



**San Joaquin**  
Joint Powers Authority



March 11th, 2022 Meeting



# San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee

Item 1

**Call to Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

**Introductions/New Members**







# San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee

## Item 2

# Public Comment

**Please use the GoToMeeting chat function to alert staff if you wish to make a Public Comment.**

**Alternatively, you may write in your public comment to [rene@sjjpa.com](mailto:rene@sjjpa.com). Public comments should be limited to two minutes and no more than 240 words.**



# San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee

## Item 9

# **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

**Steve Cohn/Rene Gutierrez**

# Election of Officers

- ❑ Officers shall be elected biennially by the Regular Members of the Committee at the First Committee Meeting of the Year.
- ❑ The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson(s) shall each be a Committee Member.
- ❑ Nominations may be made from the floor by any Voting Member.
- ❑ The election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson require an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee.

# Election of Officers



- ❑ The Chairperson shall personally appear before SJJPA to present the Committees plans, suggestions, recommendations, and ideas.
- ❑ If the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are unable to personally appear, the Chairperson may designate another Regular Member to appear on his/her behalf.



# San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee

## Item 3

# **Update on the San Joaquins Operations, Ridership, Revenue and Service Impacts Due to COVID-19**

**David Lipari**

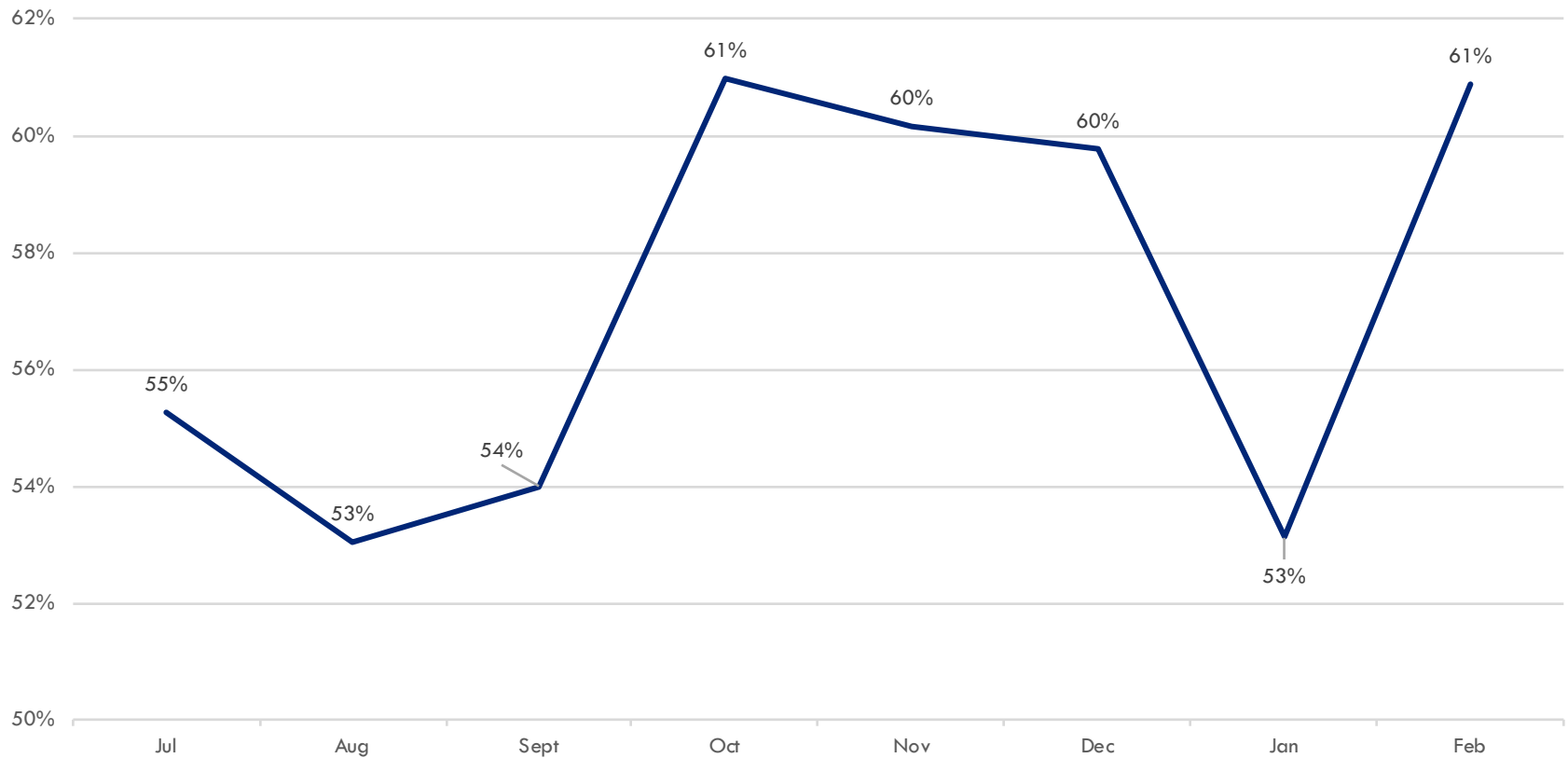
# San Joaquins Service Restoration

- Temporary pandemic service reduction decreased the San Joaquins service from 7 round-trips between Bakersfield and Oakland/Sacramento to 4 round-trips between Bakersfield and Oakland with connecting thruway bus transfers to Sacramento.
- SJJPA restored 714/717 between Bakersfield and Oakland on Monday, June 28th, 2021.
- SJJPA restored 702/703 between Bakersfield and Sacramento on Monday, October 18, 2021.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Round-Trip (701/704) planned for late summer early fall.



# Ridership/Revenue Update on the San Joaquins

% Ridership Recover for San Joaquins  
FY18/19 vs. FY21/22



# San Joaquins Health and Safety Protocols

- **Pre-trip COVID-19 Check:** All passengers will be provided a link to a pre-trip self-evaluation checklist to fill out no more than 24 hours before departure. This step will help encourage passengers who experience COVID-19 symptoms or who have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19 to not travel.
- **Train Capacity Indicator:** Amtrak.com includes a train capacity indicator that communicates the available train capacity in real time. This tool allows passengers to choose less busy trains if desired. This technological tool goes hand-in-hand with the free cancellation/modification policy which allows passengers to cancel a trip or change their reservation to a train with more capacity for free.
- **Continued Face Covering Policy:** The requirement for wearing a face covering onboard will continue.



# San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee

## Item 4

# **Update on the Draft 2022 SJJPA Business Plan**

**Dan Leavitt/David Lipari**

# Background



- The primary purpose of the Annual Business Plan is to identify SJJPA's intentions for the next two State Fiscal Years.
- The SJJPA must submit an Annual Business Plan by April 1 of each year in draft form to the Secretary of the California Transportation Agency (CalSTA) and in final form by June 30th.
- The Annual Business Plan is reviewed and approved by the State and used to develop annual appropriation requests to the State Legislature.

# Background



- A public review draft of the 2022 SJJPA Business Plan (Business Plan) was released March 3, 2022, allowing for Board, agency, and public input.
- After the review period and revisions are completed, the official draft of Business Plan (for submittal to CalSTA) will be presented for approval at the March 25, 2022 SJJPA Board Meeting.
- The 2022 Business Plan is an update of the 2021 Business Plan.

# Background

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had considerable impacts on intercity rail services throughout the State, including the San Joaquins service.
- The Business Plan will outline those impacts from a ridership and revenue perspective, as well as the budgetary actions taken over the last fiscal year in response to the pandemic.
- The Business Plan will discuss next steps for the full return of San Joaquins service, which includes the reintroduction of the 7th roundtrip for the Sacramento region and additional thruway bus services.



# Background

- Emphasis on SJJPA's coordination and integration with CHSRA plans for the Merced – Bakersfield HSR Interim Operating Segment and SJJPA's intention to connect to this initial operating segment to the San Joaquins at a multi-modal station at downtown Merced.
- SJJPA is pursuing plans to expand the Madera Station Relocation Project with high-speed rail facilities at the project site, as well as plans for a cross-platform connection in Merced with the Merced Intermodal Track Connection (MITC) Project. SJJPA will seek funding for both projects to begin the environmental and design processes.

# Background

- With the reintroduction of the 7th roundtrip for the San Joaquins, SJJPA will pursue the implementation of a new thruway bus route between Merced and San Jose with stops in Los Banos and Gilroy (Route 40). This will reduce travel times between the South Bay Area and the Central Valley by approximately one hour compared to existing travel times on the San Joaquins.
- In partnership with the KCAPTA and Visalia Transit, this Business Plan includes funding to support the operation of Hanford–Visalia transit services to lay the foundation of the future Cross Valley Corridor bus and rail network in Kings and Tulare counties.

# Background

- Summarizes changes made to the San Joaquins Thruway Bus Network and SB 742 implementation progress.
- Return to service update.
- Venture Car Update
- Summarizes Cross Valley Corridor Efforts
- Updated San Joaquins financial numbers.
- Food services and marketing changes.



# Venture Cars Update

- On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Caltrans began the formal 'Conditional Acceptance' process for the first 6-car Venture Car consist.
- Once the cars are 'Conditionally Accepted', a few remaining items will take place before revenue service.
  - ▣ Wi-Fi Installation
  - ▣ Amtrak Crew Familiarization
  - ▣ Onboard Information System Validation





# Venture Car Exterior







# Venture Car Interior







# Venture Car Interior





# Venture Car Marketing

- Launch Activities
- Web-Based Promotional Assets
  - ▣ Virtual Walk-Thru
  - ▣ Landing Page
- Advertising
- Stakeholder Coordination







# San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee

## Item 5

# **SJVRC Feedback on the Draft 2022 SJJPA Business Plan**

**Steve Cohn**



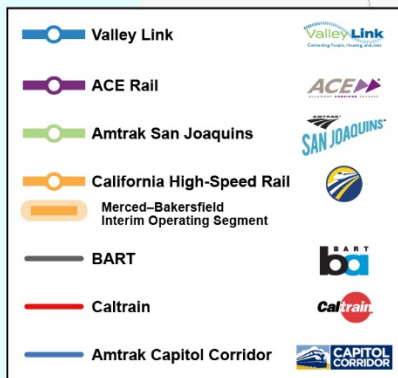
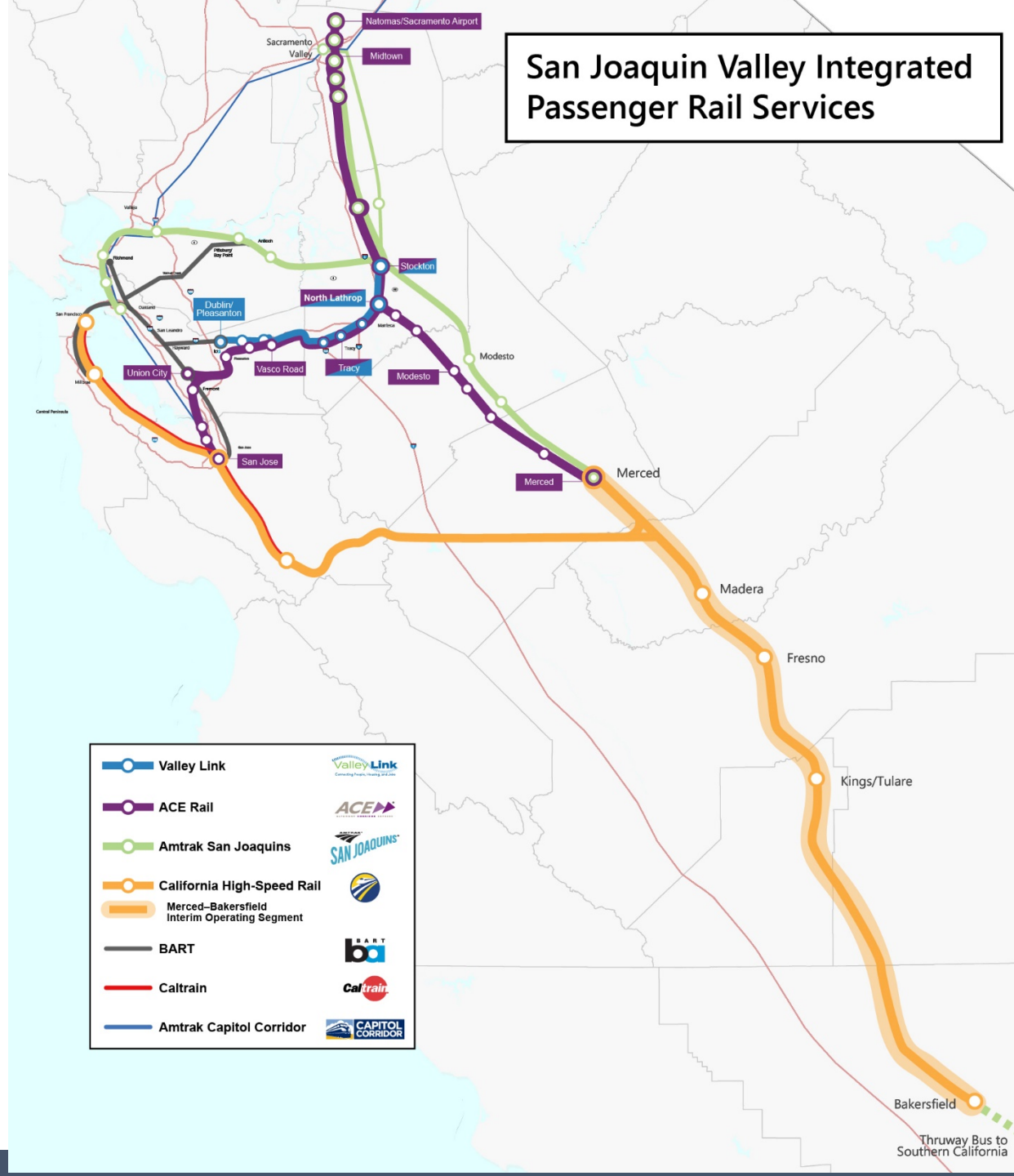
# San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee

## Item 6

# **Update on Network Integration Studies**

**Dan Leavitt**

# San Joaquin Valley Integrated Passenger Rail Services





# MITC Alignment

Potential Layover & Maintenance Facility

MITC (At-Grade)

Relocated Spur Track

MITC (Aerial)

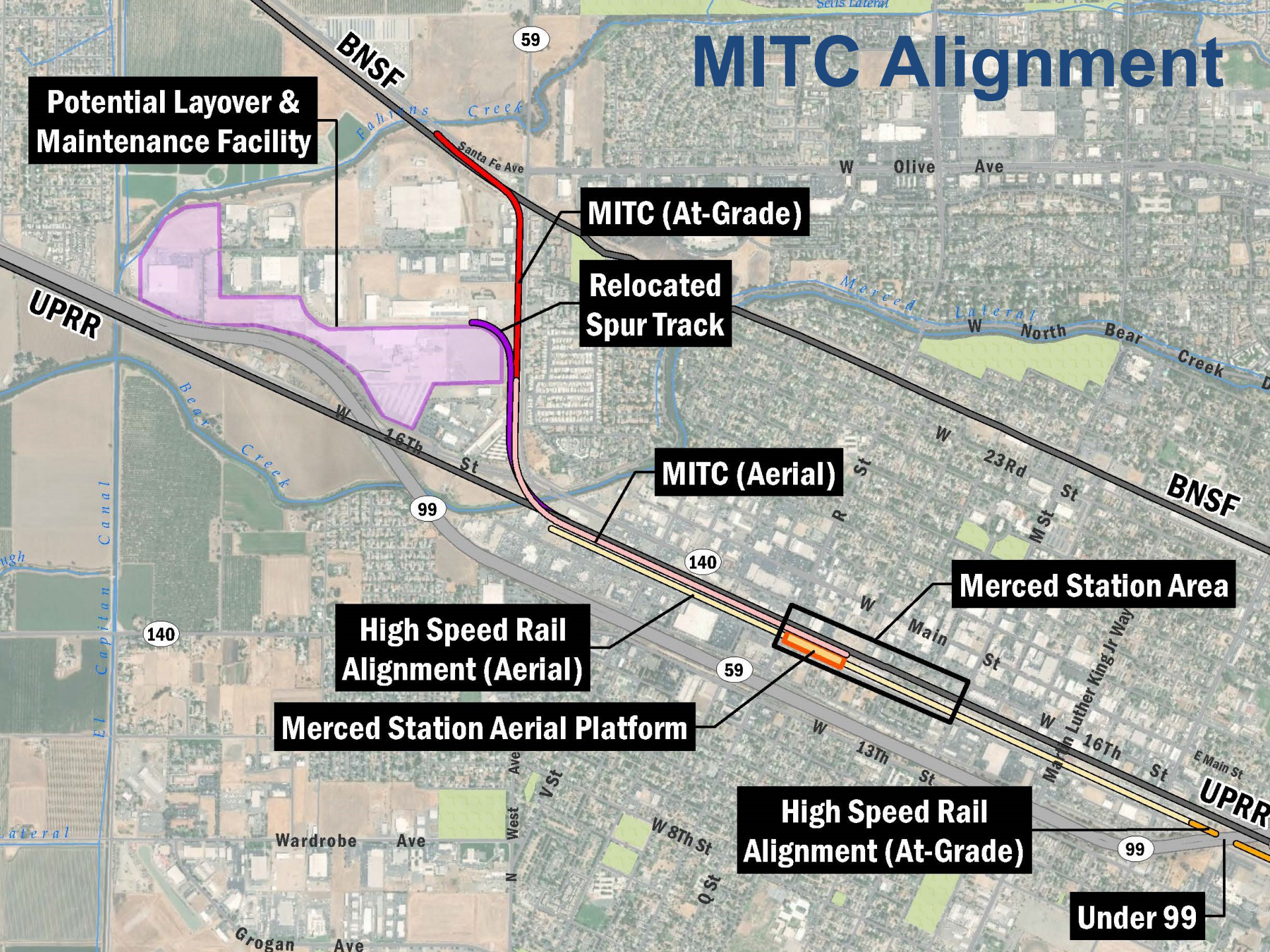
Merced Station Area

High Speed Rail Alignment (Aerial)

Merced Station Aerial Platform

High Speed Rail Alignment (At-Grade)

Under 99





# California Statewide Integrated Passenger Rail and Bus Services Planned for 2029



## Legend

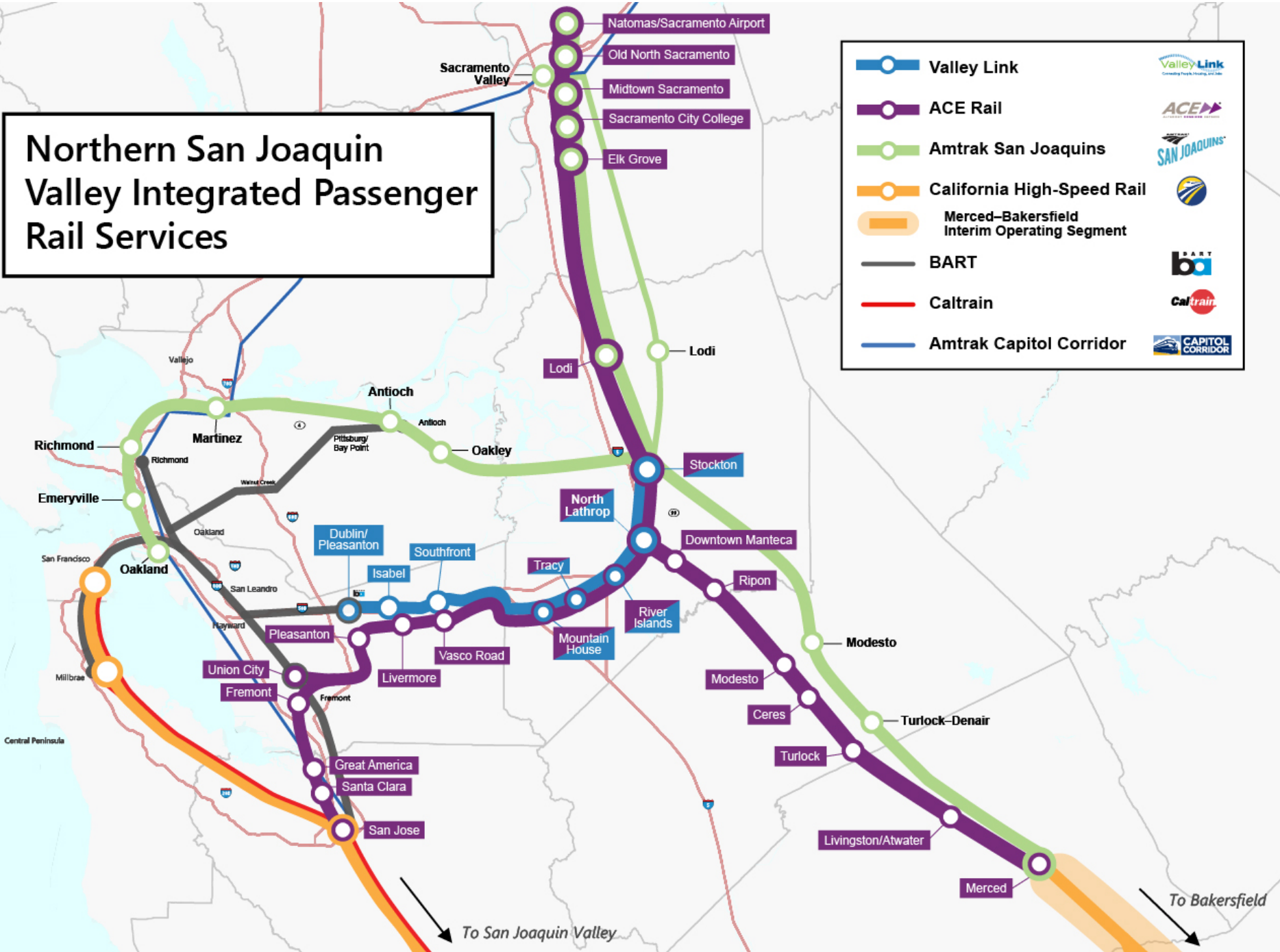
- ACE Rail
- San Joaquins
- California High-Speed Rail Merced-Bakersfield Interim Operating Segment
- Valley Link
- BART
- Caltrain
- Capitol Corridor
- Pacific Surfliner
- Brightline West (Victorville to Las Vegas High-Speed Rail)
- Connecting Bus Route



**ACE**  
ALTAMONT CORRIDOR EXPRESS

**AMTRAK**  
**SAN JOAQUINS**

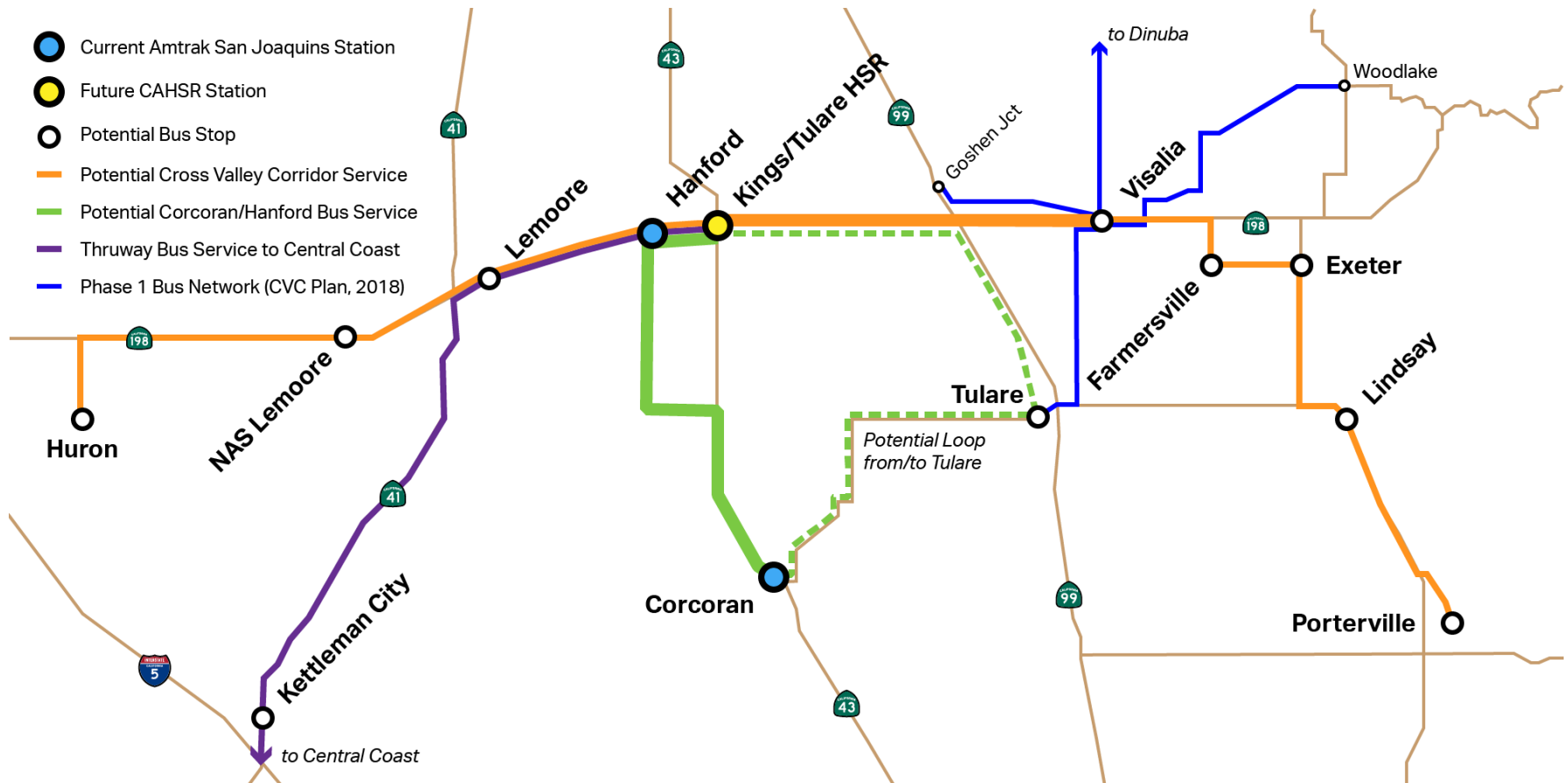
**Northern San Joaquin  
Valley Integrated Passenger  
Rail Services**

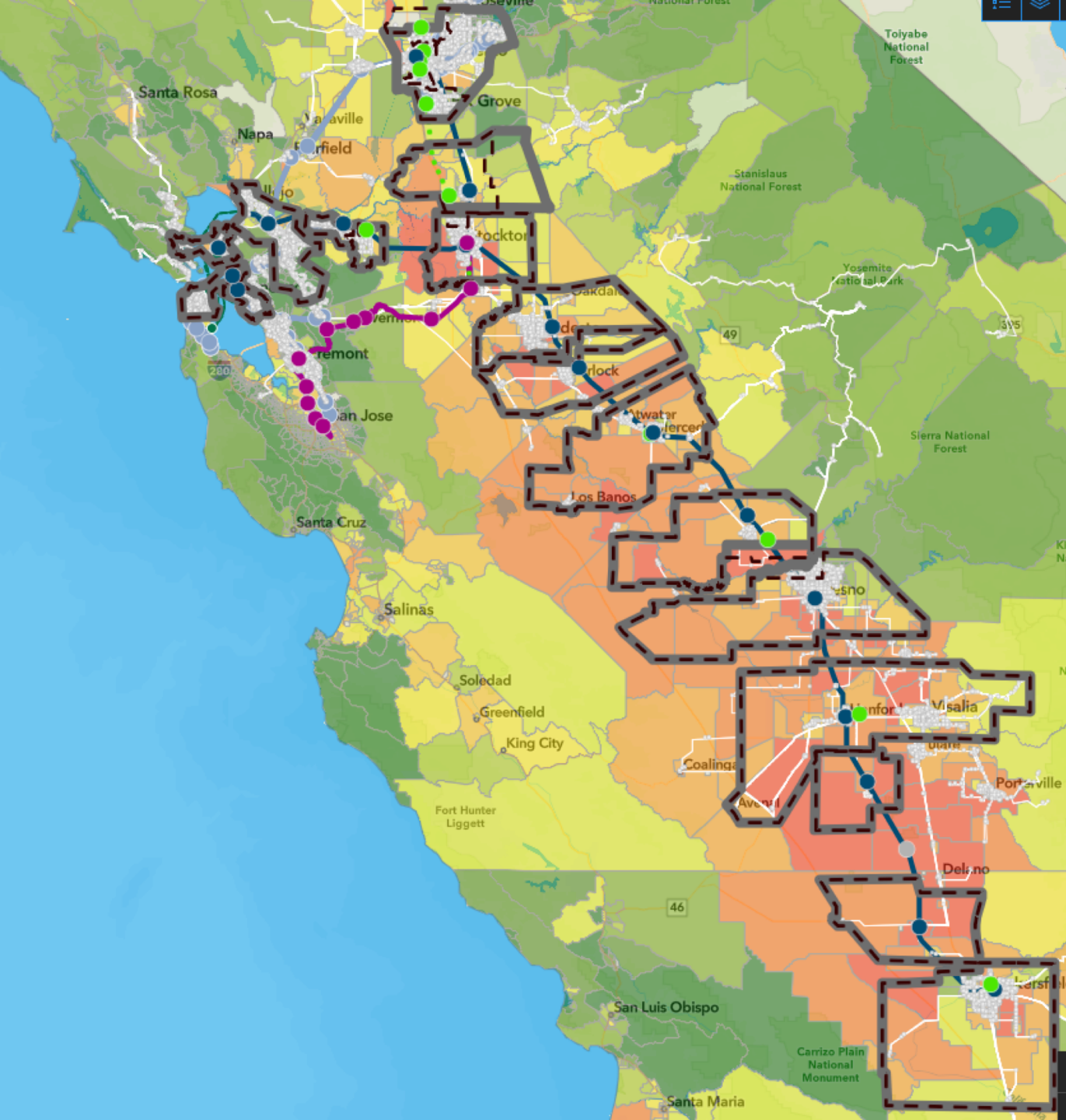




# San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority

## Possible Future Bus Network in Kings and Tulare Counties









# San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority

## Next Steps

- Complete MITC PSR
- Draft Connectivity Study to be Released
- Climate Action Plan
- Sacramento Sub Future Connection to SVS
- Thruway Bus Management Study



# San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee

## Item 7

# **Update on Thruway Bus Services and SB 742 Implementation**

**Dan Leavitt**

# Thruway Bus Services Update

- ❑ Route 1A (Bakersfield – Los Angeles – San Diego): Maintain current levels of service and expand with additional trains as they are returned to service. No changes to the route.
- ❑ Route 1B (Bakersfield – Los Angeles – Long Beach – San Pedro): Continues to only serve up to LA Union Station for the foreseeable future.
- ❑ Route 1C (Bakersfield – Van Nuys – West LA): Route has been truncated (no longer stops at Westchester, El Segundo, and Torrance). New terminus at Santa Monica added.
- ❑ Route 3 (Stockton – Sacramento – Chico – Redding): No changes to service recommended at this time. SJJPA staff is working in partnership with Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) to bring new bus services between Redding and Sacramento along the I-5 corridor. Once this service is in operation, the current Route 3 service will be truncated to Chico.



# Thruway Bus Services Update

- ❑ Route 6 (Stockton – Dublin/Pleasanton – Fremont – San Jose): Reduced to 2 daily round trips. In the 2020 SJJPA Business Plan, funding was approved for a new route that would serve the San Jose region with a connection from Merced via Los Banos and Gilroy.
- ❑ Route 7 (Martinez – Santa Rosa – Arcata): Route 7 to no longer has stops at McKinleyville and Rio Dell-Scotia. A new terminus at Cal Poly Humboldt has been added.
- ❑ Route 9 (Bakersfield – Las Vegas): This route is currently in an interline service agreement between the bus vendor and Amtrak. Operations costs have been shifted to the bus vendor in exchange for a portion of bus revenue generated from the route.
- ❑ Route 10 (Bakersfield – Santa Barbara): This route is currently in an interline service agreement between the bus vendor and Amtrak.

# Thruway Bus Services Update

- ❑ Route 12 (Bakersfield – Palmdale – Victorville): Suspended for the foreseeable future. SJJPA staff is having discussions with Kern Transit to see if there is a partnership opportunity for bus connections between Bakersfield and the Antelope Valley.
- ❑ Route 15 (Merced – Mariposa – Yosemite Valley): This route is managed and operated by the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) and connects with San Joaquins rail service at the Merced Station. SJJPA staff is working with YARTS staff to improve connections at Merced Station as schedule changes occur between the two services.
- ❑ Route 18 (Visalia – Hanford – San Luis Obispo – Santa Maria): This route is currently in an interline service agreement between the bus vendor and Amtrak. SJJPA is also planning to initiate a partnership with Kings County Area Public Transit Agency (KCAPTA) and Visalia Transit to fund increased connectivity between Hanford and Visalia.

# Thruway Bus Services Update

- ❑ Route 19 (Bakersfield – Pasadena – Riverside – San Bernardino): Pre-COVID, Route 19 operated a split route schedule that served two extensions beyond the core route between Bakersfield and San Bernardino (to Indio and Hemet). This route has been truncated to have all buses end in San Bernardino for the foreseeable future. For passengers looking to connect beyond San Bernardino, local and regional transit connections can be utilized to complete those trips.
- ❑ Route 34 (Stockton – Oakland – San Francisco): This route is suspended for the foreseeable future.
- ❑ Route 40 (Merced – Los Banos – Gilroy – San Jose): New thruway bus route between Merced and San Jose along State Route 152 and State Route 101 through the communities Los Banos and Gilroy. To be initiated in 2022 after 7<sup>th</sup> daily round trip brought back.

# San Joaquins Thruway Bus Overview



# SB 742 Implementation Update

Bus-only ticketing is currently available on the following San Joaquin Thruway bus routes:

- ❑ **1C (Bakersfield-Van Nuys-West LA):** Approved March 2020 Board Action, September 24 for Santa Monica bus stop pairs
- ❑ **9 (Bakersfield-Las Vegas):** Available through revenue sharing Interline Agreement with private intercity bus vendor
- ❑ **10 (Bakersfield – Santa Barbara):** Available through revenue sharing Interline Agreement with private intercity bus vendor
- ❑ **15 (Merced – Yosemite):** Available through public operator (YARTS)
- ❑ **18 (Visalia – Hanford – San Luis Obispo – Santa Maria):** Available through revenue sharing Interline Agreement with private intercity bus vendor (also will be available from Visalia – Hanford with KART/Visalia Transit partnership)



# SB 742 Implementation Update

Bus-only ticketing is currently available or approved on the following San Joaquin Thruway bus routes:

- ❑ **19 (Bakersfield – Pasadena – San Bernardino):** Approved March 2020 Board Meeting
- ❑ **40 (Merced – Los Banos – San Jose):** Approved March 2020 Board Meeting (service expected to start in 2022)
- ❑ **7 (Martinez – Santa Rosa – Arcata/Cal Poly Humboldt):** Approved November 2021 Board Meeting

# SB 742 Implementation Update



Thruway Bus Routes that are suspended:

- ❑ **12 (Bakersfield – Palmdale – Victorville):** Approved January 2020 Board Meeting
- ❑ **34 (Stockton – Oakland – San Francisco):** Has not been approved for bus-only ticketing

# SB 742 Implementation Update

Thruway bus routes that require coordination with public/private operators and SJJPA Board action to enable bus-only ticketing:

- ❑ **1 (Bakersfield – Los Angeles – San Diego)**
- ❑ **3 (Stockton – Sacramento – Chico – Redding)**
- ❑ **6 (Stockton – Fremont – San Jose)**

Staff will be conducting research and coordinating with public/private operators in these corridors enable staff to bring action items to the Board at subsequent SJJPA Board Meetings to enable bus-only ticketing to be initiated on these routes.

Outreach efforts will include focused marketing and grass-roots outreach to promote bus-only ticketing available.



# San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee

## Item 8

# **Update on Valley Rail Program and Stockton Diamond Grade Separation**

**Dan Leavitt**



# Valley Rail Update

*Consolidated Expansion of ACE and San Joaquins*

**Presentation to SJVRC: March 11, 2022**



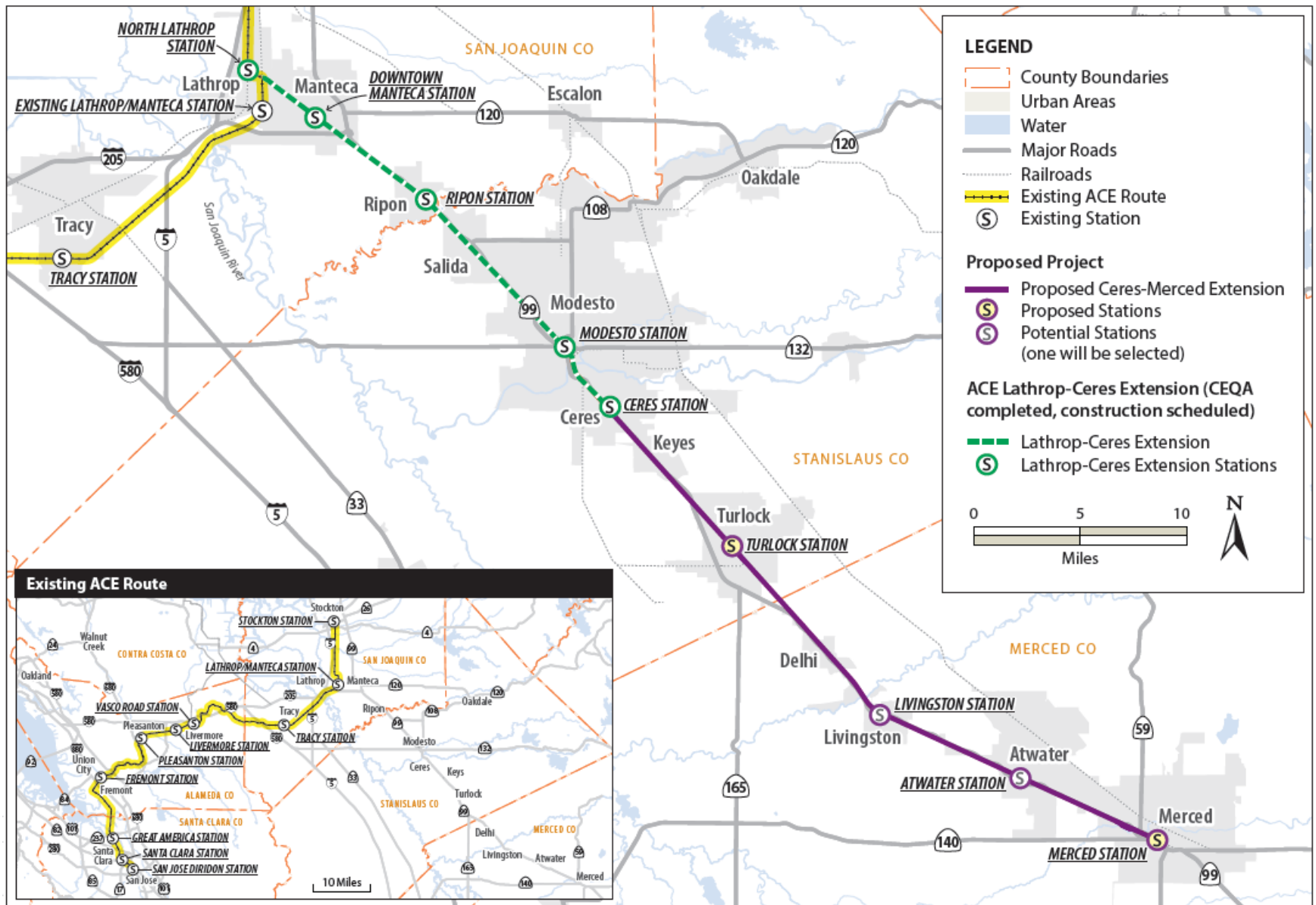




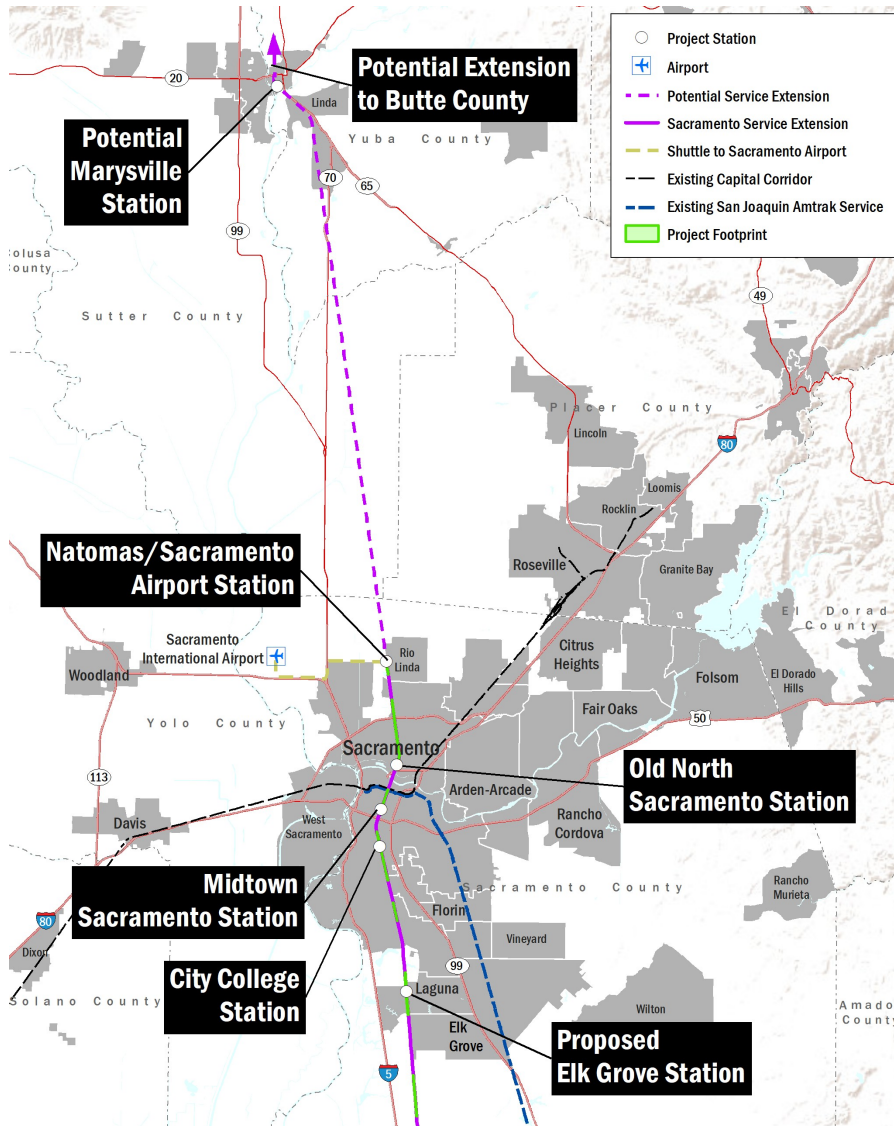
- Valley Rail Program includes expansion of both ACE and the San Joaquins Services
- Valley Rail has received about \$1.3 billion in state and other funding sources
- Targeting first round-trips from Natomas and Ceres by 2023



# Project Overview: Project Location



# Overview of the Sacramento Extension



- Service to Sacramento Valley Station via current route is capped by UPRR
- UPRR Sacramento Subdivision will support additional San Joaquins service and new ACE service.
- Working with Butte CAG and SACOG to plan for further extension north to Yuba City/Marysville and Butte County

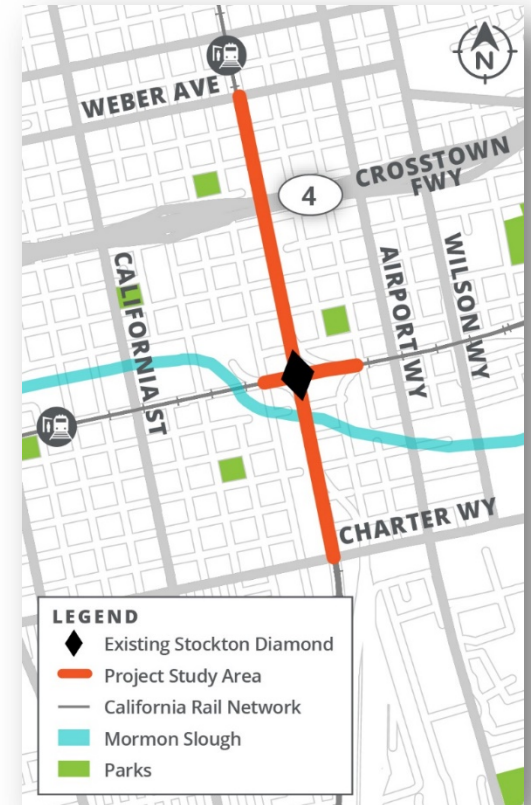


# Stockton Diamond Grade Separation



*Busiest, most congested  
at-grade rail crossing in CA*

- Causes significant **congestion** and **delays** to service
- Impacts **frequency**, **reliability** and potential **expansion**
- Causes local **crossing delays**



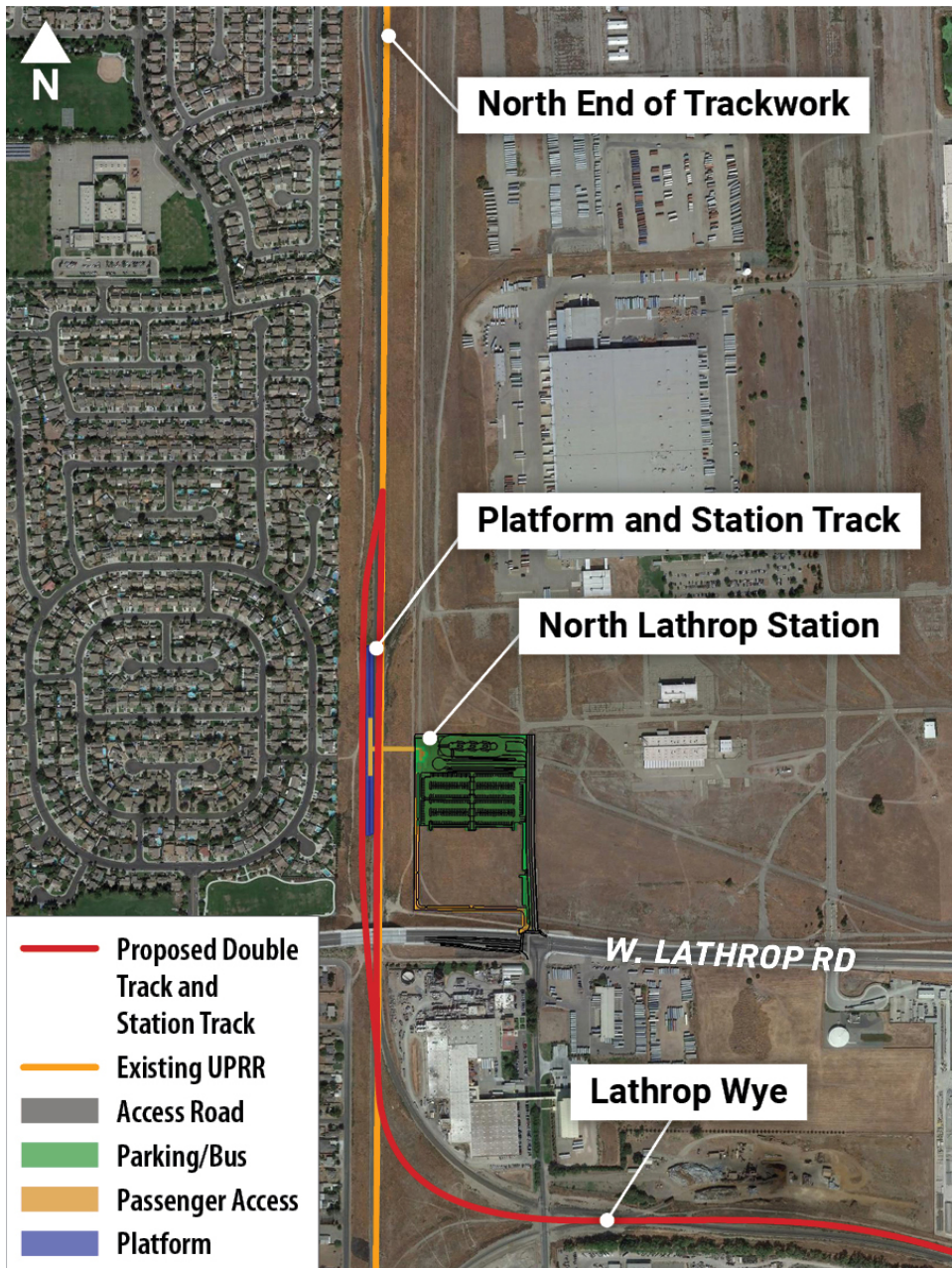
# Flyover Concept Rendering



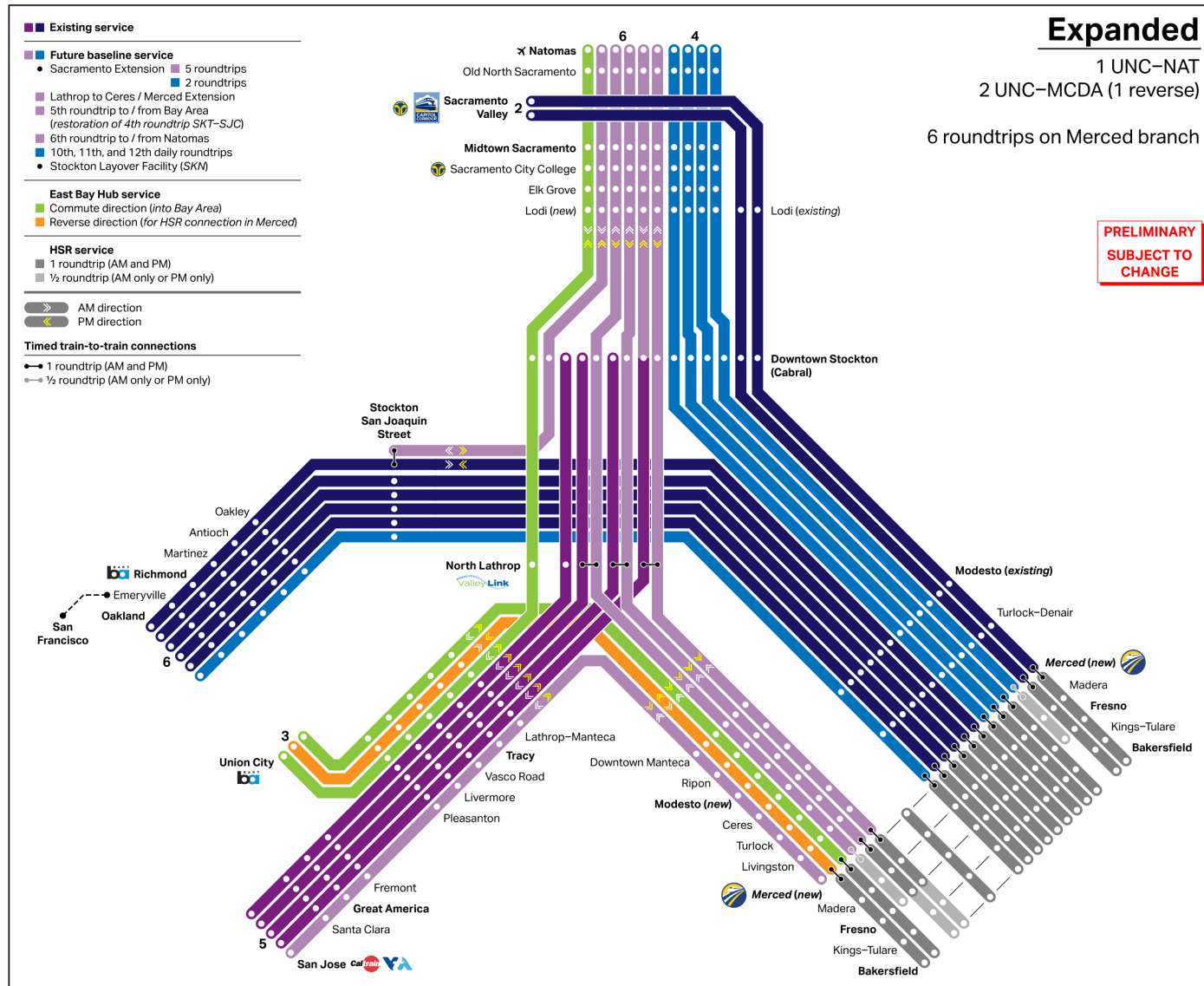




# North Lathrop Transfer Station and Lathrop Wye



# Valley Rail: Mid-term Connectivity





# San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee

Item 10

**Adjournment**