In pockets around the region, TOD is leaping off the pages of planning textbooks and manifesting in the real world. From Vallejo and Santa Rosa in the North Bay to San Jose in the South Bay, and San Francisco in the West Bay to Oakland and Pleasant Hill in the East Bay, TOD is combating long commutes and traffic, revitalizing neighborhoods, and fostering a more convenient lifestyle while also addressing the region’s chronic housing shortage, particularly in the realm of affordable housing. In this section we profile 10 Bay Area projects that illustrate the variety – and the appeal – of the TOD development pattern. Using words, maps and photos, we spotlight a few of the many new places offering new choices to the region’s residents.

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The Appeal and Diversity of Bay Area TOD

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Downtown Hayward has achieved a good balance of commercial, residential and civic development—all transit-oriented.

In the early 1990s, downtown Hayward was home to many struggling businesses and empty parking lots. After a decade of steady commercial and residential development, including over 750 new housing units, the streets and sidewalks of the area surrounding the BART station have come back to life.

The transit-oriented development of downtown Hayward has been a collaborative effort. The city of Hayward’s Core Area Plan (1992) set the stage for growth, while BART and the Hayward Redevelopment Authority exchanged land to facilitate projects adjacent to the station.

All parties recognized the need to balance development of commercial, residential and civic land uses in the downtown area. Today, a new city hall and public plaza (1998), streetscape improvements, and retail and residential development show that this objective has largely been achieved.

Residents of Hayward’s new transit-oriented housing are now just a short walk away from a full-service supermarket, drugstore and a variety of new shops, in addition to local retail institutions such as Hayward Ace Hardware. Nighttime dining and entertainment options also will soon be within walking distance of BART riders and downtown residents when Cinema Place opens in 2007.

In addition to reviving downtown, the new development near Hayward BART has boosted transit ridership. Residents of these transit-oriented housing units commute by bus and rail at a rate nearly six times higher than the citywide average.

The next generation of transit-oriented development is planned for the industrial lands of the Cannery Area, west of downtown. Development is expected to bring 850 additional housing units, including 127 affordable units, within walking distance of both Hayward Amtrak and BART stations. Residents will be well served with a new elementary school and expanded Cannery Park. The combination of schools, civic facilities, parks and family entertainment venues demonstrates that transit-oriented developments are not just for young professionals and “empty nesters,” but can become complete, family-friendly communities.
Hayward – Downtown

Transit:
• Hayward BART Station: BART; AC Transit
• Hayward Amtrak Station: Capitol Corridor rail service; AC Transit

Development highlights:
• Atherton Place: 83 units (Sares-Regis Homes, 1995)
• Pinnacle City Centre Apartments: 192 units (Legacy Partners, 2000)
• City Walk: 77 townhomes (The Olson Company, 2003)
• Renaissance Walk: 46 condos (22 affordable) (The Olson Company, 2004)
• Studio Walk: 70 lofts (Ryland Homes)
• Grand Terrace Apartments: 235 townhouses (Pulte Homes)

Amenities:
• New streetlights, signalized crosswalks, sidewalk landscaping and street furniture on B Street retail corridor linking BART to the downtown core
• New city hall and public plaza (1998)
• New Albertson’s supermarket/Sav-On drugstore (2002)
• Hayward Ace Hardware store
• Newman Park and Giuliani Plaza
• Saturday Farmers’ Market at B Street and Main

Planning:
• Hayward Core Area Plan (1992)
• The Cannery Area Design Plan (2001)
• Hayward General Plan (2002)

Innovations:
• City provides rebates for façade improvements on B Street and other pedestrian corridors
• Shared parking structure for city hall and downtown retail, lined with ground-floor retail on B Street

Future development:
• Cinema Place: Entertainment complex (2007)
• Cannery Area: Mixed-use development with 850 residential units (127 affordable); planning entitlements have been approved for 735 of these units
• New Burbank Elementary School (2008)
• Expanded Cannery Park (2008)
• Offices planned for 0.75 acre parcel west of city hall
• Senior housing complex with 60 units combined with new offices for nonprofit developer Eden Housing
Jack London Square is evolving into a transit-accessible, 24-hour, urban residential neighborhood.

Located on the Oakland waterfront between Oak and Clay streets, Jack London Square was the original home of the Port of Oakland. In the 1960s, the Port moved to new facilities to container terminals in the outer harbor and by the 1970s, a major revitalization project brought offices, shops, and restaurants to Jack London Square. The area’s central location draws customers from throughout the Bay Area to dining and entertainment venues such as Yoshi’s jazz club and the Jack London Cinema.

During the dot-com boom of the 1990s, residents began to settle in larger numbers near Jack London Square, drawn by the area’s proximity to downtown Oakland offices and renowned regional transit connections. This pattern continued today. Most of the area is within walking distance of both the Lake Merritt BART Station and the C.L. Dellums Amtrak Station, which provides Capitol Corridor commuter train service to San Jose and Sacramento, as well as Amtrak intercity rail, and local AC Transit bus connections. Nearby, at the foot of Clay Street, Amtrak/Oakland ferry service provides 13 daily roundtrips to the Ferry Building in San Francisco.

Prior to 2000, most residential development in the area involved the renovation and conversion of old warehouse buildings into condominiums and flexible live/work spaces designed to accommodate an influx of professionals and home-based Internet entrepreneurs. Since that year, 1,000 additional residential units have been built, mostly affordable apartments and condominiums in newly constructed, mixed-use buildings clustered tightly around the C.L. Dellums Amtrak Station.

More condos and loft apartments are planned for Jack London Square, along with regional attractions such as the California Harvest Hall, a public market and culinary exhibition center to be located near the train station. All of this development, including new retail stores, offices, and entertainment venues, will benefit from good regional transit connections, as well as plans to enhance public access to the waterfront via the San Francisco Bay Trail.
Oakland – Jack London Square

Transit:
• C.L. Dellums Amtrak Station: Capitol Corridor rail service; Amtrak Coast Starlight & San Joaquin; AC Transit
• Oakland Ferry Terminal: Alameda/Oakland Ferry; AC Transit
• Lake Merritt BART Station: BART; AC Transit

Development highlights:
• Fourth Street Lofts: 37-unit warehouse conversion (1992)
• Brick House Lofts: Warehouse converted to 13 for-sale live/work units and ground-floor retail/office (Horizon Pacific, 1999).
• New Market Lofts: Former Safeway headquarters and warehouse building converted to 46 live/work units and four office condos (Urban Bay Properties, 2001)
• Aqua Via: 100 apartments in nine-story Art Deco building (Embarcadero Pacific and Urban Development, 2006)
• The Sierra: 229 residential units and two levels of retail and live/work space in a 12-story building (Crescent Heights, 2003)
• The Landing: 282 apartments in a multiple-building site at Alice Street and Embarcadero (Legacy Partners, 2001)
• The Allegro: Five-story, 312-unit rental project at 240 Third Street (SNK Development, 2001)

Amenities:
• Sunday Jack London Square Farmers' Market
• Jack London Cinema
• Waterfront restaurants and cafes
• Nightclubs including Yoshi's at Jack London Square
• Proximity to downtown Oakland offices and retail

Planning:
• Land Use and Transportation Element, Oakland General Plan (adopted 1998)
• Oakland Estuary Policy Plan (adopted 1999)

Innovations:
• Adaptive reuse of light industrial and warehouse buildings for residential and live/work purposes

Future development:
• 200 Second Street: 74 condos and live/work units, retail space in six-story structure (Metrovation, 2006)
• 288 Third Street: 91 for-sale units in new six-story warehouse-type building under construction (Signature Properties, 2007)
• Jack London Square Phase II: New office building, multi-theater cinema, hotel/conference center and California Harvest Hall – a new public market, culinary school and chefs' hall of fame (Jack London Square Partners, LLC)
In the heart of suburban Contra Costa County lies one of the Bay Area’s most successful TOD projects. Pleasant Hill was the first suburban BART station to see significant development activity in the 1970s and 1980s. The Contra Costa County Redevelopment Agency (CC CRA) acquired and assembled parcels of land for large-scale redevelopment around the perimeter of the BART parking lots. By the mid-1990s, the Pleasant Hill Station area had emerged as a major employment center and activity node, with 1.5 million square feet of office space rented by companies such as Vodafone, Nextel Communications and Bank of the West, while some 1,200 housing units established a strong residential presence.

The second generation of transit-oriented development in the late 1990s brought new amenities to Pleasant Hill, along with additional office and residential development, including the Coggins Square affordable housing project. New streetlights, landscaping and public art enliven pedestrian corridors leading to the BART station, including the improved Iron Horse Trail, which links cyclists and pedestrians to cities north and south.

While development proceeded around the station site, controversy stalled the original plan to construct a mixed-use town center on the BART parking lots. To develop a consensus plan for this highly accessible site, CC CRA, BART and the developers involved stakeholders in a six-day charrette planning process in 2001. The resulting design guidelines and Final Development Plan (2005) are guiding current development activities at what is now called Contra Costa Centre Transit Village. Construction is under way, and when it is complete in 2010, the transit village will include several mixed-use buildings up to 12 stories in height, clustered around a new pedestrian plaza located just outside the BART far-gates.

A survey of residents from several developments close to Pleasant Hill BART found that 45 percent commuted by transit. Planners are hopeful that the transit usage of new employees and residents of the transit village will match this rate, providing further evidence that transit-oriented development can help improve access while reducing traffic congestion and pollution.
Pleasant Hill — Contra Costa Centre Transit Village

Transit:
• Pleasant Hill BART Station: BART; Benicia Breeze; County Connection; Fairfield-Suisun Transit; Livermore Amador Valley Transit (Wheels)

Development highlights:
• Vodafone Plaza: 200,000-square foot office building with ground-floor restaurant (Taylor Widrow, 1991)
• Iron Horse Lofts: 54 market-rate townhouses (Holliday Development, 2001)
• Coggins Square: 87 units of affordable housing adjacent to Iron Horse Lofts (Bridge Housing, 2001)

Amenities:
• The Iron Horse Trail: Bicycle/pedestrian path connects to Martinez, Concord, Walnut Creek and San Ramon
• Major employers: Bank of the West, John Muir/Mt. Diablo Health, Nextel Communications, Vodafone
• Embassy Suites Hotel

Planning:
• Pleasant Hill BART Station Area Specific Plan (1983)
• Pleasant Hill BART Redevelopment Plan (1984)
• Pleasant Hill BART Specific Plan (as amended in 1998)
• Pleasant Hill BART Station Property Regulating Plan (2002)
• Pleasant Hill BART Final Development Plan (2005)

Innovations:
• Formation of a Joint Powers Authority (Pleasant Hill Leasing Authority) by BART, the Contra Costa County Redevelopment Agency and Contra Costa County to manage negotiations with private developers
• Innovative land lease: BART property leased to developers for 100-year term
• Collaborative charrette planning process used to involve stakeholders and develop consensus plan

Future development:
• Contra Costa Centre Transit Village will include 209,000 square feet of offices, a 20,000-square foot convention center, over 35,000 square feet of retail space and over 550 housing units (20 percent affordable). (Pleasant Hill Transit Village, LLC, a consortium of Millennium Partners and Avalon Bay Communities)
• Affordable housing on Las Juntas Swim Club parking lot, east of BART station (Contra Costa Co. Redevelopment Agency)
Planners in Redwood City are hoping to attract movie patrons and concert-goers from all over the Bay Area. “We have the potential to be the nighttime entertainment capital of the Peninsula,” says Redwood City Redevelopment Manager Susan Moeller. While other cities plan office and residential development near transit, Redwood City is building a transit-oriented destination by leveraging the assets of its lively and historic downtown.

The city is well on its way to fulfilling this ambitious vision, as downtown residents and merchants eagerly await the fall 2006 opening of a 20-screen cinema complex near the popular Fox and Little Fox Theaters. With these marquee entertainment venues, bars, restaurants and cafes all located within walking distance of the Caltrain station, city leaders hope to draw people from throughout the Bay Area to leave their cars at home and take the train to celebrate a “night on the town” in Redwood City.

Regardless of how they get downtown, people are encouraged to walk from place to place once they arrive. Broad tree-lined sidewalks, with ample room for window shoppers and outdoor diners, line major retail streets like Broadway and Middlefield Road. Two new pedestrian plazas and the existing City Center Plaza—which officials tout as the city’s “outdoor living rooms”—provide yet more space for public gathering, outdoor entertainment and civic functions.

The strong employment base and growing nightlife have increased the attractiveness of Redwood City for residential development. Over 350 new housing units have been built near the Caltrain station in recent years. However, with the rising premium on land, developers can no longer afford to build new housing, unless they are able to build at least eight stories high.

Recognizing that the prospect of residential towers might alarm neighbors, the city embarked on a proactive campaign to educate and involve residents early in the development planning process. Planners hosted a series of neighborhood workshops, employing visual aids to demonstrate that, with good design, higher-density development can have a place in downtown Redwood City.

“Much of the work we’ve done is [public] education… emphasizing that it’s really all about design, not density.” — Susan Moeller, Redwood City Redevelopment Manager

Redwood City
Redwood City – Downtown

Transit:
• Redwood City Caltrain Station: Caltrain; SamTrans
• El Camino Real: SamTrans

Development highlights:
• City Center Plaza Apartments: 139 affordable units with ground-floor restaurants (Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition)
• Franklin Street Apartments: 206 units (30 affordable) above retail space (Irvine Apartment Communities, 2002)
• Montgomery Village: Apartments under construction (First Community Housing)
• On Broadway: 20-screen movie theater with 85,000 square feet of ground-floor restaurant and retail space (John Anagnostou/Broadway Entertainment, LLC, 2006)
• Le Coeur de la Ville (formerly Tuscan Towers): 21 affordable townhomes; another 88 units proposed (Habitat for Humanity)

Amenities:
• City Center Plaza just east of city hall
• Theatre Way: new pedestrian-priority promenade
• Courthouse Square
• Post Office Paseo linking surface public parking with the new cinema block, and expanding outdoor dining venue
• Fox and Little Fox Theaters on Broadway
• Whole Foods Market
• Sequoia Station retail center includes supermarket, café, drugstore and other conveniences

Planning:
• Redwood City General Plan (2001, update in progress)
• Downtown Area Plan (introduced 2001)
• Redwood City Downtown Precise Plan and Program EIR (due for adoption in early 2007)

Innovations:
• Parking management strategy with on-street and off-street parking rates that vary by location and time of day
• Tax credits for rehabilitation of landmarks in Main Street Historic District
• Sidewalk Café Design Guidelines encourage outdoor dining, adding vitality to downtown streets.

Future development:
• Downtown Precise Plan proposes higher density with 8- to 12-story residential and mixed-use development considered in downtown core and east side of El Camino Real between Brewster and Maple.
Transit accessibility is a strategic asset in this economically disadvantaged East Bay location. Richmond Transit Village, the new community under construction adjacent to the Richmond BART/Amtrak Station, is a quintessential "new urbanist" development. From its location to its layout, design and impact, everything about the Village reflects its transit and pedestrian orientation.

Residents of Metro Walk, the completed first phase of the transit village, can walk across Nevin Plaza to Richmond Station in just two minutes to catch trains or buses to destinations throughout the Bay Area and Northern California. Currently being renovated, the station is also a bus hub for AC Transit and Golden Gate Transit.

Future phases of the transit village will add more townhouses, bungalows and live/work lofts, while retail stores will be located in the southwest quadrant of the site in order to revitalize Macdonald Avenue and the city's historic commercial core. There were many challenges to development in this location, including neighbors' skepticism of urban renewal, as well as the area's economic difficulties and reputation for crime. To overcome these challenges, the city's redevelopment agency hired consultants to lead public involvement, analyze development feasibility and aggressively market their request for developer proposals.

Although it is still under construction, the Richmond Transit Village is already having an impact. One block west of the Village, a mixed-use project is under development. Most importantly, the transit orientation of the Richmond Transit Village is achieving results. Over 90 percent of residents surveyed report that proximity to transit was an important part of their decision to move to the area. These residents are modifying their travel behavior in turn. "Our household has cut down car use by half since we moved here," stated one resident who appreciates the convenience of living near quality transit service.

"Our household has cut down car use by half since we moved here."
— Resident of Richmond's Metro Walk development
**Richmond – Transit Village**

**Transit:**
- Richmond Station: BART; Amtrak/Capitol Corridor; AC Transit; Golden Gate Transit

**Development highlights:**
- Metro Walk: Phase I of the Richmond Transit Village; includes 132 owner-occupied townhouses (The Olson Company, 2004)

**Amenities:**
- Station upgrades: New elevators, platforms, canopies and bus transfer center (under construction)
- Neighborhood park at center of Metro Walk complex
- Nevin Plaza and walkway links station to Metro Walk and the rest of downtown Richmond
- Nearby offices of Kaiser Permanente

**Planning:**
- Calthorpe Associates’ plan for the Richmond Transit Village won a design competition sponsored by BART and the Richmond Redevelopment Agency.

**Innovations:**
- Development on transit agency property (BART parking lots)
- Use of design competition to develop site plan

**Future development:**
- Phase II of Metro Walk at the Richmond Transit Village will include an additional 100 units and will bring 27,000 square feet of commercial retail space to the site, with 6,000 square feet fronting on the historic Macdonald Avenue commercial corridor.
- 12th and Macdonald: A new mixed-use project (under development by AF Evans) one block west of the transit village will have 238 condominiums and 20,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space.
- Richmond Greenway bike path (under development) will link downtown Richmond with the Ohlone and Bay Trails.
Muni’s new 5.4-mile-long light-rail line reconnects and revitalizes a key city corridor.

“I can’t wait for the trains to roll,” says John Colon, a resident of Visitacion Valley, near the southern terminus of San Francisco Muni’s Third Street Light Rail Project, which is due to begin service in 2007. While the new rail line will speed Colon to his job in the Bayview and reconnect the eastern neighborhoods to the rest of San Francisco, it represents more than just a transportation improvement. The Third Street project has magnified development concerns and opportunities, which vary significantly up and down the corridor, along with community priorities. “The Third Street corridor clearly demonstrates that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to transit-oriented development,” says San Francisco County Transportation Authority Executive Director Jose Luis Moscovich.

In Mission Bay, at the northern end of the rail line, a new urban neighborhood is emerging alongside the tracks. The undeveloped 303-acre site presented planners with a unique opportunity to develop a high-density, transit-oriented urban neighborhood from scratch. Today, a new research campus of the University of California/San Francisco is up and running, and over 1,000 housing units have been built. At full build-out, more than 10,000 residents and 31,000 employees will live and work in Mission Bay, all within walking distance of Muni’s Third Street light-rail line.

A different approach is required in the southern end of the corridor. The challenge in these neighborhoods is to provide new, affordable housing choices through renovation of existing buildings and targeted development of vacant lots, without displacing long-time residents and businesses. The city is supporting this effort by providing low-interest building renovation loans to businesses and homeowners.

For these under-served neighborhoods along Third Street, the transportation investment and transit-oriented economic development associated with the new Muni rail line are long overdue. In the words of Moscovich, “This project is about repaying a debt. We are helping a neighborhood catch up with the rest of San Francisco.”

“The Third Street corridor clearly demonstrates that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to transit-oriented development.”

Jose Luis Moscovich, Executive Director, San Francisco County Transportation Authority.
San Francisco – Third Street Corridor

Transit:
San Francisco Muni Third Street Light Rail:
• Phase I adds 5.7 miles to the Muni Metro System, with 18 new stations between 4th and King streets and Visitacion Valley.
• Connects to Caltrain at its depot in San Francisco, and to BART, Muni buses and other Muni trains at Market Street.
• Phase II will extend the Third Street line north to Union Square and Chinatown, via a new Central Subway.

Development highlights:
• Mission Bay: 1,224 new housing units and portions of the University of California/San Francisco (UCSF) campus completed to date (Catellus Development Corporation)
• Bayview Commons: 29 apartments for very-low-income families (San Francisco Housing Development Corporation, 2002)

Amenities:
• New Oakdale-Palou Triangle public plaza and enhanced pedestrian connections to the Oakdale Station
• Bayview Opera House & Ruth Williams Memorial Theater
• UCSF biomedical research campus in Mission Bay
• San Francisco Giants Ballpark in China Basin
• New Mission Bay Branch Library

Planning:
• Mission Bay Redevelopment Plan (1998)
• Bayview/Hunters Point Community Revitalization Concept Plan (2000)

Innovations:
• Light rail is part of the economic development strategy for San Francisco’s eastern neighborhoods, along with streetscape and façade improvements, and business retention programs.

Future development:
• Mission Bay will include 6 million square feet of office space, 800,000 square feet of retail, 6,000 housing units (1,700 affordable), and 51 acres of parks and open space.
• Bayview/Hunters Point: 3,700 new housing units (925 below-market-rate) proposed in redevelopment area.
• Better Neighborhoods Plan for the Central Waterfront allows between 1,100 and 1,400 new housing units near Third Street.
• Schlage Lock Redevelopment: 800 housing units (15 percent affordable) and 100,000 square feet of retail, including a grocery store proposed for site near the Third Street Light Rail terminus in Visitacion Valley.
Long known as a sprawling, car-dependent city, San Jose is remaking its downtown into the urban heart of Silicon Valley.

When the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) began laying light-rail tracks through San Jose’s struggling central business district in the 1980s, planners and civic leaders saw an opportunity to simultaneously rein in suburban sprawl and revitalize downtown by encouraging transit-oriented development. Their vision and efforts are now paying off.

Over 12,000 housing units have been constructed in transit corridors since the city began implementing recommendations from a 1991 housing study that called for increases in allowable building heights and densities near rail stations. Much of this growth has occurred along the VTA’s light-rail lines in the downtown area, with important commuter rail service on Caltrain, the Amtrak Capitol and the Altamont Commuter Express—all of which serve the recently renovated Diridon Station on the west edge of downtown—also having added the station’s allure. Meanwhile, the city’s Redevelopment Agency has invested more than $1 billion to improve the infrastructure and services in downtown San Jose.

Transit-oriented development projects in downtown San Jose include the Paseo Plaza Apartments near Paseo de San Antonio Station, the 101 San Fernando Apartments near Santa Clara Street Station and the Villa Torino complex near the St. James Station. These mid-rise projects are located within a block or two of the parallel transit malls on First and Second streets and include a significant share of below-market-rate units.

With a critical mass of new downtown residents and amenities, and plans for yet more transit services—including a long-awaited BART connection to the East Bay—San Jose is in a strong position to attract investment in higher-profile, transit-oriented development projects. Recent zoning changes have spurred proposals for at least 10 high-rise residential projects, which, if realized, would surely transform the skyline of San Jose, provide new urban housing choices and fill seats on the growing network of buses and trains serving the Silicon Valley.

Residents of downtown San Jose can walk to transit, parks, jobs, classes at the downtown campus of San Jose State University, and a growing array of entertainment options.
San Jose – Downtown

Transit:
• VTA Light Rail
• San Jose Diridon Station: Caltrain; Altamont Commuter Express; Amtrak/Capitol Corridor

Development highlights:
• Legacy Fountain Plaza: 433 apartments (2003)
• Paseo Plaza Apartments: 210 apartments with ground-floor retail, near Paseo de San Antonio Station (Goldrich & Kest)
• 101 San Fernando Apartments: 323 apartments and 10,000 square feet of retail located one block from Santa Clara Station
• Villa Torino Apartments: 198 apartments (40 percent affordable) one block north of St. James Park and light rail station
• Ryland Mews: 171 for-sale townhouses (25 percent affordable) near Japantown/Ayer Station (Barry Swenson Builder)
• Park Townsend: Condominiums at Julian and Market streets, near the St. James Station (Goldrich & Kest)
• Vendome Place: Recently completed high-rise development with 106 rental units (Barry Swenson Builder)

Amenities:
• Paseo de San Antonio pedestrian walkway
• San Jose Museum of Art; Tech Museum of Innovation
• Parks: St. James Park, Guadalupe River Park, Plaza Chavez
• Theaters: California Theatre; San Jose Repertory Theatre

Planning:
• San Jose 2020 General Plan (as amended in 2006)
• Redevelopment Agency 5-Year Implementation Plan (2005-09)

Innovations:
• 1989 Housing Initiative Program encouraged TOD
• Zoning amended to allow 55 units per acre near transit

Future development:
• Tower 88 at Central Place: 197 condos, gym and 32,000 square feet of retail space (WMS/CIM Group; opening 2009)
• City Front Square: Three 25-story condo towers with 659 units (Urban West/Preservation Partners)
• 360 Residences: High-rise tower with 203 condominiums and 11,000 square feet of retail (Mesa)
• Axis: High-rise project with 329 condominiums (Spring Capital Group; opening in 2008)
• City Heights: High-rise apartment complex under construction near St. James Station (Barry Swenson Builder)
• Heart of the City: 76 units in mixed-use buildings under construction at 2nd and Santa Clara streets
New “Rapid Bus” service is helping to reinvigorate neighborhoods along the San Pablo Avenue corridor.

Stretching 20 miles from downtown Oakland in the south to Hercules in the north, San Pablo Avenue was once an important link in the Key Route network of East Bay streetcar lines. Neighborhoods adjacent to the transit line in Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany evolved as streetcar suburbs, with apartment homes and neighborhood-serving retail establishments flanking the corridor.

With the demise of the streetcars after World War II, San Pablo Avenue became a more car-oriented corridor, crowded with gas stations, fast-food restaurants and auto repair shops. Since the 1990s, however, a new pattern of transit-oriented urban infill development has emerged along this busy thoroughfare. Today, visionary developers and civic leaders are sounding hopeful notes about the future of the corridor, with state Assemblymember and former Berkeley Mayor Loni Hancock citing the potential of transit-oriented development to remake San Pablo Avenue as a “world class boulevard.”

The return of fast, reliable and frequent transit service to the corridor is a major catalyst. In 2004, AC Transit instituted the new 72-R San Pablo Rapid Bus service, with express service every 12 minutes to stations every half-mile along the corridor. By mimicking the frequency, speed, convenience and reliability of light rail, the new express bus service has boosted ridership by 66 percent. Increased ridership has, in turn, sparked greater interest in transit-oriented development along the corridor — each supporting the other in a virtuous cycle of neighborhood revitalization. Along the Oakland/Emeryville border, for example, mid-rise, mixed-use buildings such as the Andante Condominiums and Key Route Lofts are helping to reframe San Pablo Avenue and reconnect residents and businesses with transit.

Cities are also pitching in. El Cerrito and Richmond are entering into a joint effort to plan their shared section of San Pablo Avenue. Albany, Emeryville and Oakland already have dedicated plans or programs that focus on the avenue and attempt to bring more transit-supportive development to the corridor.
San Pablo Avenue – Rapid Bus Corridor

Transit
• San Pablo Avenue Rapid Bus Corridor: AC Transit; BART
• Uptown Transit Center: New transit hub under development near 19th St. BART will provide increased passenger amenities.

Development highlights:
• Sylvester Rutledge Manor: 65 affordable apartments for seniors (Oakland Community Housing, Inc., 2003)
• Andante Condominiums: 125 condos (25 affordable) in mixed-use building in Emeryville (SNK Development, 2006)
• Key Route Lofts: 22 live/work lofts and three commercial units at 40th Street and Adeline in Emeryville (Urban Bay)
• Artisan Walk Condominiums: 72 condos (six below market rate) in Oakland (The Olson Company, 2006)
• Margaret Breland Homes: 28 senior housing units in Berkeley (Resources for Community Development, 2006)
• Creekside Apartments: 16 affordable rental units in converted motel in Albany (Resources for Community Development, 2001)
• Albany Commons: 22 condos in mixed-use project at Solano Avenue (Alexander Development Co., 2005)
• The Village at Town Center: 158 units in mixed-use development on former lumberyard in El Cerrito (Legacy Homes, 2005)
• Del Norte Place: 135 apartments (21 percent for seniors) and retail near BART station (John Stewart Co., 1993)
• Monte Vista Senior Apartments: 82 rental units in San Pablo (Simpson Housing Solutions, 2003)

Amenities:
• Ohlone Greenway (Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito)
• International Marketplace retail district (Berkeley)
• Richmond Greenway (under development)

Planning:
• San Pablo Avenue SMART Corridor Project (multi-agency)

Innovations:
• First rapid bus corridor and first bus-transit-oriented development site in the Bay Area

Future development:
• Uptown Oakland: 1,300-unit mixed-use development in downtown Oakland (Forest City, 2006)
• Creekside at El Cerrito Plaza: 128 condos (Forest Plaza Partners/Bill Garlock & Assoc.)
• Vitale Mixed-Use Project: 31 condos in El Cerrito
• Mayfair site: 58 condos near El Cerrito del Norte BART (The Olson Company)
New development and expanded downtown offerings are enhancing Santa Rosa's urban allure.

Santa Rosa, the North Bay’s largest city (pop. 157,145), is fast becoming a true urban center, with expanded transportation choices, pedestrian-friendly streetscapes and taller buildings to match. Most of the new urban development planned or built to date is near the city’s existing and planned transit hubs.

The Transit Mall on 2nd Street brings local and regional accessibility to the heart of downtown Santa Rosa. This prime location has provided an incentive for urban-scale development throughout downtown, with new housing projects such as the Burbank Apartments bringing affordable housing to the city. Other major downtown developments include the Constock Mall Project, currently under review, at the east end of the Transit Mall and a mixed-use development project on the former White House department store site adjacent to the post office. At 14 and 12 stories, these are the types of projects needed to bring a sufficient number of new residents and workers downtown to support additional transit service and local businesses, including restaurants and retail services.

New residents will find an inviting scene downtown, where evening and weekend events are adding vitality to the streets. The Santa Rosa Downtown Market offers fresh local produce one night a week, and a monthly Art Walk showcases local artists. Nighttime entertainment venues like the Roxy Stadium-14 movie theater and the 6th Street Playhouse are within walking distance of new condos and apartments and the Transit Mall.

Across U.S. 101, Santa Rosa’s dormant rail yard is set to become one of the busiest stations on the proposed Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) line, which recently took a step forward by winning a $7.5 million federal grant. Whether or not commuter trains return to Santa Rosa, the market for urban-scale development in the transit-accessible downtown is likely to remain strong.
Santa Rosa – Downtown

Transit:
- Santa Rosa Transit Mall: Sonoma County Transit; Golden Gate Transit; Santa Rosa CityBus; Mendocino Transit
- Railroad Square SMART Station: Proposed commuter train service from Cloverdale to Larkspur via Santa Rosa

Development highlights:
- Railroad Square Terrace: 29 condos in mixed-use building near Railroad Square Station (Hugh Futrell)
- The Burbank Apartments: 26 affordable housing units on 7th Street (Hugh Futrell)

Amenities:
- New 4th Street pedestrian corridor
- Historic Railroad Square commercial district
- 6th Street Playhouse
- Roxy Stadium-14 movie theater
- Prince Memorial Greenway along Santa Rosa Creek
- Santa Rosa Downtown Market

Planning:
- Santa Rosa General Plan (as amended 2002)
- Downtown Mid-Rise Policy (2005)
- Downtown Santa Rosa Market Study (2005)

Innovations:
- Adaptive re-use of historic structures
- Green building features in the New Railroad Square project
- Public/private development partnership

Future development:
- New Railroad Square project includes a public plaza, 250 condos (15 percent affordable), 51,750-square foot food and wine center, 8,000 square feet of retail space and 29,400 square feet of community uses (Creative Housing Associates).
- ‘White House’ Mixed-Use Project: 183 condos, 16,000 square feet of ground floor commercial space in 12-story building (Monahan Pacific Associates)
- Traverso Site: 10-story mixed-use project with 54 condos
- The Moore Center Apartments: 80 residential units above 9,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space (James Horner and Assoc.)
- Comstock Mall Project: 14-story building with 115 condos and 8,400 square feet of ground-floor retail (West Bay Developers)
- Canners Project: Adaptive re-use of cannery building with 65 condos and 15 live/work units (John Stewart Co.)
While other Bay Area cities prospered during the 1990s, Vallejo’s fortunes waned with the closure of the nearby Mare Island Naval Shipyard in 1996. As the city began a long redevelopment process in 1997, planners took stock of Vallejo’s remaining assets, including its location by the Bay and its historic and pedestrian-oriented street grid. With small blocks, ample sidewalks, and mid-block alleys and paseos, downtown Vallejo is easy to traverse on foot or by bike.

Perhaps the strongest incentive for development in downtown Vallejo is the regional accessibility provided by the Vallejo Ferry Terminal and a future bus transfer center that is being built nearby. BayLink ferries provide direct service to San Francisco, while express buses will link downtown Vallejo with other destinations in the North Bay and East Bay.

Vallejo was able to take advantage of these assets and harness its full development potential by making underutilized, city-owned parking lots available for development. Vallejo Station, developed by Callahan/DeSilva Vallejo LLC, is one of two major transit-oriented developments now in the works. Plans call for building 265 live/work units and 75,000 square feet of office space on parking lots located between the Ferry Terminal and the future bus transfer center. As excess parking spaces are converted to higher uses, the city of Vallejo is also pursuing innovative new parking policies to help support TOD-style development.

More transit-oriented development is planned for sites scattered throughout downtown Vallejo. The city will sell several of its parking lots to Triad Communities, LLC, which intends to construct seven mixed-use buildings with retail and office space at street level, and up to 1,000 residential units on upper floors. The first project slated for construction will be a five- to seven-story mixed-use building on a lot across from the Empress Theatre — one of the key “catalyst projects” that planners hope will bring new residents and activity downtown to spark a wider revitalization.
Vallejo – Downtown/Waterfront

Transit:
- **Vallejo Ferry Terminal**: Baylink ferries and buses to San Francisco; Benicia Breeze
- **Future Bus Transfer Center**: Vallejo Transit; Benicia Breeze; Napa Valley VINE; Baylink buses

Future Development:
- **Vallejo Station**: 265 live/work units, a 200-room hotel and conference center and 75,000 square feet of office space proposed for site across Mare Island Way from the Vallejo Ferry Terminal (Callahan/DeSilva Vallejo LLC)
- **Triad “catalyst” development sites**: Seven mixed-use buildings are planned for construction on city-owned parking lots throughout downtown, providing 1,000 residential units, and 100,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space (Triad Communities, LLC.)

Amenities:
- **Georgia Street Extension** reconnects downtown Vallejo with the waterfront and Ferry Terminal
- **Unity Plaza**, situated at the west end of downtown, is a venue for civic functions such as the weekly farmers’ market and Vallejo Wednesday Night celebrations.
- The historic **Empress Theatre** is currently being renovated and will reopen in 2007 as a live performing arts theater.
- **Vallejo Waterfront Promenade**
- **Walkable street grid**, with wide alleys (16 feet wide)

Planning:
- **Vallejo Downtown/Waterfront Master Plan (2000)**
- **Downtown Vallejo Specific Plan (2005)**

Innovations:
- **Density bonus**: Vallejo allows developers to construct at least one additional floor if they use sustainable building practices.
- **Parking management**: Vallejo is developing new parking management strategies for downtown, including shared parking and coordinated pricing of on-street and off-street parking.
Mapping the Landscape of Bay Area TOD

On the Ground

Berkeley — Downtown
BART, Bus, Future Rapid Bus

Emeryville Amtrak Station
BART, Bus, Emery Go Round

Hayward — Downtown
BART, Bus, Amtrak

Mountain View — Downtown
Caltrain, Bus, Light Rail

Mountain View — The Crossings
Caltrain, Bus

Mountain View — Whisman Station
Light Rail

Oakland — Fruitvale Transit Village
BART, Bus

Oakland — Rockridge BART
BART, Bus

Oakland — 19th Street BART
BART, Bus

Oakland — MacArthur BART
BART, Bus, Future Rapid Bus

Oakland — West Oakland BART
BART, Bus

Palo Alto — Downtown
Caltrain, Bus

Potrero — Downtown
BART, Bus, Future Rapid Bus

Pittsburg/Bay Point BART
BART, Bus

Richmond Transit Village
BART, Bus, Amtrak

San Francisco — Balboa Park BART
BART, Bus

San Francisco — Transbay Terminal
BART, Bus, Future Caltrain, Future High-Speed Rail

San Francisco — Treasure Island
Bus, Ferry

San Jose — Downtown
BART, Bus, Future Rapid Bus, Future Caltrain

San Leandro — Downtown
BART, Bus, Future Rapid Bus

San Mateo — Downtown
Caltrain, Bus

South Hayward BART
BART, Bus

South San Francisco BART
BART, Bus

South San Francisco — Downtown
BART, Bus, Future Rapid Bus

Vallejo — Downtown
Ferry, Bus

Note: Though broad, this list cannot claim to be comprehensive. The authors also recognize that some existing neighborhoods — in San Francisco, especially — provide excellent examples of transit-oriented development.
Appendix A

Smart Growth Preamble and Policies

Adopted 2002

Preamble

Current land-use patterns in the San Francisco Bay Area are putting intense pressures on the economy, environmental and social well-being of the Bay Area and of surrounding regions. The projected addition of over one million new residents and one million new jobs in the coming decades will further challenge our ability to sustain the high quality of life we enjoy today.

To help meet this challenge, five regional agencies of the Bay Region—the Association of Bay Area Governments, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Bay Conservation and Development Commission; along with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities, the economy, environment and social equity caucuses of the Association of Bay Area Governments, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and the Association of Bay Area Governments, stakeholders and residents.

The policies provide a framework for decision-making on development patterns, housing, transportation, including improved rail, bus, high occupancy (HOV) systems and ferry services, as well as enhanced walking and biking. Increase connectivity between and strengthen alternative modes of transportation, including improved rail, bus, high occupancy (HOV) systems and ferry services, as well as enhanced walking and biking.

The policies reflect the values articulated by work-shop participants of the Smart Growth Strategy/Regional Livability Footprint Project and provide for the housing needs of the Bay Area community. Support efforts to improve housing affordability and limit the displacement of existing residents and businesses. Improve the fiscal health of local government by promoting stable and secure revenue sources, and by reducing service provision costs through smart growth, targeting infrastructure improvements and regional sponsored fiscal incentives. Support cooperative efforts among local jurisdictions to address housing and commercial development, infrastructure costs and provision of services.

Cooperation on Smart Growth Policies

Encourage local governments, stakeholders and other constituents in the Bay Area to cooperate in supporting actions consistent with the adopted Smart Growth Policies. Forge cooperative relationships with governments and stakeholders in surrounding regions to support actions that will lead to inter-regional smart growth benefits.

Policies

Jobs/Housing Balance and Mixes

Improve the jobs/housing linkages through the development of housing in proximity to jobs, and both in and out of proximity to public transportation. Increase the supply of affordable housing and support efforts to match job income and housing affordability needs.

Mobility, Livability and Transit Support

 Enhance community livability by promoting infill, transit-oriented and walkable communities; and compact development as appropriate. Develop multi-family housing, mixed-use development, and alternative transportation to improve opportunities for all members of the community.

Local and Regional Transportation Efficiencies

Promote opportunities for travel and alternatives to private automobile transportation, including improved rail, bus, high occupancy (HOV) systems and ferry services, as well as enhanced walking and biking. Increase connectivity between and strengthen alternative modes of transportation, including improved rail, bus, high occupancy (HOV) systems and ferry services, as well as enhanced walking and biking.

Improve the efficiency of transportation infrastructure.

Policies:

36

infrastructure investments

37
Table 1: Resolution 3434 Transit Extension Projects Subject to Corridor Thresholds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Thresholds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>BART</td>
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<tr>
<td>BART East San Jose Extension</td>
<td>BART</td>
<td>BART</td>
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<td>Caltrain Downtown Extension</td>
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<td>Muni Third Street Light Rail Extension</td>
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Table 2: Regional TOD Policy Implementation Process for Transit Extension Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 1: Threshold Check</th>
<th>Step 2: Regional TOD Policy Implementation Process for Transit Extension Projects</th>
<th>Step 3: Final Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Project Sponsor      | Transit Agency Action, City Action, MTC/CMA/ABAG Action, State Action Statements, | Regional and county agencies, transit agencies |}

3. Definitions and Conditions of Funding

For purposes of this policy, “regional discretionary funding” consists of the following sources identified in the Resolution 3434 funding plan:

- Resolution 3434 (see Table 1)
- Federal funds
- State funds
- Regional funds (see Table 2)
- Local funds
- Private funds
- Other funds

4. Corridor-Level Thresholds

These regional funds may be programmed and allocated for environmental and design-related work. In preparation for addressing the requirements of the TOD policy, regional funds may be programmed and allocated for right-of-way acquisition in advance of the completion of NEPA. These funds may be allocated for environmental and design-related work to the bay area, local general plan data, or detailed overview of the planning process.
• Physical transit extension projects that do not cur-

• To be counted toward the threshold, planned land
-end-of-the-line station) would be required to meet a corridor-level threshold of 8,800 housing units.

Each corridor is evaluated for the Housing Threshold. For example, a four station commuter rail extension (including the existing

Housing Threshold

Project Type
Corridor Thresholds
Housing Units — Average per Station Area
BART Light Rail Bus Rapid Transit Commuter Rail Ferry
3,850 3,300 2,750 2,200 750

Station Area Plans are opportunities to define

Station access and circulation plans for motorized,

7.5709

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MTC will confirm that each corridor meets the
housing threshold prior to the release of regional
discretionary funds for construction of the transit

7. Review of the TOD Policy

The Corridor Working Group will analyze the current TOD policies and implementation in the corridors, and will recommend changes to the TOD policies as needed to support the implementation of the TOD policy. The Corridor Working Group will also review the TOD policy as it relates to the local level. This will include the key task of dis-

Corridor Working Group will continue with corridor
evaluation, station area planning, and any necessary
refinements to station locations until the corridor
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The goal of the Corridor Working Groups is to create

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Station area plans and circulation plans for motorized,

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San Francisco — Third Street Corridor

San Jose — Downtown

San Pablo Avenue — Rapid Bus Corridor

Santa Rosa — Downtown

Vallejo — Downtown/Waterfront

Resources

For more information on transit-oriented development, smart growth, and related topics and policies, see our agency Web sites.

Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)
For more on the “Focusing Our Vision” smart-growth initiative and other ABAG efforts, see: www.bayareavision.org and www.abag.ca.gov.

Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)
To learn about the air-quality programs of the BAAQMD, see: www.baaqmd.gov.

Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)
To learn more about BCDC’s work on development affecting the Bay, see: www.bcdc.ca.gov.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
For additional information on MTC’s Transit-Oriented Development Policy and other smart-growth programs and smart-growth issues generally see: www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/smart_growth.

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