

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Resolution Supporting a BART and ACE Rail Connection in Tri-Valley

FROM: Michael Tree, Executive Director

DATE: November 3, 2016

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**Action Requested**

Adopt Resolution 36-2016 in support of a rail connection between the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) rail systems in the Tri-Valley.

**Background/Discussion**

A direct connection between BART and ACE in the Tri-Valley will have immeasurable benefit to commuters traveling between the burgeoning Bay Area and Northern San Joaquin County economies. It is an important solution to the intolerable congestion on I-580 caused by the growing job and housing imbalance between the Bay Area and the San Joaquin Valley. This inter-regional rail connection will substantially increase transit ridership on both BART and ACE, improve air quality, and connect employees seeking affordable work force housing in the San Joaquin Valley to job centers in the Bay Area. Goods movement will also benefit from congestion relief in the heavily congested I-580 corridor, a major link between the Central Valley and the Bay Area's seaports.

The connection between the BART and ACE rail systems in the Tri-Valley is identified as a key component of the MTC Regional Rail Plan, the Alameda County Transportation Commission Countywide Plan, and the ACE Forward planning efforts. Additionally, in the Northern California Megaregion Report (June 2016), the Bay Area Council Economic Institute identifies the BART to ACE connection as key infrastructure needed to support the Northern California economy – one of the fastest growing economies in the country. The report finds that commuters from the Northern San Joaquin Valley to the Bay Area more than doubled from 1990 to 2013. In addition, it notes that San Joaquin County places in the top 10 nationally for its percentage of residents with a commute over 90 minutes. Bay Area home prices are noted to be three times higher than the median price in nearby San Joaquin County.

The Altamont Regional Rail Working Group was formed in October of 2015 for the purpose of facilitating and accelerating the planning and construction of a connection between BART to ACE in the Tri-Valley. Working Group members include elected officials from the City of

Livermore, City of Dublin, City of Pleasanton, County of Alameda, County of San Joaquin, City of Tracy, BART, ACE, the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), and representative of regional business organizations including the East Bay Leadership Council, Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group and the San Joaquin Partnership. The Working Group met on September 14, 2016 and unanimously approved a recommendation that each respective member agency, and other agencies that are impacted, pass resolutions of support for a rail connection of the BART and ACE rail systems in the Tri-Valley. The attached resolution recognizes the necessity and action.

In summary, the passage of the resolution is a necessary step toward making this intermodal rail connection a County priority and supports the inter-regional collaboration necessary to achieve this goal.

**Fiscal Impact**

None

**Recommendation**

Adopt Resolution 36-2016 in support of a rail connection between the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) rail systems in the Tri-Valley.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 36-2016

*Submitted:* \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION NO. 36-2016**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING A RAIL CONNECTION BETWEEN THE BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT AND ALTAMONT CORRIDOR EXPRESS RAIL SYSTEMS IN THE TRI-VALLEY**

**WHEREAS**, the Northern California Megaregion population totaled 12.2 million in 2015 and is growing; and

**WHEREAS**, housing affordability issues in the Bay Area have been one cause of the population influx in the inland portions of the megaregion, causing 68.7% of megaregional workforce commuters crossing regional boundaries to commute into the Bay Area for work; and

**WHEREAS**, the growth of Northern San Joaquin Valley commuters to the Bay Area has been particularly dramatic, more than doubling from 1990 to 2013, causing the I-580 being one of the most congested and intolerable freeways in the Megaregion; and

**WHEREAS**, the I-580 Altamont Pass is a key corridor for freight movement between the Northern San Joaquin Valley and the Port of Oakland, with slowing traffic on the highway a contributor to greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, the best current connection between BART and the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) in the Tri-Valley is by shuttle bus, and a faster, more reliable and more direct rail connection between these two services would increase both BART and ACE ridership and relieve pressure on Interstate 580 and other transportation systems and increase interregional mobility; and

**WHEREAS**, the Altamont Regional Rail Working Group was formed in October of 2015 for the purpose of facilitating and accelerating the planning and construction of a BART to ACE connection in the Tri-Valley, the planning of which traverses multiple Metropolitan Planning Organizations and transportation agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Altamont Regional Rail Working Group members include elected officials from the City of Livermore, City of Dublin, City of Pleasanton, County of Alameda, County of San Joaquin, City of Tracy, the Altamont Corridor Express, the Bay Area Rapid Transit Authority, the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, and representatives of regional business organizations including the Easy Bay Leadership Council, Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group and the San Joaquin Partnership; and

**WHEREAS**, the Altamont Regional Rail Working Group has recommended that their respective agencies pass resolutions of support for a rail connection of the BART and ACE rail systems in the Tri-Valley; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority affirms its support of timely planning and constructing a BART to ACE rail connection in the Tri-Valley; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority affirms its intent to make a BART and ACE rail connection in the Tri-Valley a priority and will take steps toward greater regional collaboration to achieve this goal.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF November, 2016.

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Steven Spedowski, Chair

**ATTEST:**

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Michael Tree, Executive Director