

LINK 21

This organization is working with the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) and other partners to transform Northern California's passenger rail network into a faster, more integrated system that provides safe, efficient, equitable, and affordable travel for everyone. At the core of Link21 is a new transbay passenger rail crossing between Oakland and San Francisco. To accommodate Regional Rail in the "Megaregion".

LINK 21 is described as a passenger rail network to Millbrae, Richmond, Antioch, Dublin/Pleasanton, and Berryessa/North San Jose. Its vision includes enhancing livability, community stability, economic opportunity, and environmental quality in the megaregion. The megaregion includes a large network of 21 counties with 164 cities and ranges from Monterey Bay area, the Sacramento area, to the Northern San Joaquin Valley and comprises 31.2% of California's population.

It's Goals and Objectives are 1) TRANSFORM THE PASSENGER EXPERIENCE and build ridership. 2) ENABLE TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE AND EQUITABLE LAND USE; 3) PROMOTE EQUITY AND LIVABILITY' 4) ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT, **by** addressing climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, creating viable alternatives to driving

These are audacious goals and the challenges are immense, reaching out to a Benicia-Martinez Rail Bridge replacement. The scope appears limitless. low-income housing for the systemically disadvantaged, parking facilities, and potentially every aspect of living around its stations.

The Link 21 program does not appear to be a JPA. It currently has sponsors- donors of funding. But those donors are public entities and the source of funding is really taxpayers' dollars and user fees. Will the source of funds (taxes) be equitable in relationship to the use by each of the 21 counties? A Link 21 website outlines the program and its objectives.