

# Headquarters—BART to Livermore Community Meetings

## Project Summary

The San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for its expansion to Livermore, which will take place primarily within the Caltrans right of way. Given the high level of community interest in this project, Caltrans District 4, in cooperation with the City of Livermore (City), requested assistance from MIG to engage the public in discussing the alternatives in the EIR. MIG, Caltrans, and the City worked with technical consultants to conduct three interactive workshops that helped community members identify goals for the project. These goals were then used to provide a framework for evaluating the alternatives. MIG worked with the technical team to develop interactive exercises that allowed for discussing these issues. MIG also facilitated the workshops, trained City facilitators, and summarized, transcribed, and synthesized all workshop results for the technical team and the City. The results were used to inform the Livermore City Council of project recommendations.



## Project Success

In April 2010, the Livermore City Council unanimously supported the locally-preferred alternative to extend BART to Livermore. The City considered the workshops to be instrumental in garnering community involvement and intends to discuss this outreach process at various planning and engineering conferences as a model for other processes.



## Outreach Methods

- Newspaper advertisements in local newspapers (Independent and Times Herald)
- Meeting Flyers/Posters in English and Spanish posted in Tri-Valley community centers
- Bus Cards displayed in Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority buses
- Electronic meeting notices sent to EIR scoping meeting and community workshop participants



## Public Involvement Tools

### Informational Presentations

MIG provided guidance to the technical consultants, who provided information about the purpose and history of the expansion and EIR process, concerns and benefits of station area

planning, and information regarding transit area transportation, economics, and placemaking.

### Small Group Exercises

MIG developed large worksheets, which clearly detailed the proposed alternatives for location, configuration, and character of the BART expansion stations. This made it easy for meeting attendees, working within small facilitated groups, to understand the available options, identify and prioritize community objectives, and provide their preferred recommendations.

### Large Group Discussions

Following the small group exercises, attendees reconvened and listened to designated “reporters” share the results of the small group discussions. These reports highlighted key themes and presented unique ideas.

### Roundtable Discussion

MIG trained approximately 50 City staff members and volunteers to facilitate small roundtable discussions. In the discussions, workshop participants assessed how well each proposed station alternative met identified community objectives and then prioritized the list.

### Comment Cards

MIG provided comment cards for participants who did not wish to speak publicly. Participants could fill out the cards and turn them in at the workshop itself or mail them afterward.



Matching Station Types with Community Goals			
<b>Infill Station</b> Infill Station: A station located within an existing BART service area. Infill Station: A station located within an existing BART service area. Infill Station: A station located within an existing BART service area. Infill Station: A station located within an existing BART service area.	<b>Downtown Station</b> Downtown Station: A station located in a downtown area. Downtown Station: A station located in a downtown area. Downtown Station: A station located in a downtown area. Downtown Station: A station located in a downtown area.	<b>Freeway Intercept Station</b> Freeway Intercept Station: A station located near a freeway. Freeway Intercept Station: A station located near a freeway. Freeway Intercept Station: A station located near a freeway. Freeway Intercept Station: A station located near a freeway.	<b>Community Goals</b> Community Goals: A list of goals for the project. Community Goals: A list of goals for the project. Community Goals: A list of goals for the project. Community Goals: A list of goals for the project.

## Deliverables

Memorandum of Input on Public Outreach Plan  
 Outreach Materials – Meeting Posters, Flyers, and Newspaper Ads  
 Group Worksheets and Picture Review Worksheet for Community Workshops  
 Community Workshop Summaries

*continued next page*

# Headquarters–BART to Livermore Community Meetings

*continued from previous page*

## **Visual Preference Workshop Exercise**

MIG facilitated a Visual Preference Exercise to solicit input on station character possibilities for BART station types. Participants filled out Picture Review Worksheets to provide input on potential station design.

## **Environmental Justice Community Involvement**

Project outreach materials were developed in English and Spanish and outreach efforts were designed to reach members of the Latino community in the Tri-Valley area.



## **Lessons Learned**

MIG and Caltrans worked collaboratively with City staff, consultants, and community member expectations to develop and conduct education and input opportunities related to a significant transit expansion project. The community highly valued the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue during these early stages. There are many additional decisions and future controversies that will need to be resolved as additional planning work is completed and before the project is fully funded. This process allowed the City to involve residents early in a well-managed

and productive process and for Caltrans to demonstrate its commitment to improving mobility along the 580 corridor. This process may serve as a model for other communities desiring to reflect community opinion during the development and review of environmental documents for significant infrastructure projects.



## **Results**

Approximately 125-150 participants attended all three workshops and participated in discussion. Community members expressed satisfaction with the process and gave feedback that the workshops were informative, interesting, and fun.