



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Metropolitan Transportation Commission Approves
\$10.1 Million Request for Planning and Design Work on
Valley Link Rail Project**

LIVERMORE, CA, October 2, 2018 – At their September 26 meeting, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Board unanimously approved an allocation of \$10.1 million to the Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority to complete environmental work and initial design of Valley Link, a rail service being planned to conveniently connect San Joaquin Valley communities with the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station, including connections with the ACE rail system. MTC Vice-Chair and Regional Rail Authority Chair Scott Haggerty remarked “This action is about connecting people with housing and jobs. It’s about improving our economy and protecting the environment.”

Mayor Pro Tem Veronica Vargas of Tracy, who serves as the Vice Chair of the Regional Rail Authority, commented “MTC’s decision demonstrates the megaregional approach that is being taken by agencies on both sides of the Altamont Pass to keep Valley Link rail service on track for a potential start date in 2024.”

The funding award was supported by a number of Bay Area organizations, including the Bay Area Council, East Bay Leadership Council and Innovation Tri-Valley. East Bay Leadership Council President Kristin Connelly said “Approval of the requested funding will allow the Regional Rail Authority to further quicken the pace of planning and development of this long overdue transit service.”

In July of this year, the Regional Rail Authority Board adopted a preferred alternative that included a phased implementation of service, station locations, service characteristics and vehicle technology. Phase 1 of the new rail service, which has been named “Valley Link” by the Rail Authority Board, would connect the existing Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station to the proposed ACE North Lathrop Station. A second phase would extend service from the North Lathrop Station to the ACE and Amtrak Stockton Station.

Other proposed station locations in Phase 1 include: Isabel Station; Greenville ACE Intermodal Station; Mountain House Station; Downtown Tracy Station; and River Islands Station. The service is proposed to operate from 5 am to 8 pm, with service every 12 minutes between the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station and Greenville Road during peak hours and every 24 minutes beyond Greenville to the North Lathrop Station. Trains would be scheduled to allow for convenient transfers to BART.

Following environmental work and initial design, final design and construction will commence. Project construction is expected to take between five and seven years, meaning that the first Valley Link trains could be placed in service as early as 2024.

About the Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority

The Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority was created by the California Legislature in 2017 with the passage of Assembly Bill 758, co-authored by Assemblywoman Catharine Baker, R-San Ramon and Assemblywoman Susan Eggman, D-Stockton. The authority's primary purpose is to plan, develop and deliver cost-effective transit connectivity between the Bay Area Rapid Transit District's (BART) rapid transit system and the Altamont Corridor Express' (ACE) commuter rail service.

The Authority is governed by a Board of Directors appointed by its 15 member agencies, including: the Town of Danville, the cities of San Ramon, Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore, Tracy, Manteca, Lathrop and Stockton, the Mountain House Community Services District, the counties of Alameda and San Joaquin, the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE). The following page contains a list of the appointed board members.

Additional information on the Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority, including the agenda and staff reports is available at www.acetobart.org

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**Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority
Member Agencies and Board Appointees**

Member Agency

Town of Danville
City of San Ramon
City of Dublin
City of Pleasanton
City of Livermore
City of Tracy
City of Manteca
City of Lathrop
City of Stockton
Mountain House
County of Alameda
County of San Joaquin
LAVTA
BART
ACE

Appointee

Councilmember Karen Stepper
Vice Mayor Philip G. O’Loane
Mayor David Haubert
Mayor Jerry Thorne
Mayor John Marchand
Mayor Pro Tem Veronica Vargas (Vice Chair)
Vice Mayor Debby Moorhead
Councilmember Paul Akinjo
Councilmember Susan Lofthus
Vice President Bernice Tingle
Supervisor Scott Haggerty (Chair)
Supervisor Bob Elliott
Boardmember Steven Spedowski
Boardmember John McPartland
Boardmember Leo Zuber