Dumbarton Transportation Corridor Project Community Meetings Summary Report

March 15, 2019
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Project Overview
The San Mateo County Transit District (District) and Cross Bay Transit Partners LLC (CBTP), a new company created by Plenary Group and Facebook, are engaged in a public-private partnership (P3) to improve transportation along the Dumbarton corridor in the South San Francisco Bay Area. The Dumbarton transportation corridor is a vital connector between the East Bay and the South San Francisco Peninsula. The objective of the Dumbarton Transit Project is to enhance mobility between residential neighborhoods in the East Bay and job centers on the South San Francisco Peninsula.

The District and CBTP are exploring new, environmentally appropriate alternatives for a high-quality, high-capacity public transit system. Once identified and implemented, these proposed transportation improvements aim to bring commute alternatives along with job and housing opportunities to the Bay Area. The Project may also facilitate mixed-use transit-oriented development at key transit connections.

The District and CBTP will be conducting a series of community outreach meetings at key intervals during the planning process. Public participation is vital to developing a viable solution that best serves the communities along the corridor, including motorists, bicyclists, transit riders, and other stakeholders in the region. Please visit (https://crossbaytransit.com/) for project updates.

Introductory Community Meetings
Four (4) introductory public meetings were held in late February and early March along the South San Francisco Peninsula and East Bay. The primary objective of the meetings was to introduce the recently formed Cross Bay Transit Partners to community members and to provide an overview of the project’s purpose and general parameters.

Approximately 500 individuals attended the meetings, which were hosted at the following locations:

1. **Newark Meeting**
   - Saturday, February 23
   - 10:30am-12:00pm
   - Newark Pavilion
   - 6430 Thornton Ave
   - Newark, CA 94560

2. **Redwood City Meeting**
   - Wednesday, February 27
   - 6:30pm-8:00pm
   - Veterans Memorial Senior Center
   - 1455 Madison Ave
   - Redwood City, CA 94061

3. **Fremont Meeting**
   - Thursday, February 28
   - 6:30pm-8:00pm
   - Centerville Community Center
   - 3355 Country Dr.
   - Fremont, CA 94536

4. **Menlo Park Meeting**
   - Saturday, March 2
   - 10:30am-12:00pm
   - Menlo Park Senior Center
   - 110 Terminal Ave.
   - Menlo Park, CA 94025
Based on head counts, attendance at each meeting exceeded 100, and included people for a variety of Bay Area communities in addition to the cities where the meetings were held. Several elected officials, community leaders, environmental advocates, and members of the media were in attendance. For a breakdown of the number of attendees, and the cities they represented, please see Appendix A.

Meeting Notification

In order to notify the public about the meetings, notices were disseminated through the following methods:

- Nearly 13,000 postcards were mailed to residents in the four cities where the meetings were held: Newark, Redwood City, Fremont, and Menlo Park. These postcards were also shared with local governments and agencies to distribute to their constituents. The postcards included details about the project background, project team, meeting locations, times and dates, project website, and an invitation to attend the meetings. An example of the postcard can be found in Appendix B.

- A press release was distributed by the District to local media outlets. Similar to the postcard and newspaper advertisement, the press release described the project and project team, along with meeting locations, times, and dates. Media contacts were listed on the press release for further inquiries. The press release can be found in Appendix C.

- Social media notifications were posted by the District on Twitter. These posts included a photograph of a table tent with information about the meeting. An additional post included a formal graphic about the meeting. Please see Appendix D for visuals of these posts.
Comment Summary
During the meetings, attendees were invited to ask questions and provide comments or concerns about the proposed project to project partners. Community comments encompassed everything from projected costs and to station locations, to requests for a green, clean and sustainable system. There were also requests to study multiple modes of transportation for the project, including bicycle/pedestrian facilities, bus service, and rail.

Below are summaries of the key themes that emerged at the four meetings, with geographically-specific comments noted. The project team took notes on the comments received at the meetings for consideration in the development and evaluation of the potential project and alternatives.

Alternative Bus Options
Skepticism expressed around building a train service and suggestions for a bus rapid transit (BRT) system in lieu of a new rail system. Interest raised in improving the existing bus service.

Bicycle Infrastructure
Interest expressed in the establishment of protected bicycle lanes to accommodate a range of riders, especially to tackle the First Mile, Last Mile problem.

Communities as a “Pass-Through”
Concerns raised at all four meetings about communities becoming “pass-through” locations, communities identified include North Fair Oaks and Lorelai Manor. Concerns voiced about proposed project impact on other mass transit projects if it fails. Suggestions made for additional stations in North Fair Oaks, Historic Centerville, Marsh Manor, and several East Bay cities to prevent this concern.

EIR and Environmental Concerns
Environmental topics ranged from concerns about Hayward Fault to the creation of quiet zones for railroad crossings. Additionally, attendees requested that environmental studies take into consideration sea level rise, preservation of the surrounding marsh and wetlands, as well as impacts to the National Wildlife Refuge. During the environmental process, it was suggested the project was referred to as a transportation project instead of a rail project so as to enable options for multiple technologies and modes of travel.

Grade Separation
Suggestions raised for installing grade separations at Marsh Road and concern expressed that rail crossings over Marsh would cause congestion. There were also concerns about grade separations on Willow and University Drive, with a request to consider the potential impacts of at-grade crossings on University Drive and Willow Avenue. North Fair Oaks residents were particularly concerned about installing a grade separation at Marsh Road due to existing and potential future vehicle congestion and suggested to make sure that Middlefield Road and 5th Avenue are included in the traffic study.
Project Costs and Allocation of Funds
Questions at each meeting location pertained to project costs and allocation of funds. Attendees (in the South Bay) suggested that East Bay cities should contribute to funding in addition to San Mateo County. There were inquiries about a revenue model and long-term finance plan. Concerns were also raised about a perceived job/ housing imbalance; participants requested that large companies contribute to funding the proposed project, since they are perceived to be responsible for the existing and future population growth.

Regional and Local Connectivity
Connectivity was a popular topic at all four meetings. Attendees requested connections to Caltrain, BART, ACE, Capitol Corridor and VTA. There were concerns about first mile/last mile from the DRC train stations, as well as questions about bus connections to the station and the continued use of the existing SamTrans express bus service. Interest expressed for improvements to the transportation system as a whole, not only creating a commuter line for Facebook employees.

Train Infrastructure
Interest was expressed for high quality and environmentally appropriate transportation vehicles, walkways, and bikeways. Concerns were raised about infrastructure that would bisect communities or cause gentrification. Suggestions to create raised transit beam and tunnels were mentioned so as to accommodate the existing wetlands and reduce impacts to properties in the immediacies of the corridor. Commenters emphasized the need for mitigation methods between houses and the tracks in case the new infrastructure is at-grade. As for the route, there was a suggestion for the proposed system to go south to connect to Palo Alto and Mountain View, thereby enhancing regional connectivity further.

Train Station Options
Several attendees provided possible train station locations. The following are a list of specific places and cities:

- Old USPS Facility in Fair Oaks
- Marsh Manor Shopping Center in Redwood City
- Middlefield Corridor in Redwood City
- Palo Alto
- Menlo Park, specifically for those who commute to the South Bay from Menlo Park
- Centerville, specifically Historic Centerville
- Take into account parking spaces at stations since people can’t get to train stations without driving

Train Technology
Members of the community requested a more modern train that is quiet, electrified and not diesel powered. Light rail was mentioned, as well as a train that is clean, silent, and sustainable. Attendees
requested to integrate the train system with Clipper. Other suggestions included an underwater tunnel instead of a bridge, a solar powered system, and a standard gauge for easy connection to existing regional trains. Concern was raised about the cost of tickets.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
Residents of the cities were concerned about the inclusion of TOD in the planning process, including how this project could impact planned TOD. Additionally, there were concerns for the rights and interests of low-income families, who may be impacted by the successes of TOD.

Next Steps
The District will be initiating the environmental review process required under state and federal law, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). The first public meetings during the environmental review process will be scoping meetings, designed to solicit public input in identifying issues and alternatives to be considered in developing the proposed project and conducting the environmental review.

Notices about future project activities will be advertised via local media channels, posted on the project website and social media pages of local agencies and jurisdictions, and sent by email to community members who subscribed to receive project updates.
Appendix

Appendix A – Meeting Attendance Count
Appendix B – Dumbarton Transportation Corridor Postcard
Appendix C – Dumbarton Transportation Corridor Press Release
Appendix D – Social Media Posts
Appendix A – Meeting Attendance Count

Newark Community Meeting
Approximate Total Attendance: 106

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>Number of Attendees</th>
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<td>Newark</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fremont</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union City</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Cities</td>
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<td>Menlo Park</td>
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<td>Oakland</td>
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<thead>
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<td>Alameda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ardenwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hollywood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livermore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pleasanton</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Lorenzo</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Mateo</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Clara</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walnut Creek</td>
<td>1</td>
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RESIDENCE OF ATTENDEES AT THE NEWARK CITY MEETING

- Newark: 50%
- Fremont: 17%
- Union City: 13%
- Other Cities: 10%
- Menlo Park: 3%
- Oakland: 2%
- Other Cities: 3%
Redwood City Community Meeting

Approximate Total Attendance: 69

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<td>Redwood City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Menlo Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Cities</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Fair Oaks</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jose</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auburn</td>
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<td>Dublin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emerald Hills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fremont</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain View</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
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<td>San Francisco</td>
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<td>San Mateo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stockton</td>
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RESIDENCE OF ATTENDEES AT THE REDWOOD CITY MEETING

- Redwood City: 43%
- Menlo Park: 24%
- Other Cities: 20%
- North Fair Oaks: 9%
- San Jose: 4%
Fremont Community Meeting

Approximate Total Attendance: 113

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<td>Other Cities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alameda</td>
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<th>Number of Attendees</th>
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<td>Concord</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
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<td>Hayward</td>
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<td>Oakland</td>
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<td>Orinda</td>
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<td>Pleasanton</td>
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<td>San Francisco</td>
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<td>San Jose</td>
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<td>San Leandro</td>
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<td>San Mateo</td>
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<td>San Ramon</td>
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<td>Santa Monica</td>
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<td>Walnut Creek</td>
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</table>

Residence of Attendees at the Fremont Meeting

- Fremont: 57%
- Other Cities: 10%
- Newark: 12%
- Union City: 15%
- Alameda: 6%
Menlo Park Community Meeting

Approximate Total Attendance: 93

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>Number of Attendees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Menlo Park</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redwood City</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Cities</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Fair Oaks</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fremont</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Cities</th>
<th>Number of Attendees</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Palo Alto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hayward</td>
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<td>Los Altos</td>
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<td>San Mateo</td>
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</tbody>
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Residence of Attendees at the Menlo Park Meeting

- Menlo Park: 52%
- Redwood City: 19%
- Other Cities: 14%
- North Fair Oaks: 7%
- Palo Alto: 5%
- Fremont: 3%
At these meetings you will meet our project partners and learn about project background, goals, funding, timeline and process. Ample time will be provided for questions and answers. Refreshments will be served. Servicio de interpretación en español estará disponible.

Please visit the project website or email us

- www.crossbaytransit.com
- info@crossbaytransit.com
SamTrans and Cross Bay Transit Partners (CBTP) are engaged in a public-private partnership (P3) to improve transportation along the Dumbarton corridor in the San Francisco Bay Area. Together, they are exploring new, environmentally appropriate alternatives for a high-quality, high-capacity public transit system.

You are invited to join us for an introductory meeting about the future of the Dumbarton Rail Corridor. Your invaluable participation will help guide the development of this proposed new connection across the Bay. Doors will open approximately 30 minutes prior for sign-in and refreshments.

For the convenience of Bay Area residents, we have scheduled several times and locations for this meeting. Join us when it’s convenient.

1. **Newark Meeting**
   - **Saturday, February 23, 10:30am - 12:00pm**
   - **Newark Pavilion**
   - 6430 Thornton Ave. Newark, CA 94560

2. **Redwood City Meeting**
   - **Wednesday, February 27, 6:30pm - 8:00pm**
   - **Veterans Memorial Senior Center**
   - 1455 Madison Ave. Redwood City, CA 94061

3. **Fremont Meeting**
   - **Thursday, February 28, 6:30pm - 8:00pm**
   - **Centerville Community Center**
   - 3355 Country Dr. Fremont, CA 94536

4. **Menlo Park Meeting**
   - **Saturday, March 2, 10:30am - 12:00pm**
   - **Menlo Park Senior Center**
   - 110 Terminal Ave. Menlo Park, CA 94025

Please visit the project website: [www.crossbaytransit.com](http://www.crossbaytransit.com) | Email us: [info@crossbaytransit.com](mailto:info@crossbaytransit.com)
Public Meetings Begin to Evaluate New Transit Service Along Dumbarton Corridor

February 20, 2019

Beginning this weekend, the San Mateo County Transit District and Cross Bay Transit Partners (CBTP) will host a series of introductory meetings about the future of the Dumbarton Rail Corridor in both the East Bay and on the Peninsula.

The Transit District and CBTP, an affiliation between Facebook and Plenary, are engaged in a public-private partnership to explore opportunities to improve transportation by establishing a new, high-quality, high-capacity public transit system along the Dumbarton corridor in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The public meetings will acquaint the community with the project partners, and will allow the community to learn about the project background, goals, funding, timeline and process. The public is strongly encouraged to attend the meetings in order to help shape the future of regional transportation.

The meetings will be held on the following days and locations:

**Newark Meeting**
Saturday, February 23, from 10:30 a.m. to noon
Newark Pavilion, 6430 Thornton Ave.

**Redwood City Meeting**
Wednesday, February 27, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Senior Center, 1455 Madison Ave.

**Fremont Meeting**
Thursday, February 28, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Centerville Community Center, 3355 County Drive

**Menlo Park Meeting**
Saturday, March 2, from 10:30 a.m. to noon
Menlo Park Senior Center, 110 Terminal Avenue

For more information about the project, please [www.crossbaytransit.com](http://www.crossbaytransit.com).

###

*About the San Mateo County Transit District: The San Mateo County Transit District operates 70 SamTrans routes throughout San Mateo County. Funded in part by a half-cent sales tax, the San Mateo County Transit District also provides administrative support for Caltrain and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority. The San Mateo County Transit District has provided bus service to San Mateo County customers since 1976.*
Follow SamTrans on Facebook and Twitter.

Follow Caltrain on Facebook and Twitter.

Free translation assistance is available.

Para traducción llama al 1.800.660.4287; 如需翻譯，請電 1.800.660.4287.

Media Contacts:

Tasha Bartholomew, Communications Manager, San Mateo County Transit District, 650-508-7927, bartholomewt@samtrans.com and Stephanie Williamson, Cross Bay Transit Partners, 604-638-5260, Stephanie.Williamson@plenarygroup.com
Appendix D – Dumbarton Transportation Corridor Social Media Posts

Another excellent community meeting last night about the Dumbarton Rail Corridor. If you couldn’t make it, join us tonight! 6:30pm-8:00pm ... See More.

Community Meeting: Please join us tonight for an introductory meeting about the Dumbarton Rail Corridor. Meet our partners and learn about the proposed project. There will be ample time for Q&A. 6:30pm-8:00pm.
Community Meeting: Please join us Tonight for an introductory meeting about the Dumbarton Rail Corridor. Meet our partners and learn about the proposed project. There will be ample time for Q&A.

February 27 at 3:30 PM
Veterans Memorial Senior Center in City of Redwood City... See More.

INTRODUCTORY MEETINGS

Newark Meeting
Saturday, February 23
10:30am to 12pm
Newark Pavilion
6430 Thornton Ave Newark, CA 94560

Redwood City Meeting
Wednesday, February 27
6:30pm-8:00pm
Veterans Memorial Senior Center
1455 Madison Ave Redwood City, CA 94063

Fremont Meeting
Thursday, February 28
6:30pm-8:00pm
Centerville Community Center
3355 County Dr. Fremont
SamTrans 🌐 @SamTrans · Feb 28
Community Meeting Tonight: Please join us Tonight for an introductory meeting about the Dumbarton Rail Corridor. Meet our partners and learn about the proposed project.

⏰ 6:30pm-8:00pm
📍 Veterans Memorial Senior Center in @RedwoodCity

More info: crossbaytransit.com
SamTrans • @SamTrans • Mar 1
Another excellent community meeting last night about the Dumbarton Rail Corridor.

If you couldn’t make it, join us tonight!

🕒 6:30pm-8:00pm
📍 Centerville Community Center in @Fremont_CA

More info: crossbaytransit.com