

## Bay Area Delegation Applauds Grants for BART Extension into Silicon Valley

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Washington, D.C. - Bringing BART to Silicon Valley is one step closer after the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released funding for several key phases of the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit (SVRT) Project.

Two grants totaling \$8.85 million will help fund preliminary engineering to build the 16.1-mile extension of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) rail line. Congress approved the funding at the request of the Bay Area delegation in 2005 and 2006. Combined with funding secured in 2003 and 2004, the federal government's contribution to the BART extension is \$11.25 million.

Once completed, the project will link BART's regional rail system with the cities of Milpitas, San Jose and Santa Clara. FTA awarded the grants to the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to reimburse it for work the agency has already completed.

Bringing BART to San Jose has been a top priority for the Bay Area delegation.

"The FTA's continued support for the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Project as demonstrated by the release of \$8.85 million is good news for our region," said Rep. Anna G. Eshoo, D-Palo Alto. "The SVRT will help relieve road congestion so that residents spend less time stuck in traffic and more time driving global innovation."

"I am pleased the FTA gave a vote of confidence to a project critical to our region's economic competitiveness," said Rep. Mike Honda, D-San Jose, who was a member of the House Transportation Committee leading the fight for Congress to approve the funds. "Transportation and housing, two issues that are intimately related, are critical to our region and the reason why this project has been a priority for our entire area's congressional delegation."

"I'm delighted to see federal grant funds helping our community move the BART project forward," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-San Jose. "I will continue working with my colleagues in the House to identify and deliver federal resources for local transportation initiatives. Silicon Valley has always had a reputation for its 'outside the box' thinking, perhaps its time we start thinking 'outside the car.' "

Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Diane Feinstein have been instrumental in securing federal support for this project as well.

SVRT was approved in 2000 by more than 70 percent of the region's voters. VTA is currently preparing the project for environmental impact studies, which will be reviewed by the FTA.

More About Bart to Silicon Valley

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