Connecting the Bay Area Megaregion and the State of California

Extends Caltrain and brings High-Speed Rail service to downtown San Francisco while connecting Bay Area riders to jobs, housing and economic opportunities

The Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) project, now also known as The Portal, is a transformational infrastructure investment, delivering on the decades-long promise of bringing communities closer, reducing climate change impacts and providing Bay Area residents with better access to jobs, housing and economic opportunities. The project has been over 30-years in the making as part of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority’s (TJPA) vision to deliver seamless transportation service through its multimodal six-story transit hub, the Salesforce Transit Center, in downtown San Francisco. The Portal will extend Caltrain service from Fourth and King street to the heart of downtown San Francisco and connect to nine transit systems found in eight Bay Area counties.

It is a transformational, once-in-a-generation investment that will ultimately connect 11 Bay Area transit systems from San Francisco to the East and North Bays, and the Peninsula and South Bay. It provides a one-seat mile ride from the heart of the Bay Area to Los Angeles/Anaheim through the California state rail system. This transformative project will close a significant gap in the region’s transportation network; is the single most important mile in the State’s high-speed rail system; and is a foundational investment in the Bay Area’s megaregional transportation system, preparing for the second transbay tube through Link 21. With the two-story trainbox built in the Center’s basement levels, it is not a question of if, but when rail service will start at the Center.

PROJECT QUICK FACTS

• In Federal Transit Administration’s Capital Investment Grants Program - Project Development phase, December 2021

• Cleared federal and state environmental requirements in 2019 with a federal Record of Decision and the National Environmental Policy Act and California Environmental Quality Act

• Endorsed as a Tier 1 project in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s Plan Bay Area 2050 and recognized as a Federal SAFETEA-LU Project of National and Regional Significance

• Estimated cost of $6.9 billion with 2027 year of expenditure

• Consists of two new stations: Fourth & Townsend Station and Salesforce Transit Center along with six emergency exit and ventilation structures

Regional Collaboration

TJPA is leading the delivery of The Portal in cooperation with five other agencies through the San Francisco Peninsula Rail Program Memorandum of Understanding, a regional collaboration model to formally deliver the project to procurement.
The Portal will:

- Allow seamless transfers of up to 90,000 daily riders through 11 transit systems*
- Provide a one-seat rail ride into downtown San Francisco from Silicon Valley and through the state’s high-speed rail system
- Enhance pedestrian and bike safety by reducing cars driven on the road
- Divert over 19,000 auto trips daily (in its first year of full operation)
- Provide equity priority communities, located within 1,000 feet of the two stations, access to an integrated transit system
- Improve air quality and reduces vehicle miles traveled (9.8 million metric tons of CO₂ reduced over 50 years)
- Create thousands of jobs, including through Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and veterans’ programs
- Enhance riders’ access to employment, housing and services within San Francisco, along the Peninsula corridor and throughout the greater Bay Area
- Connect with federal investments including the Center’s trainbox, Caltrain electrification and BART to Silicon Valley

*Average of Caltrain, CHSRA, and TJPA ridership estimates

### Delivering on the Transbay Program Vision

The delivery of The Portal is part of the long-term vision of the TJPA’s Transbay Program created in 2001, consisting of three parts:

1. Replacement of the former Transbay Terminal with a multimodal Transit Center;
2. Creation of a transit-oriented neighborhood featuring housing, open space, offices and shops; and
3. Extension of Caltrain and California High Speed Rail service into downtown San Francisco.

Through the construction of the Salesforce Transit Center, over 24,000 total construction jobs were created in 47 states. Nearly 4,000 new housing units will be constructed with 35% affordable in this burgeoning transit-oriented neighborhood.