BART LAKE MERRITT PLAZA & TRANSIT OPERATIONS FACILITY

BART is starting work on a new Transit Operations Facility (TOF) and redesign of the Lake Merritt Plaza to support improved & expanded BART operations and create an enhanced multimodal transportation hub and transit plaza that better serves the neighborhood. The TOF will be a 3-story secure facility, with opportunities for retail and/or community uses at the ground floor. A study was undertaken to select the site for the TOF, and the Lake Merritt Plaza was identified as the preferred alternative location due to its central location, the availability of space, and colocation with related systems. The TOF will be constructed where the BART Administration building was previously located. Construction is projected to begin in 2019/2020.

This project presents an exciting opportunity to modernize the plaza to serve as an enhanced transportation hub and to support the vision of the Lake Merritt Station Area Plan, adopted by the City of Oakland in 2014. The Plan envisions the BART blocks as catalytic sites that establish an active neighborhood hub, provide pedestrian-oriented spines along 8th and 9th, and connect neighborhood assets – including BART, Chabot State College, Laney College, the Oakland Museum of California, and the Jack London District, among others. The Plan also envisions high-rise development for the BART parking lot blocks and the MetroCenter block, which will be designed and developed through a separate process in the future.

The concepts presented here are initial concepts that will be further refined following community input. Additional design details will be added and further feasibility analyses will be needed for some elements.

OUR GOALS
Make Transit Work
Create Place
Connect to Community

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The BART Lake Merritt Plaza redesign project will have several opportunities for community input, through a community Working Group, two large community open houses, and stakeholder meetings. In February, at our first Working Group meeting, the group provided feedback summarized into the following design objectives:

• Catalyze & Activate
• Connect & Integrate
• Safe & Welcoming

In March, the Working Group provided feedback on three design concepts for the plaza. Two preferred options have been refined for your review and feedback today!