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December 1, 2022

## **Feds Clear the Way to Pursue More BART Funding**

### **Approval allows VTA to OK Tunnel Boring Machine Purchase**

**SAN JOSE, CA** — The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) just received authority to pursue federal funding for up to 50% of the cost of Phase II of the BART Silicon Valley Extension Project. The **funding could be as much as \$4 billion, if needed**, for the alignment that will extend the heavy rail service from North San Jose/Berryessa through Downtown San Jose into Santa Clara.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) notified VTA this morning the Phase II Project has been approved to re-enter the federal New Starts Funding program. The **approval allows VTA to apply for twice the amount of funding anticipated under the previous** pilot Expedited Project Delivery program. The FTA's action also approves past expenses for potential grant reimbursement back to March 2016, as well as for all remaining work on the project, for the estimated total project cost of \$9.3 billion.

### **Tunnel Boring Machine Purchase Approval**

The New Starts qualification allowed VTA's **Board of Directors to approve a \$460 million contract amendment at its Thursday night meeting for the purchase of the tunnel boring machine**, that will dig a 5-mile train tunnel under Downtown San Jose. Kiewit Shea Traylor has the tunnel and trackwork contract for the project. The Phase II Extension includes 6 miles of track and four more stations added to the 10-mile alignment from Fremont's Warm Springs Station, through Milpitas and North San Jose/Berryessa.

VTA plans to begin the funding application as soon as summer 2023, after a final cost estimate and funding plan is worked out.

#### **About VTA**

*Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is an independent special district that is responsible for bus, light rail and paratransit operations, transportation planning, and serves as the county's congestion management agency.*