



## Memorandum

**To:** Todd Muck, Deputy Executive Director  
**From:** Christina Watson, Principal Transportation Planner  
**Meeting Date:** May 22, 2019  
**Subject:** 2019 Rail Summit

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On April 24-25, 2019, I attended the California Passenger Rail Summit in Oakland, CA. This was an excellent networking opportunity with rail experts and transportation officials from around the state. Key take-aways:

- The Monterey Bay Area is gaining recognition as an integral part of the Northern California Megaregion. Among the major projects funded or in the planning stages around the Megaregion, the Salinas Rail Extension and the Coast Rail projects are considered a good investment to extend the rail system southward along the coast for minimal funding and high returns. Some of the “megaprojects” presented at the conference included:
  - New Transbay Rail Crossing – a second tube under the bay for BART, Capital Corridor, and eventually High-Speed Rail. This concept is in the early stages of development. More info here: <https://www.bart.gov/about/projects/transbay>.
  - Caltrain Modernization/Electrification Project (the \$2 billion project is now under construction: <http://www.caltrain.com/projectsplans/CaltrainModernization.html>), and the Downtown Extension (seeking federal funds to match local measure funding for a total of \$6 billion: [http://www.bayrailalliance.org/caltrain\\_dtx/](http://www.bayrailalliance.org/caltrain_dtx/)).
  - Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) extension to Merced and increase from four to ten round trips (phased in over 10 years, at an estimated \$1.6 billion: [http://bit.ly/ACE\\_Forward](http://bit.ly/ACE_Forward)).
  - San Joaquins/ACE “Valley Rail” project increasing San Joaquins service from seven to nine round trips and extending ACE to Sacramento (\$500 million project starting environmental review: [http://bit.ly/Valley\\_Rail](http://bit.ly/Valley_Rail)).

I also participated in the Transit-Oriented Development tour at Capital Corridor stations in Richmond and Emeryville. Both stations have experienced a huge surge in housing, office space, and “co-working” developments in the last decade, which aids in reducing the demand for parking and increasing transit use.

The program is on the summit website, <http://www.californiapassengerrailsummit.com/>.