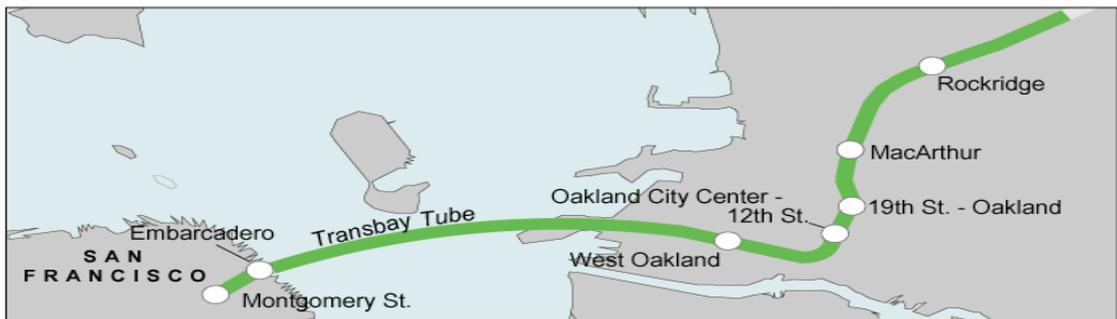




**PUBLIC NOTICE  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
& PUBLIC OPEN FORUM HEARING  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
BART SEISMIC RETROFIT PROJECT (EARTHQUAKE SAFETY PROGRAM)-  
BERKELEY HILLS TUNNEL TO MONTGOMERY STREET STATION**



**WHAT IS BEING PLANNED**

The San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART), in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), propose to seismically strengthen a portion of the BART system between the Berkeley Hills Tunnel in Oakland, to the Montgomery Street Station, in San Francisco (the project). The project will include a variety of retrofit methods to seismically strengthen the following facilities within the project area: the Transbay Tube; transition structures in San Francisco and Oakland; aerial guideways; three stations (West Oakland, MacArthur, and Rockridge); and the Oakland maintenance facility. The project would result in environmental impacts only during construction. At project completion, there would be no environmental impact. All construction impacts would be avoided or limited by implementation of procedures proposed as part of the project, and by mitigation measures described in the Environmental Assessment (EA). Because the proposed action is the improvement of an existing facility in its current location, does not include adding new facilities, and would not increase the capacity of the system, the only alternatives considered are the proposed action and the No-Action Alternative. There are no other reasonable alternatives.

**WHY THIS NOTICE**

BART, Caltrans, and FHWA have prepared an EA pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). This notice is to advise the public and agencies that the EA is available for review, and a public open forum hearing will be held to obtain input on the conclusions of the EA. The hearing is being held prior to making any commitment to the alternatives presented; no plans will become final until the complete public record has been analyzed.

**WHAT IS AVAILABLE**

The EA and other pertinent background technical studies will be available for review on weekdays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, beginning Monday, August 29, 2005, at the following locations:

BART District Office 300 Lakeside Drive, 17 <sup>th</sup> Floor Oakland, California	Caltrans District 4 Office 111 Grand Avenue Oakland, California	FHWA California Division Office 650 Capital Mall, Suite 4-100 Sacramento, California
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The EA will also be available for review at the following public library locations:

Rockridge Branch Library 5366 College Avenue Oakland, California	Oakland Main Library 125 14 <sup>th</sup> Street Oakland, California	San Francisco Main Library 100 Larkin Street at Grove Street San Francisco, California
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**COMMENTS**

The 30-day public review period begins August 29, 2005 and will end September 28, 2005 at 5:00 PM. **Comments must be received by no later than 5:00 PM on Wednesday, September 28, 2005.** Comments may be made at the public hearing, or submitted in writing, faxed, or emailed to:

Janie Layton  
BART Environmental Compliance  
P.O. Box 12688, Mail Stop LKS-18  
Oakland, CA 94604-2688  
Tel: (510) 874-7423; Fax: (510) 464-7552; Email: [jlayton@bart.gov](mailto:jlayton@bart.gov)

**PUBLIC OPEN FORUM HEARING LOCATION**

**When:** Wed., September 14, 2005, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM **Where:** Joseph P. Bort Metrocenter, 101 8<sup>th</sup> St, Oakland (Between Oak and Madison, across the street from the Lake Merritt BART Station)  
Review exhibits, learn about the proposed seismic improvements, or submit comments. Tentative schedules for right of way acquisition and construction will be discussed. Written and oral statements received during this time from any interested person or group regarding the project will become part of the formal public record, and will be addressed in the Final EA document.

**CONTACT**

To request special accommodations during the September 14<sup>th</sup> hearing, to review a copy of the EA, or for more information, please call Ms. Janie Layton, BART Environmental Compliance, at (510) 874-7423. The EA may also be reviewed by contacting Mr. Leland Dong, FHWA North Region Team Leader, at (916) 498-5860.