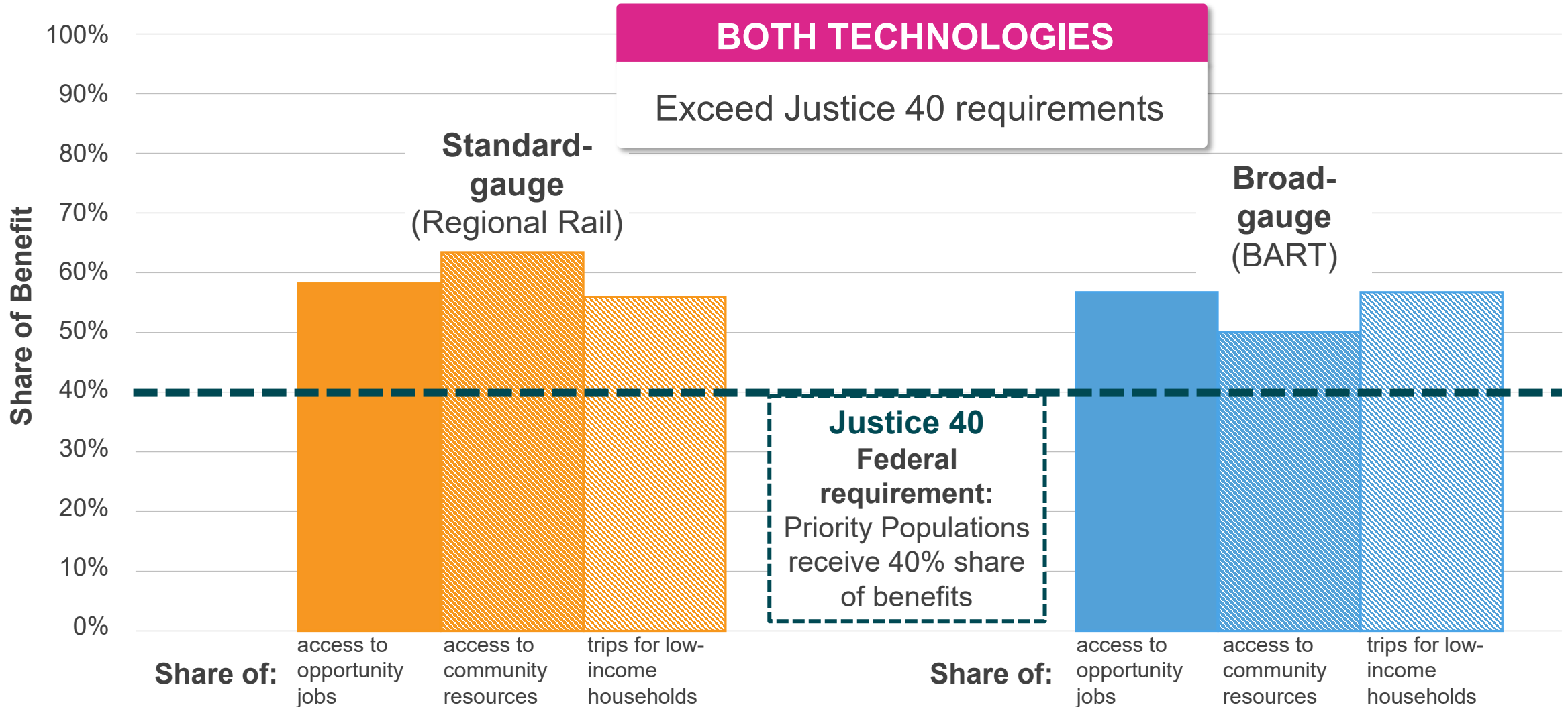
Benefits for Oakland

- Direct BART connection from Oakland to Alameda, Mission Bay, SOMA
- Higher frequency service on existing BART lines in the East Bay
- New transfer location between BART and intercity/express service in Oakland
- Potential new BART stations in Oakland (Downtown, Jack London Square, San Antonio)
- New alignment of passenger rail through Oakland is underground



Similarities: Benefits Share to Priority Populations

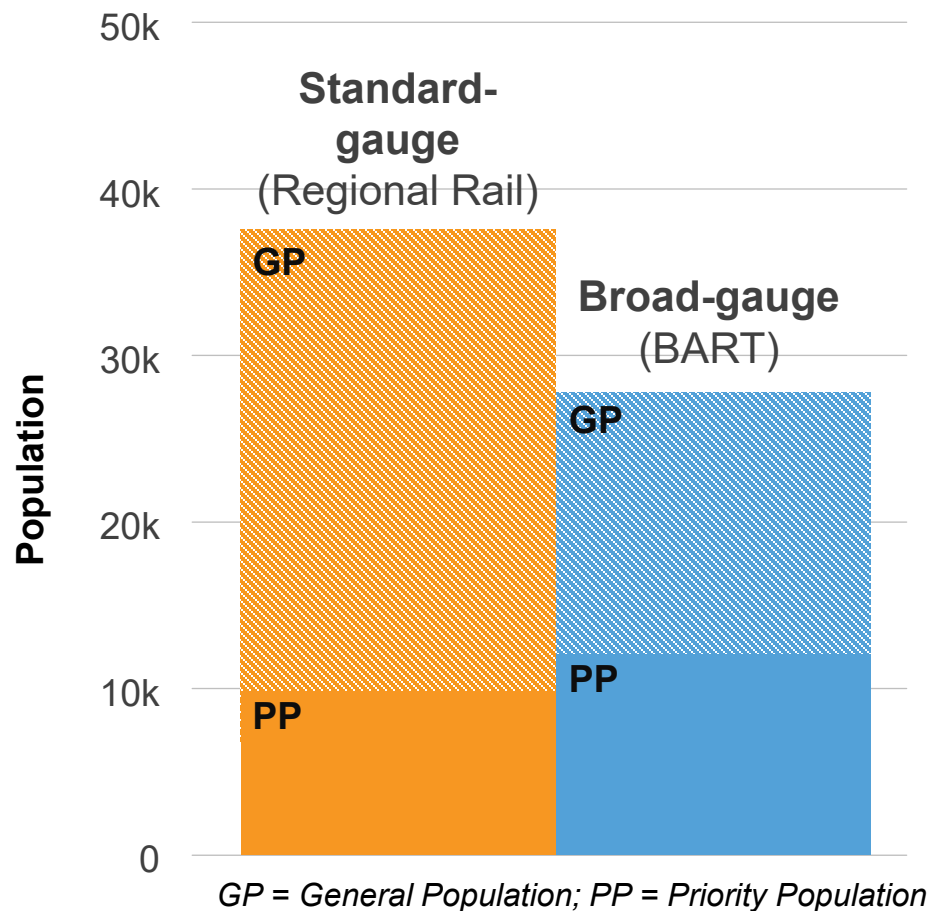
Promoting Equity and Livability



Similarities: Access to Stations & Jobs

Supporting Economic Opportunity & Livability

Access within ½ Mile of Station



Jobs within 1 hour commute

- Approximately **45,000 more jobs will be accessible** for the average person with either crossing
- Approximately **80,000 more jobs will be accessible** for the average person within priority population areas with either crossing

BOTH TECHNOLOGIES

support economic opportunity & livability by improving access to stations and jobs

Oakland Considerations

- A new **central transportation hub** for the Megaregion
- Improved **access to jobs** and destinations for Oaklanders
- Alignment with **Oakland plans**
- Improved **safety, health, and air quality** for Oaklanders
- Substantial investment to **advance equity**
- Potential new alignment and stations will be assessed in **future phases**



Engagement & Outreach Activities

Link21 Virtual Community Meetings

Attend to hear a presentation and ask questions.



- **Thursday, June 6** – 6-7:30 pm
- **Monday, June 10** – 6-7:30 pm

Visit Link21Program.org/events to register for Zoom

Online Open House

Starting in **mid-June**, visit www.Link21Online anytime, 24/7, to participate when it works for you.



Community Events

- In-Station/Community Tabling – Select Locations
- Community Stakeholder Coordination
- Equity Advisory Council Meeting:
Tuesday, July 16 – 6-8:45 pm



Next Steps: Identifying a Project For Link21

Planning Focus Areas

Identify Crossing Train Technology

Project Definition & Refinement

Funding Strategy

Governance & Key Stakeholder Coordination

Ongoing Public Engagement & Equity





Thank you

Link21 website: <https://link21Program.org>



Appendix

Targeted Engagement in Oakland – Partial List

Link21 Equity Advisory Council (EAC)

- Bi-monthly meetings (includes four Oakland representatives)

Staff Briefings & Presentations

- Monthly meetings with OakDOT, Planning & Building Department, and Port of Oakland
- Jurisdictional Working Group (includes Oakland representatives)

Community & Link21 Events (examples)

- Events – Rose Foundation New Voices Rising
- Open Houses – Jack London Improvement District



Targeted Engagement in Oakland

Community-Based Organizations and Leaders

- Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)
- Black Arts Movement Business District
- Black Cultural Zone
- Causa Justa: Just Cause (CJJC)
- Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)
- Creating Restorative Opportunities and Programs (CROP)
- Ella Baker Center
- East Bay Asian Youth Center
- East Oakland Youth Development Center
- Friends of San Antonio Park
- Jack London Business Improvement District



Targeted Engagement in Oakland – Continued

Community-Based Organizations and Leaders

- Longfellow Community Associations
- Oakland Asian Cultural Center
- Oakland Chinatown Chamber
- Prescott Neighborhood Council
- Rose Foundation
- St. Columba Catholic Church
- Trybe
- Unity Council
- We Lead Ours (WELO)
- West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project
- West Oakland Neighbors



What We've Heard – Highlights from Oakland

Rider Experience

- Increased frequencies & longer hours
- Improved reliability & access
- Improved safety on trains
- Fare affordability

Program Funding and Management

- BART fiscal cliff & funding

Infrastructure and Network Integration

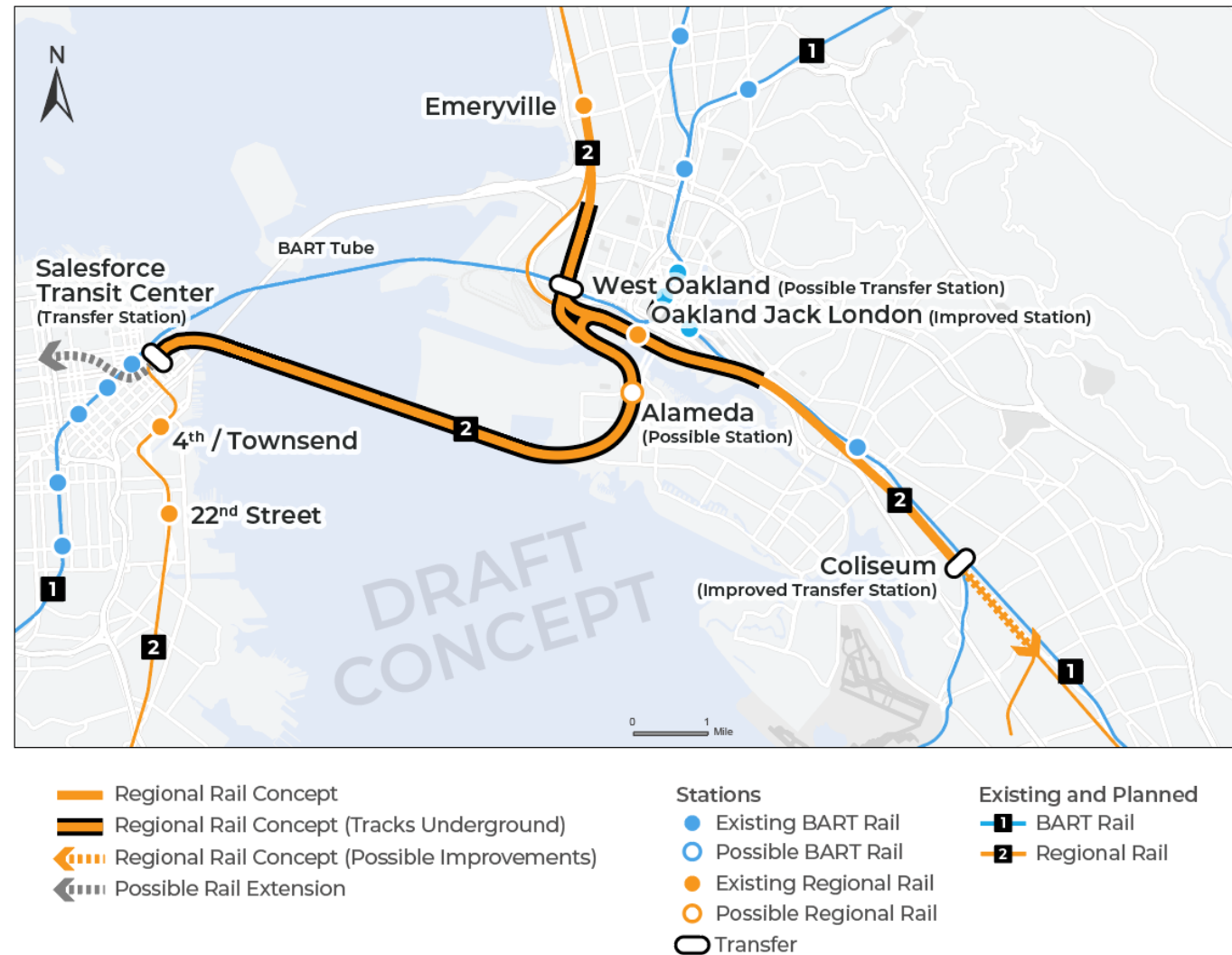
- Interested in underground tracks / access in West Oakland
- Enthusiasm for Oakland Jack London BART Station
- Interest in San Antonio BART or Capitol Corridor Station



Link21 Concept A:

Service Benefits

- Includes Urban | Metro and Intercity | Express service on Regional Rail tracks
- Prioritizes Oakland connection to BART over shorter travel time between East Bay and San Francisco
- Creates new connection in West Oakland (transfer between Regional Rail & multiple BART lines)
- Connects to Salesforce Transit Center offering riders an easy trip to the Peninsula/Silicon Valley

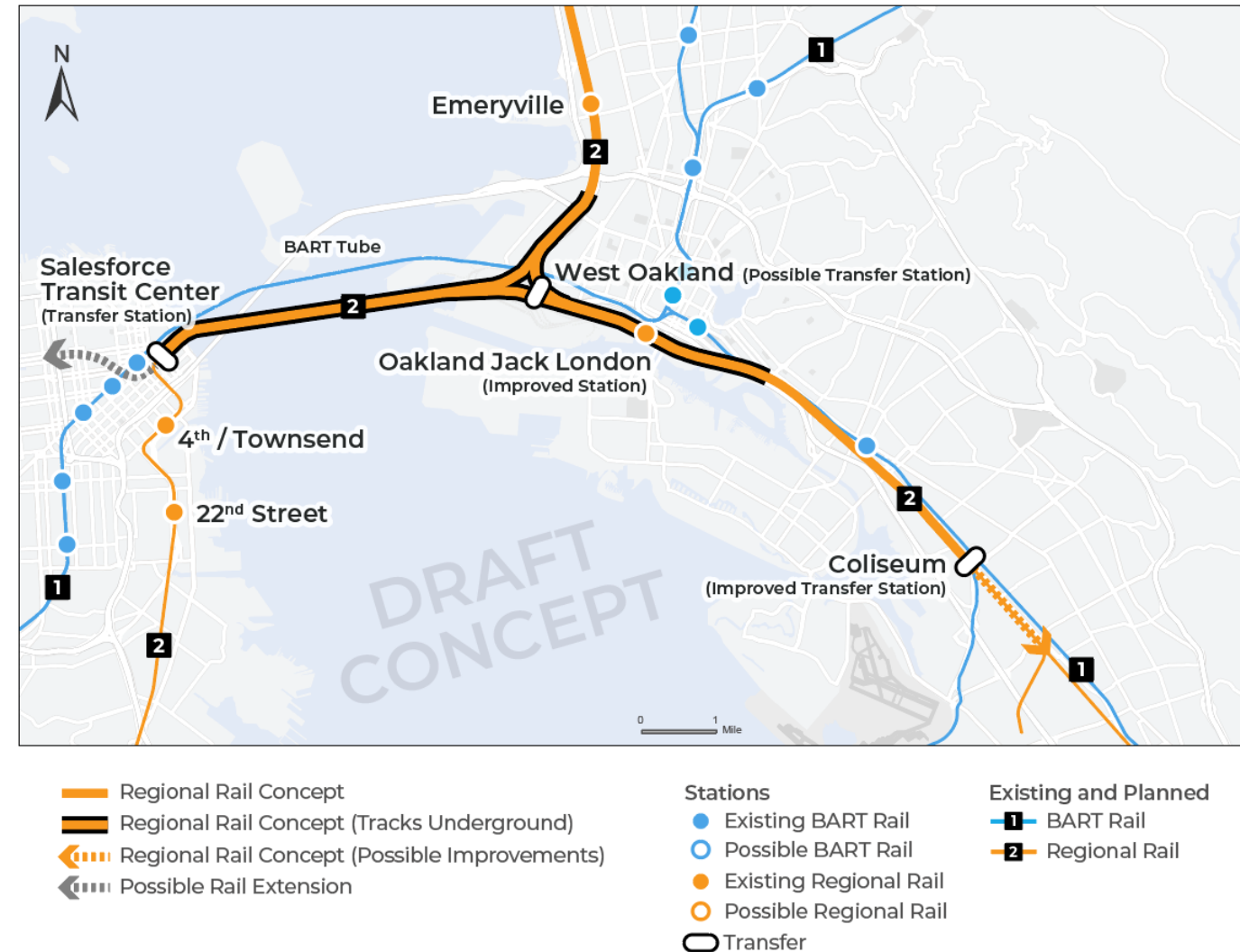


Concept includes BART system improvements

Link21 Concept B:

Service Benefits

- Includes Urban | Metro and Intercity | Express service on Regional Rail tracks
- Prioritizes shorter travel time between East Bay-San Francisco over more station stops in Oakland
- Creates new connection in West Oakland (transfer between Regional Rail & BART for southbound riders)
- Connects to Salesforce Transit Center offering riders an easy trip to the Peninsula/Silicon Valley

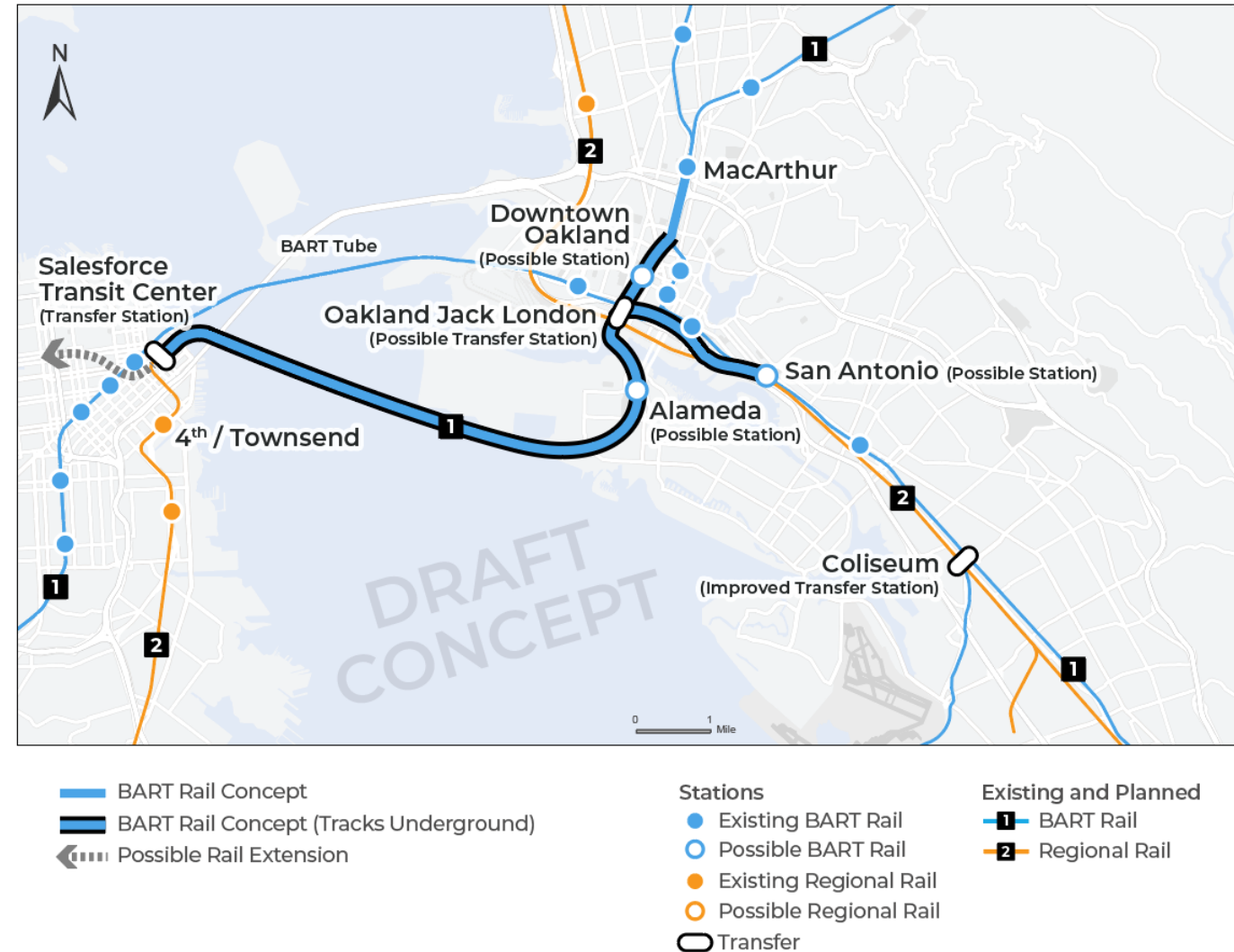


Concept includes BART system improvements

Link21 Concept C:

Service Benefits

- Increases Urban | Metro service and includes stronger connection to Intercity | Express service on Regional Rail tracks
- Creates new connection in Oakland Jack London (transfer between Regional Rail and multiple BART lines)
- Serves Market Street / Financial District in San Francisco (near Salesforce Transit Center for Regional Rail service to the Peninsula/Silicon Valley)

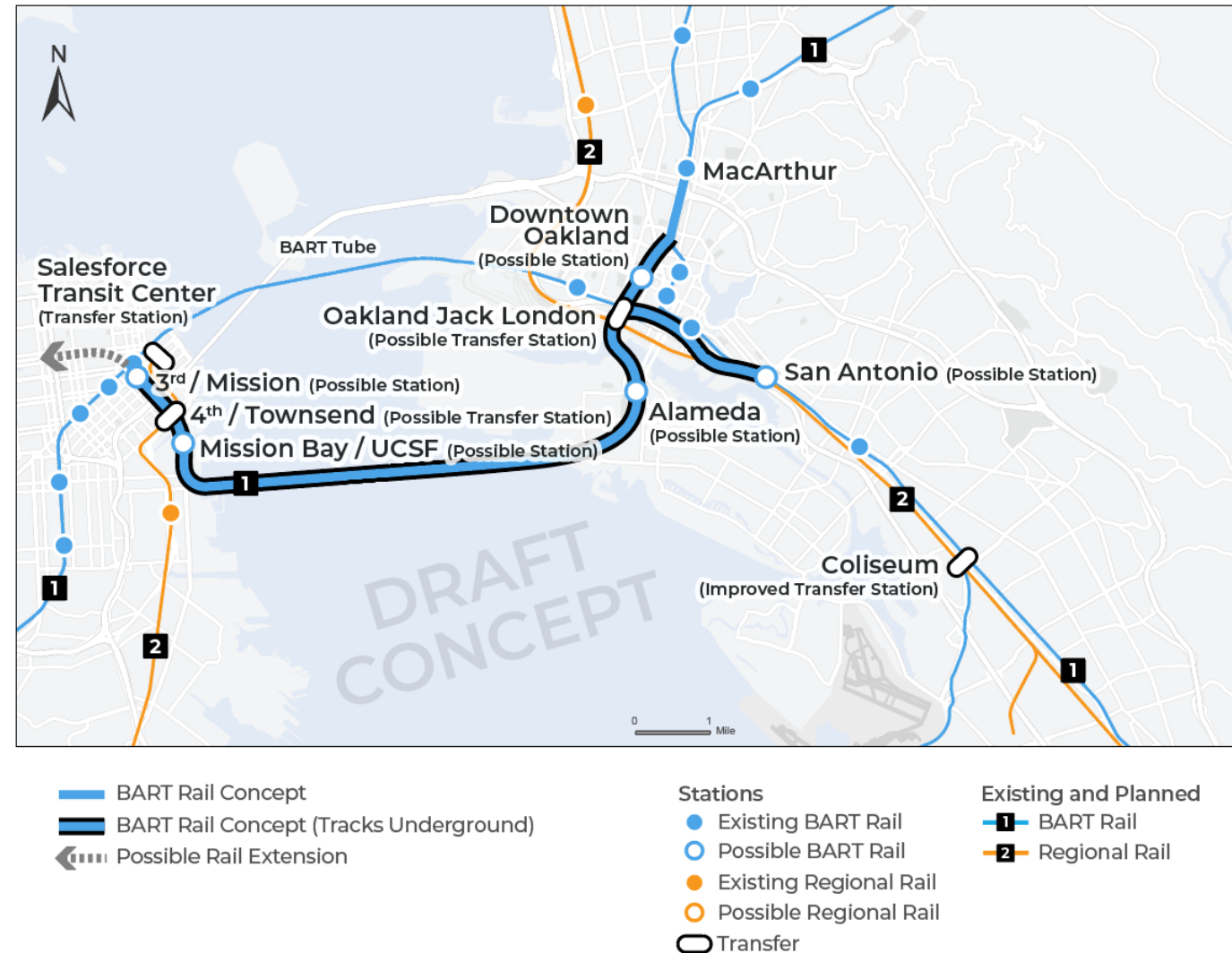


Concept includes Regional Rail system improvements

Link21 Concept D:

Service Benefits

- Increases Urban | Metro service and includes stronger connection to Intercity | Express service on Regional Rail tracks
- Creates new connection in Oakland Jack London (transfer between Regional Rail and multiple BART lines)
- Serves Mission Bay / UCSF in San Francisco and 4th/Townsend station to transfer to Regional Rail service to reach Peninsula/Silicon Valley

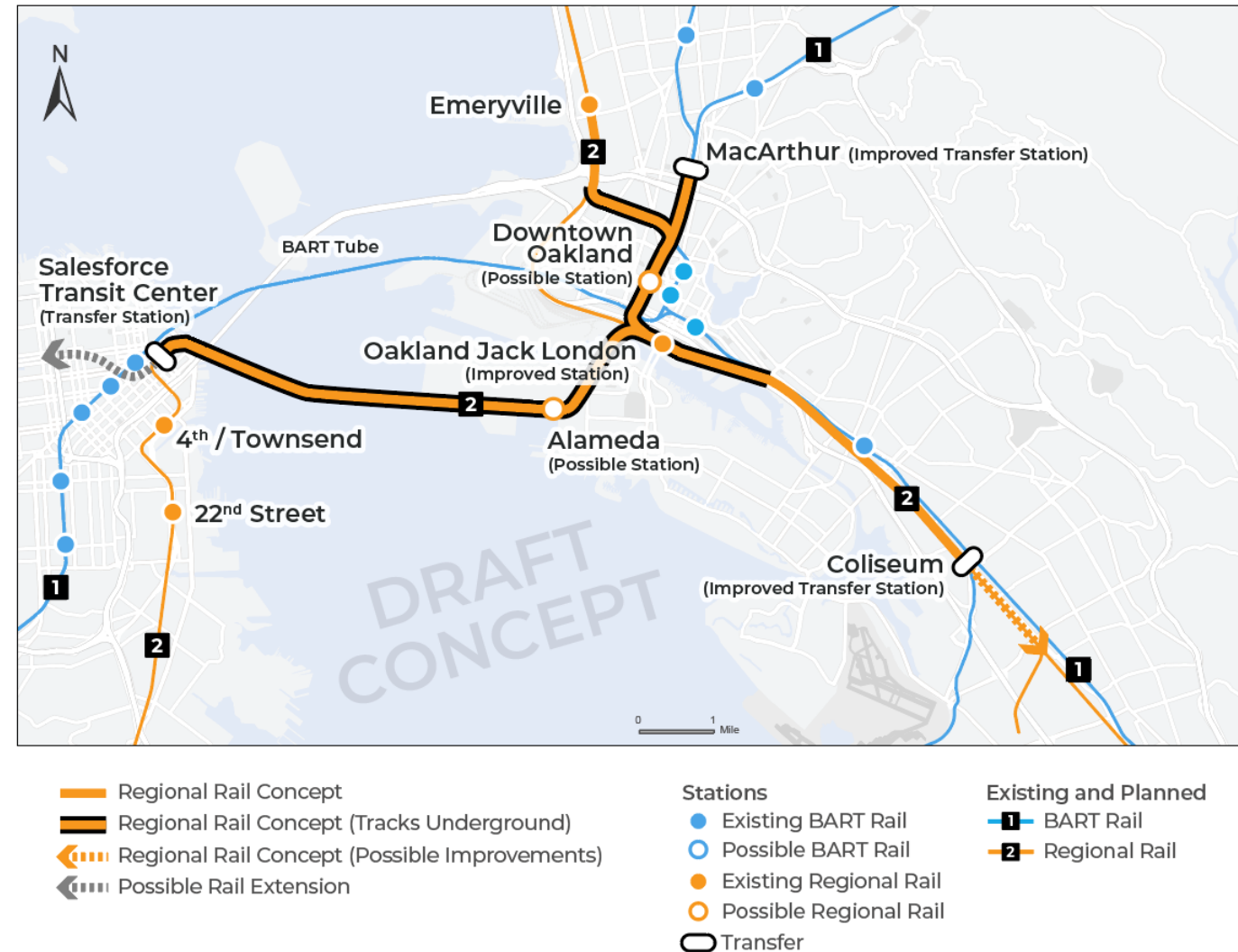


Concept includes Regional Rail system improvements

Link21 Concept E:

Service Benefits

- Includes Urban | Metro and Intercity | Express service on Regional Rail tracks
- Prioritizes Oakland connection to BART over shorter travel time between East Bay and San Francisco
- Creates new connection at MacArthur station in Oakland (transfer between Regional Rail & multiple BART lines)
- Connects to Salesforce Transit Center offering riders an easy trip to the Peninsula/Silicon Valley

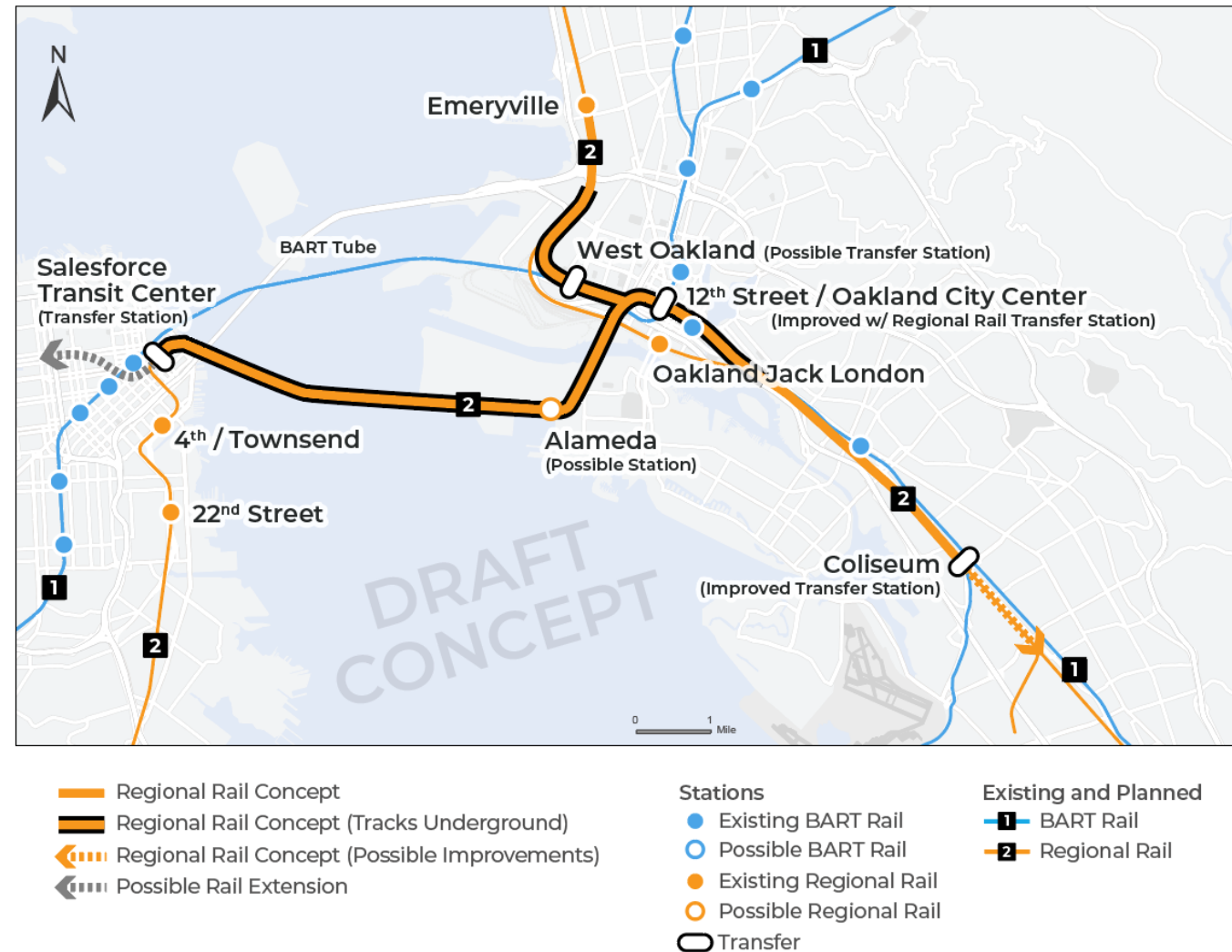


Concept includes BART system improvements

Link21 Concept F:

Service Benefits

- Includes Urban | Metro and Intercity | Express service on Regional Rail tracks
- Prioritizes Oakland connection to BART over shorter travel time between East Bay and San Francisco
- Creates new connection in Downtown Oakland (transfer between Regional Rail & multiple BART lines)
- Connects to Salesforce Transit Center offering riders an easy trip to the Peninsula/Silicon Valley



Concept includes BART system improvements