Fact Sheet

City of Richmond's
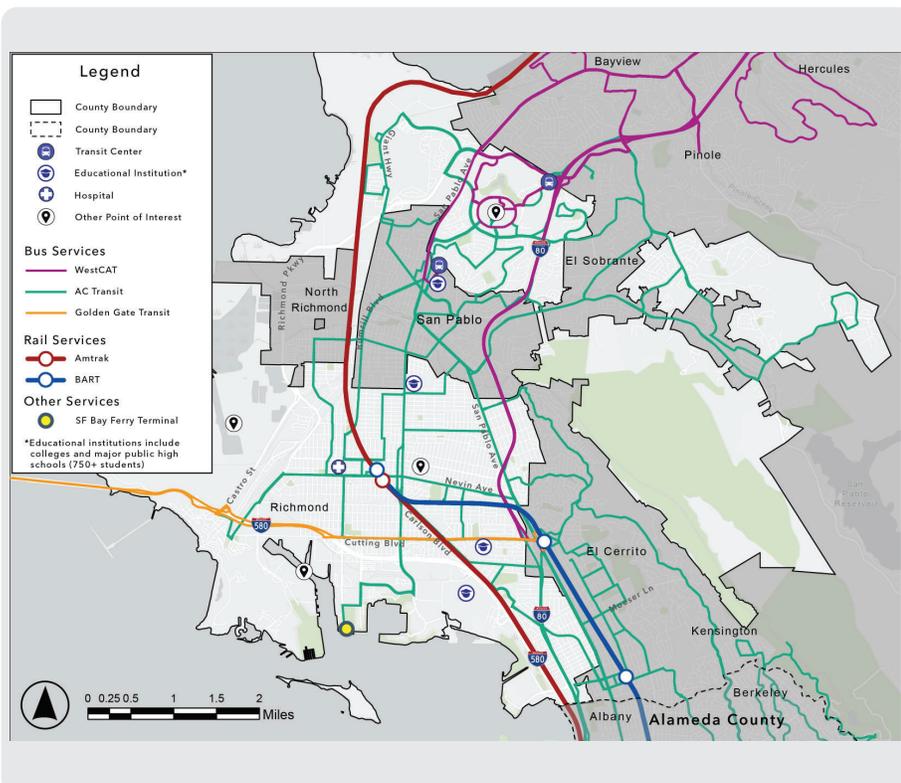
Automated Transit Network Feasibility Study

At a Glance

Why is the City advancing this study?

The City of Richmond is working to address a unique set of transportation challenges shaped by its location, existing roadway network, transit network, and diverse community.

Although Richmond is served by six transit operators, limited connections between and to these services can make traveling across the city and region difficult.

To help solve these challenges, the City is exploring the idea of an Automated Transit Network (ATN). This modern system is designed to fill service gaps and make it easier for people to connect to transit.

What is an Automated Transit Network (ATN)?

ATN uses small, electric, self-driving cars that travel on special roads made only for ATN vehicles. These roads are separate from regular traffic and can be built above, below, or adjacent to existing streets. The ATN cars take people straight to their station destination without stopping along the way.

This system allows ATN cars to travel without delays from traffic or frequent stops.

There are no currently operating examples of a modern ATN system in the United States. Similar systems are being explored in Silicon Valley, East Contra Costa County, and elsewhere around the country.

Legend

- County Boundary
- County Boundary
- Transit Center
- Educational Institution*
- Hospital
- Other Point of Interest

Bus Services
- WestCAT
- AC Transit
- Golden Gate Transit

Rail Services
- Amtrak
- BART

Other Services
- SF Bay Ferry Terminal

*Educational institutions include colleges and major public high schools (750+ students)

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

Purpose of the Study

This Feasibility Study explores whether an Automated Transit Network (ATN) system could be a good fit for the community. The study will take a close look at how an ATN system could operate in Richmond, what benefits it could bring, and what it would take to make it happen. The study will:
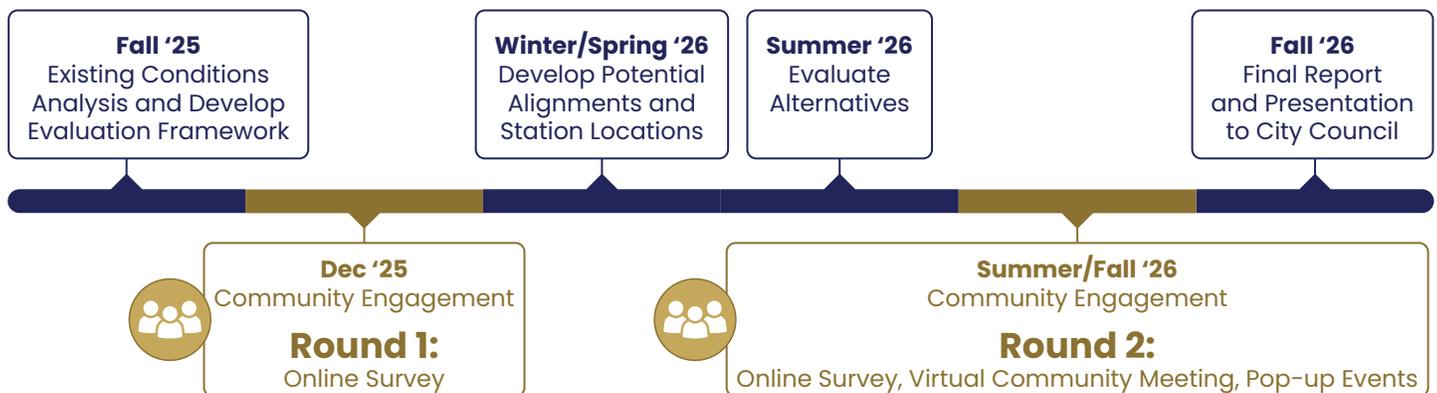
- **Review existing policies and plans** to understand how an ATN system could align with the City's transportation and development goals.

- **Evaluate existing conditions and develop an evaluation framework** to measure how well different options meet Richmond's mobility and equity objectives.

- **Analyze transportation needs and opportunities** to understand how people move now and where a new ATN system could help most.

- **Identify opportunities to coordinate land use and transportation improvements**, such as transit-oriented development (TOD) opportunities that could support and benefit from the ATN system.

- **Develop and compare ATN system alternatives**, including possible routes, station locations, and operating concepts.

- **Conduct community outreach** to gather input from residents, businesses, and key stakeholders, ensuring the system reflects local needs and priorities.

- **Evaluate the proposed ATN network** by assessing performance, costs, and community benefits using the established framework.

Through this process, the study will help determine whether an ATN would effectively serve the mobility needs of Richmond residents and workers.

Project Timeline and Key Tasks

The City of Richmond is holding two public engagement phases. Your feedback is essential to help identify the community's most important transit needs and connections.

Fall '25
Existing Conditions Analysis and Develop Evaluation Framework

Winter/Spring '26
Develop Potential Alignments and Station Locations

Summer '26
Evaluate Alternatives

Fall '26
Final Report and Presentation to City Council

Dec '25
Community Engagement
Round 1:
Online Survey

Summer/Fall '26
Community Engagement
Round 2:
Online Survey, Virtual Community Meeting, Pop-up Events

For More Project Information

Visit the Project Website:
https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/4930/23074--ATN-Feasibility-Study

Or Contact:
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