



# Introducing: Dumbarton Corridor Busway



SamTrans Board of Directors | July 10, 2024

# Agenda

- Dumbarton Rail Corridor Background
  - Near-Term Outlook for Regional Rail
- Activating the Corridor: Proposed Busway
  - What is a busway?
  - Why a busway?
  - Post-pandemic travel patterns
  - Study objectives and desired outcomes
- Requested Board Action



*Busway examples: Top – G Line (LA Metro); J Line (LA Metro), Yonge Rapidway (York Region)*

# Background

- Options to revive the Dumbarton Rail Corridor (DRC or Corridor) have been studied extensively for **30 years**
- Most recent partnership between the District and Cross Bay Transit Partners, LLC (Facebook/Meta and Plenary Americas) to assess the feasibility of various transportation options on the Corridor **terminated mid-2021**
- Today, the Corridor is largely unused and remains a **barrier** limiting mobility between communities and **Equity Priority Areas (EPAs)**
- **Community support to improve access** along and across the corridor in the near- to medium-term

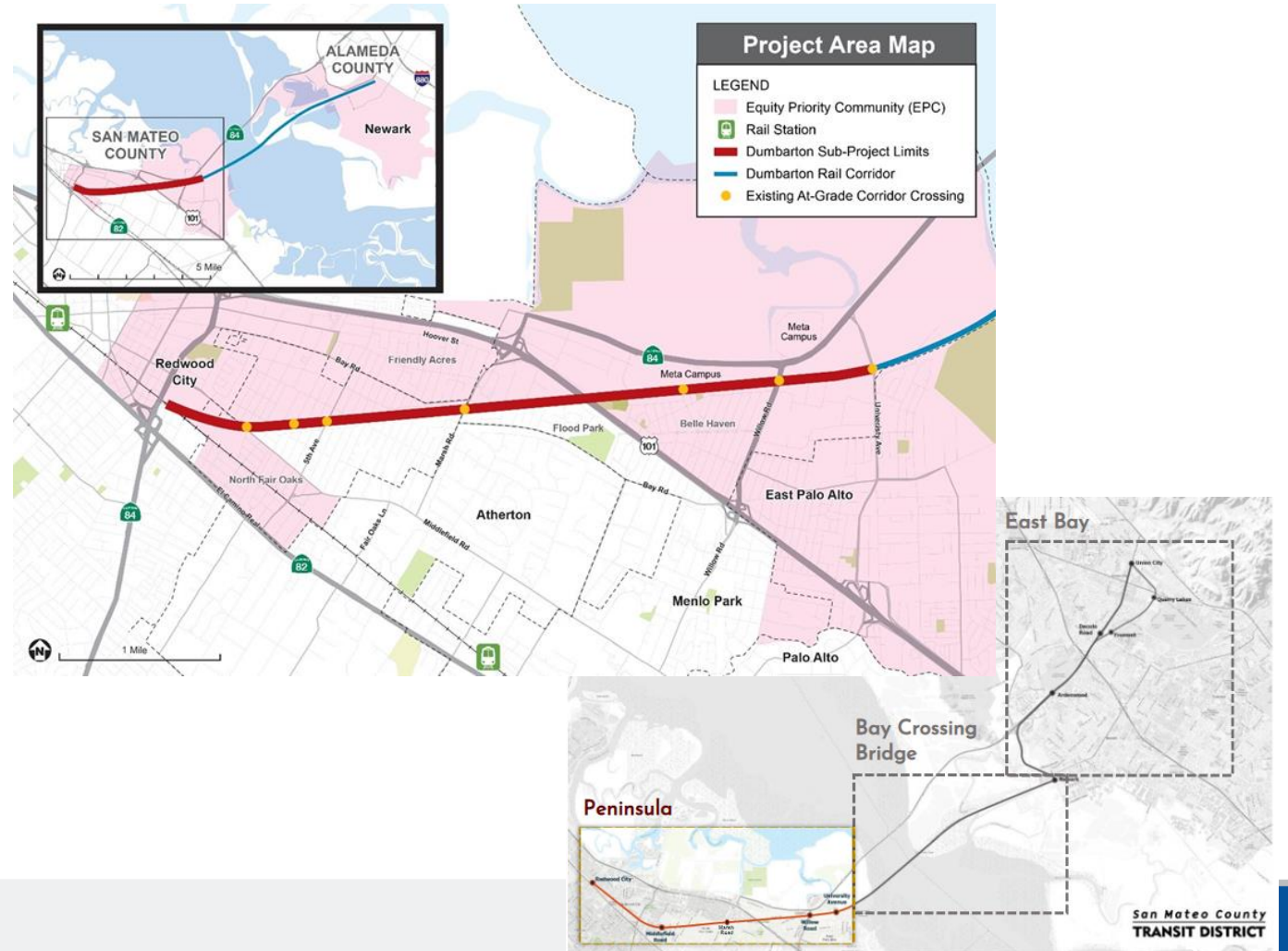


# Near-Term Outlook for Regional Rail

- Updated market viability assessment for rail project undertaken in 2023
- **Currently, there is insufficient market to support the cost of a regional, transbay rail project.**
  - Travel demand market for regional rail only meets the minimum threshold for market viability by a narrow margin
    - The vast majority of that travel demand occurs on the Peninsula between Redwood City and East Palo Alto
  - Rail project estimated at \$3.6B in 2024 dollars
- 2017 Dumbarton Corridor Transportation Study (DCTS) evaluated bus and rail-based projects.
  - Multiple rail and busway alternatives were studied; rail alternative was recommended at the time
  - In total, the bus alternatives projected about 25 percent more ridership than the rail alternatives.

# Activating the Dumbarton Corridor: Proposed Busway

- Busway concept presents exciting opportunity to directly benefit local communities in the nearer-term
- Busway would connect Dumbarton highway bridge to Redwood City Transit Center
  - East Palo Alto – Menlo Park – North Fair Oaks – Redwood City
  - Open to regional public bus service
  - Will not preclude future rail project



# What is a Busway?

## G Line (Los Angeles)



- 18 miles with 17 stations
- **Uses part of Southern Pacific Railroad's former Burbank Branch Line**
- Connects to other rail services and includes parallel **bike path**
- Annual ridership 4.5M in 2023

## U of M Transitway



- 2.6-mile busway between University of Minnesota's Minneapolis and St Paul campuses
- **Limited to buses, bicycles, and emergency vehicles**

## SURF! (Monterey)



- Planned **6-mile, bus only roadway along Monterey Branch Line right-of-way**
- **Preserving tracks for future rail use**
- Expected to be complete in 2027
- Ridership estimated to be >1.2 million annually by 2040

# Why a Busway?

- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Lower construction and operating costs compared to rail alternative
- **High Ridership:** Proven in industry to generate strong ridership
- **Enhanced Transit Quality:** Increased speed, reliability, and amenities attract riders
- **Faster Implementation:** Shorter implementation timeframe with benefits realized in the near-term
- **Flexibility:** Ability to adapt to changing demands and future needs (e.g., future regional rail)
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Will utilize zero emission bus fleet, opportunities for multimodal connections

Prioritizing benefits to **local equity priority communities**, which include:

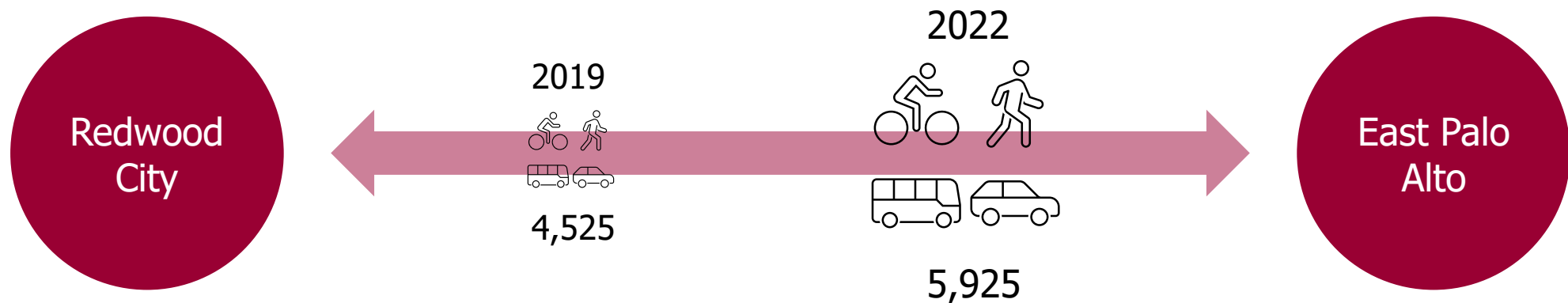
**86%** People of Color

**40%** Low-Income

**15%** Limited English Proficiency

# Busway Project responds to post-pandemic travel patterns

- Average daily travel trips between Redwood City and East Palo Alto has increased by ~30% since 2019
- Proposed busway meets increasing demand for shorter, local trips



Source: Replica



# Scope of Feasibility Study for Dumbarton Corridor Busway

- **Feasibility Study Objectives:**
  - Develop a community-supported vision for mobility on the corridor
  - Partner with CBOs to conduct extensive multilingual community outreach and engagement
  - Design a project that enhances connectivity and addresses existing mobility barriers
  - Advance equity and economic opportunities for local communities
- **Key Outcomes of Feasibility Study phase:**
  - Identify preferred concept for busway that can immediately be advanced to environmental clearance and full design
  - Identify opportunities for quick-strike improvements that can be delivered ahead of full project design
  - Further develop design options, service plan, multimodal connections, costs, timeline, risks and mitigations

# Requested Board Action

- **Today, staff recommends Board of Directors authorize a resolution to receive \$5 million** in RM3 funds to launch the Dumbarton Busway Project, with **an allocation of \$4.1 million in July 2024** to complete planning and preliminary design for the Feasibility Study phase
- Feasibility Study will identify opportunities for "quick strike" improvements that could be advanced ahead of full project design

Phase of Work	Est. Start Date	Est. Completion Date
Planning Study, Environmental Studies, Preliminary Eng. (ENV / PE / PA&ED)	10/2024	12/2028
Final Design - Plans, Specs. & Estimates (PS&E)	01/2029	06/2030
Construction (Begin – Open for Use) / Acquisition (CON)	07/2030	12/2032



# Thank You

