# FACT SHEET: BART Silicon Valley

## Extension to Milpitas, San Jose and Santa Clara

#### **Overview**

Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Silicon Valley consists of extending the BART regional heavy rail system to San Jose, Milpitas and Santa Clara. The 16-mile extension will travel along the existing Union Pacific Railroad alignment south of the future Warm Springs Station in Fremont, and then will tunnel underneath downtown San Jose, rising to street level in Santa Clara. When completed, this fully grade-separated project will include: six stations – one in Milpitas, four in San Jose and one in Santa Clara; a 5-mile tunnel in downtown San Jose; and a new maintenance and storage facility in Santa Clara.

## **Project Benefits**

- Improves Connectivity: The new extension will connect Santa Clara County residents to the existing 104-mile BART system and the cities of San Francisco and Oakland. The project will provide enhanced commuter connections to VTA Light Rail and Buses, Caltrain, Altamont Commuter Express, Capitol Corridor and Amtrak, also with planned connections to Mineta San Jose International Airport and High Speed Rail.
- **Supports the Economy**: This project will create over 2,400 temporary and up to 7,000 permanent jobs in the region while supporting local and regional transit-oriented development along the corridor. The project provides a high return on investment: for every dollar spent on construction, and operations and maintenance, approximately 4 to 10 dollars will be returned to the region.
- Enhances the Community: BART Silicon Valley creates more options where we live, work and play by serving downtown San Jose, San Jose State, HP Pavilion, Santa Clara University, major employment and shopping centers and other cultural destinations. The project will connect residents to the rest of the Bay Area region and offer a new transit option for commuters.
- Responsible to the Environment: Taking cars off congested corridors eliminates 16,000 tons of greenhouse gases per year, decreasing foreign oil dependency and global warming.

## **Project Support**

- In 2000, over 70% of Santa Clara County voters approved a 30-year, half-cent local sales tax measure for transit.
- In 2008, over 66% of Santa Clara County voters approved an additional eighth-cent sales tax, to fund BART Silicon Valley's annual operating and maintenance expenses once state and federal funding has been secured.
- Local and regional support from Silicon Valley Leadership Group, San Jose Chamber of Commerce, local governments, and other labor and business organizations.
- The Metropolitan Transportation Commission, transportation planning and financing agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area, has included the project in the current Regional Transportation Plan.

## What's Next

- Federal environmental approval and issuance of a Record of Decision June 2010.
- Final design to continue through 2010.
- Early construction activities late 2011.

### **How to Reach Us**

For more information on BART Silicon Valley please contact VTA-BART Outreach (408) 934-2662, TTY for the hearing impaired (408) 321-2330. You may also visit us on the web at <a href="https://www.vta.org/bart">www.vta.org/bart</a>, click "Sign Up for Email Updates" to be added to the project list or email us at <a href="https://wta.org">vta.org</a>.



