

# PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE - NOVATO TO SUISUN CITY FEASIBILITY STUDY

MAY 1, 2019

### **2018 CALIFORNIA STATE RAIL PLAN**

- Published: September 2018
- Presented to SMART Board: November 1, 2017



### RAIL CONNECTIVITY VISION



### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- Examine the technical feasibility of implementing passenger rail service between Novato and Suisun City
- Document the existing physical condition of the corridor
- Propose limited infrastructure options, and their corresponding operating characteristics
- Identify potential infrastructure and environmental challenges
- Prepare schedule and cost estimates

### **PROJECT STUDY AREA**





### **CORRIDOR OWNERSHIP AND OPERATIONS**

- SMART: Novato to Napa River (American Canyon)
  - Freight Operator: Northwestern Pacific Railroad

- Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR): American Canyon (Napa River) to Suisun
  - Freight Operator: California Northern Railroad



# IS A PASSENGER RAIL LINE FEASIBLE?

### **STUDY OPTIONS**

- 1. Rapid Deployment Basic Service
- 2. Higher Level of Service



## **STUDY OPTIONS**

- Transportation infrastructure which can be built upon for decades to come....
- Both Options have "scalability" to increase service with the addition of vehicles
- Investing not just in an option but in transportation connectivity in Northern California



### **OPTION 1 - DESCRIPTION**

Utilizing the existing operating freight railroad...

What are the minimum infrastructure improvements needed to allow passenger rail service?



### **OPTION 1 - SERVICE SCENARIO**

- Start with minimum service;
  - » Two morning round trips per day
  - » Two evening round trips per day
  - » Total round trips per day: 4 (8 one-way trips per day)
- Daily capacity for the 8 trips is approximately 2100 passengers



### **BACKGROUND - TRACK**

- The Federal Railroad Administration regulates allowable speed based on quality or "Class" of track:
  - » Class 1: 15 MPH maximum (for passenger trains)
  - » Class 2: 30 MPH maximum
  - » Class 3: 60 MPH maximum
  - » Class 4: 80 MPH maximum
- Higher classes of track have more stringent geometric tolerances and require more robust infrastructure.



### **OPTION 1 - INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Maximum speed: 60 MPH (Class 3 track)
- Maximize re-use of existing infrastructure
- Stay within existing rail embankment/prism
- Replace Black Point Bridge over the Petaluma River with used bridge
- Replace 28 existing timber bridges



### **OPTION 1 – RAILROAD SIGNALS**

- Three types of signal systems:
  - » Grade crossing signals
  - » Wayside signals
  - » Positive Train Control (PTC)
- PTC is a required safety overlay working with wayside signals.
  - » The PTC system must be compatible with UPRR system
  - » New fiber optic, wayside interface, back office, and on-board systems are required

### **OPTION 1- INFRASTRUCTURE**

- New signals and train control/PTC
- Three new intermediate stations
- Two passing Sidings
- Shared maintenance facility
- Shared or contracted corridor maintenance
- Shared corridor with freight
- New connections to SMART and Capitol Corridor



### **OPTION 1 - INFRASTRUCTURE**

### Two Moveable Bridges:

- » Black Point Swing Span
- » Napa River Vertical Lift

### Other Bridges:

» Replace 28 existing timber bridges



### **BLACK POINT BRIDGE OPTIONS**

- Constructed in 1911
- Repairing the bridge is not a viable option
- Option 1: Assumes repurposing a used bridge (budget \$40 M)
- Option 2: New bridge (budget \$100 M)



### NAPA RIVER VERTICAL LIFT BRIDGE

- Would only require minor upgrades
- Constructed in 1979
- Excellent Condition



### **OPTION 1 - VEHICLE ASSUMPTIONS**

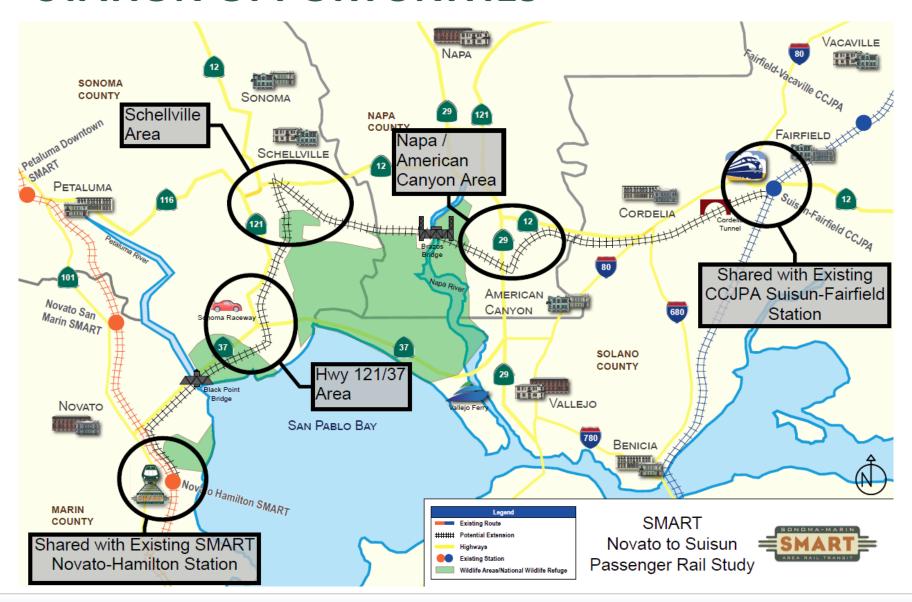
**Pre-Owned** locomotives and coach cars

The minimum required fleet would be:

- » Three (3) pre-owned locomotives (one spare)
- » Six (6) pre-owned high platform coaches (includes two spares)
- » Three (3) pre-owned Cab coaches (includes one spare)



### STATION OPPORTUNITIES

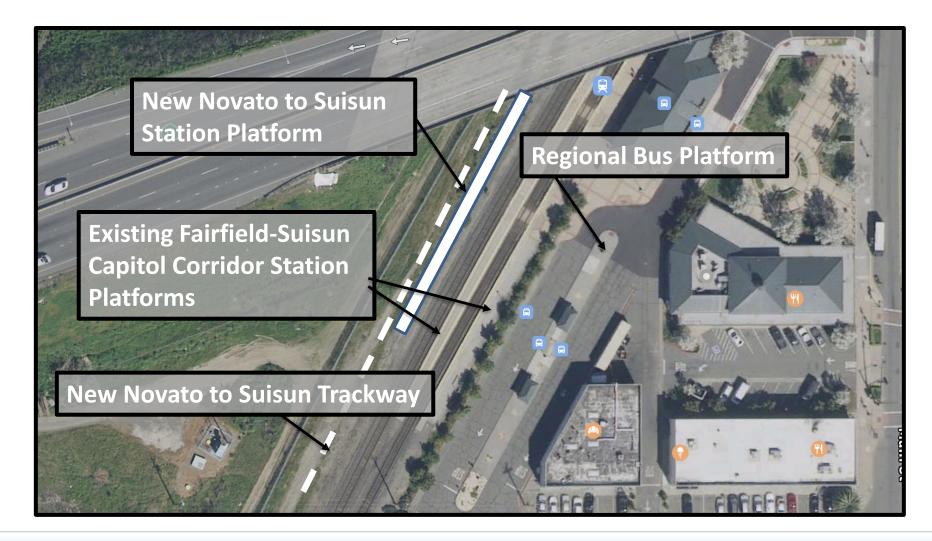




# **NOVATO-HAMILTON STATION CONCEPT**



# SUISUN/FAIRFIELD STATION CONCEPT



### **OPTION 1 - ENVIRONMENTAL**

- For Option 1, by staying within the railroad envelope, and because it is already an operating railroad, it is assumed that an appropriate level of environmental/permitting review will be conducted.
- Range of Environmental Documentation Cost:
  - » \$10M to \$15M depending on level of requirements



# **SCHEDULE—OPTION 1**

ACTIVITY	YEA	R 1	YEA	R 2	Υ	/EA	R 3	•	YEA	R 4	,	
Environmental/Public Participation												
Design												
Permitting												
Construction												
Testing/Start-Up												
Revenue Operation											(	<b>)</b>

# **CAPITAL COST – OPTION 1**

OPTION 1 CONCEPTUAL CAPITAL COST SUMMARY				
COST CATEGORY	Cost			
Track & Signal Construction	\$332M			
Sitework, Structures, & Maintenance Facility	\$171M			
Environmental Mitigation, Site Restoration, & Station ROW	\$25M			
Mobilization, Bonds, & Insurance	\$36M			
Rail Vehicles	\$30M			
Project Development, Support, and Start-up	\$52M			
Contingency	\$194M			
Conceptual Cost Total	\$840M			
Low Range of Conceptual Costs (-7% of Total)	\$780M			
High Range of Conceptual Costs (+7% of Total)	\$898M			
(Totals may vary slightly due to rounding)				

### **OPTION 2 - DESCRIPTION**

### Option 2:

What infrastructure improvements would be required to allow for a *higher* level of service, compared to Option 1?



## **OPTION 2 - SERVICE SCENARIO**

- Five morning round trips per day
- Five evening round trips per day
- Total round trips per day:
  10 (20 one-way trips)
- Daily capacity: approximately 5400 passengers



### **OPTION 2 - INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Maximum speed: 79 MPH
- Reconstruct existing infrastructure
- Replace Black Point Bridge
- Replace 28 existing timber bridges
- Four Passing Sidings
- New signals and train control/PTC



### **OPTION 2 INFRASTRUCTURE ASSUMPTIONS**

- Three intermediate stations
- New maintenance facility
- Four passing sidings
- Shared corridor with freight
- New connections: SMART and Capitol Corridor



### **OPTION 2 VEHICLE ASSUMPTIONS**

**New** locomotives and new coach cars or Diesel Multiple Units (DMU's)

- » Six (6) **new** Tier 4 compliant locomotives, includes one spare
- » Twelve (12) **new** high platform coaches, includes two spares
- » Six (6) **new** Cab coaches, includes one spare

**OR...** 

» Twelve (12) **new** DMU's, includes two spares



### **OPTION 2 STATIONS**

- Same end stations as Option 1
- Three or more intermediate stations

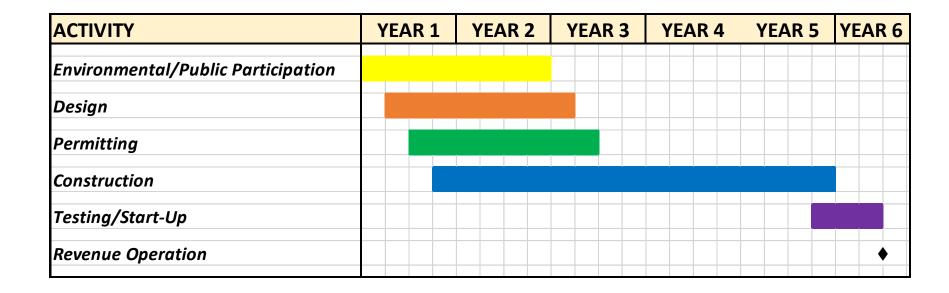


### **OPTION 2 - ENVIRONMENTAL**

- Option 2 would likely require a more extensive environmental review because it will have greater impacts.
- Range of Environmental Documentation Cost:
  - » \$20M to \$25M depending on level of requirements



# **SCHEDULE—OPTION 2**



# COST – OPTION 2

OPTION 2 CONCEPTUAL CAPITAL COST SUMMARY				
COST CATEGORY	COST			
Track & Signal Construction	\$364M			
Sitework, Structures, & Maintenance Facility	\$310M			
Environmental Mitigation, Site Restoration, & Station ROW	\$49M			
Mobilization, Bonds, & Insurance	\$50M			
Rail Vehicles	\$96M			
Project Development, Support, and Start-up	\$69M			
Contingency	\$281M			
Conceptual Cost Total	\$1.22B			
Low Range of Conceptual Costs (-7% of Total)	\$1.13B			
High Range of Conceptual Costs (+7% of Total)	\$1.30B			
(Totals may vary slightly due to rounding)				

### **CONCEPTUAL RUNNING TIMES**

• **Option 1:** 75 mins – 90 mins

• **Option 2:** 60 mins – 75 mins



### **ALTERNATE VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY**

- Hydrogen Fuel Cell
- Battery
- Electric Multiple Unit



# **COMPARISON**

Item	Option 1	Option 2
Start of Service	4 years from funding available	6 years from funding available
Service frequency	3-car trains; 4 Round Trips/day	3-car trains; 10 Round Trips/day
Stations	2 end; 3 along corridor	2 end; 3 or more along corridor
Max Speed	60 MPH	79 MPH
Travel Time (Conceptual)	75-90 minutes	60-75 minutes
Daily Capacity	2100 total seats available	5400 total seats available
Operating costs	Lower	Higher
Maintenance costs	Relatively high compared to Option 2	Significantly lower than Option 1

### **NEXT STEPS**

- Evaluate Operating Plan
- Refine Project Scope
- Explore Station locations in cooperation with stakeholders: Solano, Napa, Sonoma, and Marin transportation agencies and affected cities/counties
- Investigate shared track/corridor opportunities with track owners
- Prepare Environmental Report and Preliminary Engineering





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