
NEWS From:

Reps. Honda and Lofgren



For Immediate Release
Feb. 13, 2003

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Reps. Honda and Lofgren Announce First Federal Funding of Silicon Valley BART Extension Project

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13, 2003 — U.S. Reps. Mike Honda and Zoe Lofgren announced today that the initial piece of federal funding for the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Corridor BART expansion project is earmarked in the \$397.4 billion spending bill that is expected to be approved by both chambers of Congress this week. Rep. Mike Honda and the Santa Clara County delegation secured \$250,000 for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority to fund the preliminary engineering of the expansion project.

“I am proud to announce that the first component of federal funds for BART to Santa Clara County is on its way,” said Rep. Honda who is a member of the House Transportation Committee. “This is a major milestone in our work to end bottlenecks and provide transportation solutions for Silicon Valley commuters.”

“The Bay Area Congressional Delegation pulled together for BART Funding,” said Lofgren. “This funding is important for our continued efforts to end gridlock in the Bay Area.”

“This funding will move us an important step closer to bringing BART to Silicon Valley,” said San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales. “On behalf of our Bay Area commuters who are looking for traffic relief, I thank our congressional delegation for their leadership to help us get the federal support that will build BART and our regional transportation system.”

This year, the Transportation Committee and Congress will reauthorize the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). TEA-21 is the legislative framework that has guided federal surface transportation planning and funding since 1998. “The Bay Area has a long history of setting a standard for sound transportation planning, regional cooperation and strong local funding commitments,”

said Honda. “Fighting for the Silicon Valley BART extension will be my top priority as Congress sets long-term transportation priorities in this session.”

The Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Corridor project calls for an extension of BART from Warm Springs to highly-frequented Santa Clara County destinations, including VTA’s light rail system, CalTrain’s San Jose station, the people-mover currently under design at the Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport, and will benefit thousands of Silicon Valley employers.

The project will relieve congestion along I-680 and I-880, the second and third most congested corridors in the nine-county Bay Area. The project represents the last link needed to complete the connection of all of the region’s rail systems around the San Francisco Bay Area. The project is included in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s (MTC) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and Rep. Honda will seek to include this project during the Reauthorization of TEA-21.