

# 1. Project Background

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The purpose of the Emeryville Berkeley Oakland Transit Study (EBOTS) is to explore future visions for the study area with respect to transit as it relates to land use in Emeryville, West Berkeley, and West Oakland. This will require an awareness of the roles of various transit providers, including BART and AMTRAK for regional connectivity, AC Transit for subregional connectivity, and shuttles for “last mile” service. Planned population and job growth and increased investment in the area will spur the need for additional transportation investments, including transit, pedestrian, and bicycle improvements. The corridor is a jobs-rich environment with more employment than housing; mobility improvements offer the potential for improved access to jobs for those living in, near, or commuting to the corridor.

This report is organized by discussing the background and planning process, the transit context of the study area, reviewing the proposed improvements, evaluating them, then finally discussing implementation and funding.

- **Section One** describes the project background.
- **Section Two** discusses the planning process, community engagement, and iterative process that led to the development of the proposed routes.
- **Section Three** provides a description of the transit context in the EBOTS study area including planned improvements.
- **Section Four** provides a description of the proposed transit improvements for the EBOTS study area.
- **Section Five** includes an evaluation of the proposed routes based on a range of factors, including: ridership, vehicle miles traveled, environmental justice, safety and security, costs, economic development, and compatibility with existing transit.
- **Section Six** includes a high-level look at the funding and implementation strategy.

## Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is made up of representatives from the City of Emeryville, City of Berkeley, City of Oakland, AC Transit, BART, Amtrak Capitol Corridor, Emeryville Transportation Management Association (ETMA), West Berkeley Transportation Management Association, Alameda County Transportation Commission, and Metropolitan Transportation Commission. The TAC met bi-monthly throughout the planning process, providing technical review of materials, ensuring accurate and up-to-date information, and allowing representatives from jurisdictions and agencies to coordinate and discuss improvements. Much of the work presented in this report is a culmination of input received from this committee.

## Project Goals

The Technical Advisory Committee has identified the following goals for the EBOTS corridor:

- Creating an environment where a car is not required for mobility;
- Using transit to create a well-connected and cohesive corridor with good access to jobs, education and recreation;
- Coordinating transit improvements with future population and job growth to help spur economic development;
- Making near-term transportation improvements including bus route modifications, new shuttle operations, and transit reliability and frequency increases; and
- Enhancing long-term mobility within the corridor, possibly including new transit service such as streetcar or bus rapid transit.

## Study Area and Destinations

The study area is bounded by the San Francisco Bay on the west; San Pablo Avenue, Adeline Street and Market Street on the east; the Berkeley-Albany border on the north; and the I-580 freeway on the south. Major destinations within the area include parks, schools, and shopping (shown in **Figure 1**) and employers.

**Figure 1: Study Area and Destinations**

