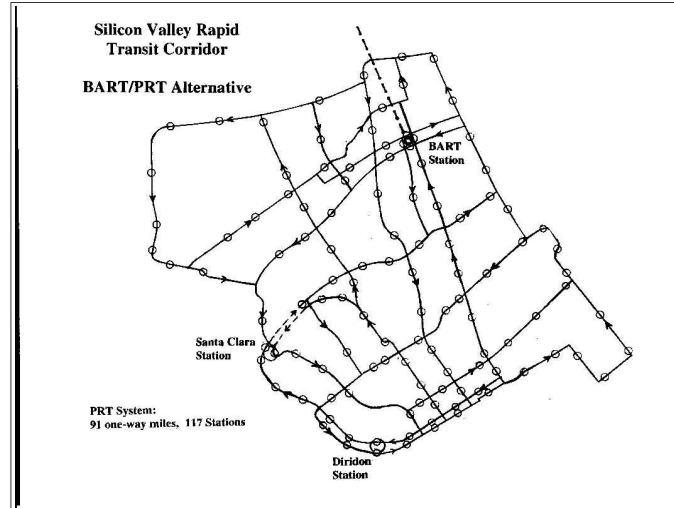


\$4B for 4 BART stations or \$2B for 100 ATN stations?

The \$4700M (million) price tag of a BART tunnel under San Jose (BART Burrow) costs so much that other transportation options suffer. The projected 55,000 passengers/**day** demand in 2045 is too low to require a 55,000 passengers/**hour** technology. And the construction schedule ensures that global climate disruption will overwhelm us before it is operating. Simply, the risk is too high and the return on investment (ROI) is too low to justify the project.

Instead, please consider another technology to connect the BART Berryessa station with the Caltrain station. Consider Automated Transit Network (ATN) at \$15M/mile which includes elevated guideway, off-line stations, cabs, and computer control. *A one-for-one replacement by ATN for the 4-station, 12-mile round-trip BART Burrow would only cost \$180M and still provide the needed capacity.* However, a better option is to invest \$1500M for a 100-station, 100-mile ATN that serves far more people with high-level service between all stations.



In 2001, during the public comment period on a 16-mile BART extension, an ATN alternative was proposed. As shown in the diagram above and at <http://www.electric-bikes.com/prt/bart-prt.html>, it outlined 91 miles of ATN guideway with 117 stations. That proposed network covers the Golden Triangle and downtown San Jose. Now, 15 years later, we can plan a network to match our current transit needs.

As shown below, quiet, non-stop 24/7 travel at 30+ mph between 100 networked stations would benefit our sprawling area far more than a 4-station BART corridor extension. The two options are compared using the Project Purpose list created by the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA).

Project Purpose	BART	ATN
Improve public transit service	Low/Medium	High
Enhance regional connectivity	Medium	High
Increase transit ridership	Low/Medium	High
Support transportation solutions that will maintain the economic vitality and continuing development of Silicon Valley	Low	High
Improve mobility options	Medium	High
Enhance level and quality of transit service to areas of existing and planned affordable housing	Medium	High
Improve regional air quality	Low	High
Support local and regional land use plans	Medium	High

Omitted from this VTA-generated list of purposes is any reference to ROI. Also missing is any reference to the present and growing danger of our global climate crisis, and the need to act quickly and boldly to avoid costly and unforeseen consequences. If Zero-Based Budgeting rather than political inertia were applied to this BART extension, would it survive?

In 2001, BART promoters rejected the concept of bridging the gap between an eastside BART station and Caltrain using ATN. They claimed that the need for a transfer “would result in longer travel times and inconveniences to the rider that would not be consistent with the project's purpose to 'maximize transit usage and ridership' nor would it facilitate regional connectivity.” Longer travel times and inconveniences are not a problem for San Francisco transit users who enjoy frequently scheduled and networked transit. ATN provides that frequent service. And a 100-station, 24/7 network would, in fact, “maximize transit usage and ridership” and “facilitate regional connectivity” far better than a 4-station BART corridor system.

Unlike “big box” transit like BART, ATN cabs are waiting for you 90% of the time - and available within 5 minutes the other 10%. This service level is accomplished with computer control, and by adding enough cabs and stations to satisfy demand. If congestion occurs, more infrastructure can be easily added because ATN hardware costs are reduced about 95%; routing and construction is likewise reduced.



That scalability and flexibility of ATN dramatically reduces the risk of using the technology. In just 5 years we could be operating a starter network that connects BART to Caltrain. If we like that system, then we could grow the network as appropriate.

Rapidly accelerating global climate disruption requires major responses quickly. Waiting a decade or more to use 50-year old technology to serve a small fraction of our population is like responding to an oncoming train by freezing in its path. Reversing global warming requires new thinking and bold action. As one of the wealthiest, most technologically-advanced areas in the world, Silicon Valley can lead the effort to create transit that works for our sprawling suburban cities, promotes transportation equity, and reduces our high per-capita transportation carbon emissions.

You can help! As the first step toward ATN, the Sunnyhills Neighborhood Association (SNA) is seeking to help finance a \$50,000 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a pilot project in Milpitas. Using ATN technology to safely shuttle people across a busy road 1) will cost about the same as a standard pedestrian bridge, and 2) provide us with the knowledge and confidence to apply the technology to different needs – like replacing the BART Burrow.

Learn more about advanced transit and a first-step pilot project proposed for Milpitas at <http://sunnyhillsneighborhood.org/crossing.html>. Many of the questions and concerns of elected officials, VTA staff, and the public will be answered once this \$8M project is built.

Contact: Rob Means, 408-262-0420, info@SunnyhillsNeighborhood.org