

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



STa

Solano Transportation Authority

Solano Transportation Authority

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Message from the Executive Director

2021 transitioned from just challenging, due to the onset of COVID 19 pandemic, to a combination of challenging and one filled with opportunity due to the passage of the \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the transition from pandemic to endemic. Thanks to the leadership, support, and teamwork of the STA Board, STA staff and our local, regional, and state partner agencies, STA was able to effectively continue to plan for, fund, and deliver priority projects and provide for a range of mobility programs in support of all aspects of Solano County's residents and employees.

With the designation of construction as essential work by the State of California, the Bay Area region, and the Solano County Board of Supervisors, STA focused on advancing "shovel-ready" projects and partnered with Caltrans District 4 (D4) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to fund and deliver future improvements to the Interstate 80 corridor. Construction of the I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange Phase 2A Project – funded by a competitive Senate Bill 1 (SB1) Trade Corridor Enhancement Fund (TCEF) grant obtained by STA in partnership with Caltrans – continued to make progress and is scheduled to open to traffic by the end of 2022. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) awarded competitive SB1 funds for the construction of the I-80 Express Lanes, scheduled to begin in May 2022, and the design phase of the Westbound Truck Scales, scheduled for Spring of 2022. State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) funding has been dedicated to significant safety and complete highway improvements on SR 12 in Rio Vista and SR 29 in Vallejo with both projects scheduled to begin work in FY 2023-24. STA also completed the design phase for an innovative new interchange at SR 37/Fairgrounds that improves multi-modal access to Solano County's largest youth employer, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, the future Solano 360 Development project, and connects diverse communities located in North Vallejo.

STA continues to support the SolanoExpress service, which will transition all four routes (Blue, Green, Red, and Yellow) to one transit operator – Solano County Transit (SolTrans) in 2022. Similar to all transit services, SolanoExpress, the Capitol Corridor Rail Service, and the San Francisco Bay Ferry experienced significant drops in ridership in 2020. STA assisted transit operators that needed to run reduced service. In 2021, SolanoExpress ridership gradually returned as our residents began transitioning back to in-person work. STA also initiated a Connect Mobility Plan to address the 27 recommendations developed by MTC's Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force for improving the region's transit system.

In addition to transportation, STA continues to partner with the seven cities and the County to coordinate transportation investments and planning for housing and jobs. At the direction of the STA Board, STA expanded its focus from integrating land use and transportation planning, to proactively supporting each city's effort to identify infrastructure funding to support the production of affordable housing and update their housing elements. The focus of STA's efforts is on potential affordable housing projects located in Priority Development Areas (PDAs) with access to regional ferry, rail, and express bus services. These efforts are being successfully piloted through the Solano Housing Investment Partnership (SolHIP) formed by the STA with participation from all seven cities and the County. This includes funding for transportation investments in support of two affordable housing projects, one under construction in Fairfield and one recently approved in Vacaville. The STA supported the City-County Coordinating Council's (4C's) recently completed Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process and Solano EDC's grant application to update the Countywide economic strategy, ("Moving Solano Forward") that will be initiated in 2022.

In December 2021, STA completed the construction of its own 23,000 square foot, three-story office building located on Main Street in Suisun City's PDA and downtown. This location is within close walking distance to the Suisun Amtrak Station, with convenient access to Capitol Corridor Rail Service and the Solano Express Red Line and Green Line, and the Fairfield, Suisun City, and County of Solano government centers. The project provided over 80,000 hours of construction trade hours during the construction of the project and provides better public access to STA's Solano Mobility Call Center and Mobility Programs.

STA is proud of its various partnerships with non-profits, community-based organizations, transit operators, school districts, academic institutions, citizen advisory committees, and outside partner agencies. They are integral to STA's continued success and progress. Thanks to the leadership, foresight, and support of the STA Board, the STA's overall work program contains over 51 plans, projects, and programs in various stages of implementation. I also want to thank the dedicated, innovative, and hard-working staff of the STA whose efforts continue to achieve multiple milestones. Contained within the STA's 2021 Annual Report are highlights and milestones from the 2021 calendar year as we look forward with optimism to the challenges and opportunities available in 2022.



David K. Hall



Ron Rowlett
Board Chair
Mayor of Vacaville



Robert McConnell
Board Vice Chair
Mayor of Vallejo



Steve Young
Mayor of Benicia



Ronald Kott
Mayor of Rio Vista



Jim Spering
Supervisor of Solano County
District 3



Lori Wilson
Mayor of Suisun City



Harry Price
Mayor of Fairfield



Steve Bird
Mayor of Dixon

2021 STA Board

2021 Annual Report

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2021 Highlights

FIRST QUARTER

Vacaville Mayor Ron Rowlett selected as STA Board Chair and Vallejo Mayor Robert McConnell selected as STA Board Vice-Chair

Dixon's Jim Ernest, Suisun City's Wanda Williams, Rio Vista's David Hampton, Vacaville's Nolan Sullivan, and Vallejo's Pippin Dew sworn in as STA Board Alternates

Board allocates funding to advance the design of the Solano Rail Hub at the Suisun City Amtrak Station

Awarded \$299,997 from California Air Resources Board Grant for equitable and clean transportation solutions for City of Vallejo

Solano County Board of Supervisors appoints STA as lead agency for the Solano County Collaborative on Housing

Five Short Range Transit Plans for all local Solano County transit operators approved by the Board.

Connected Mobility Implementation Plan approved by Board to align the goals of Solano County with the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force

Community Based Transportation Plan (CBTP) requested by Suisun City and approved by STA Board

\$1.7M California Energy Commission Grant awarded to STA for seven inductive charging pads

THIRD QUARTER

I-80 Westbound Cordelia Truck Scales Project advances to Design Phase

STA awards \$406,683 of Transit Development Act (TDA) Article 3 funds to three projects in Benicia, Vallejo, and Solano County

Solano Mobility encourages active transportation with the Solano Summer Bucket List Challenge

\$6.5M in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding allocated to SolanoExpress and local transit operators - Solano County Transit (SolTrans) and Fairfield and Suisun Transit (FAST)

SR2S Micigrant Cycle 2 awards \$130k to 16 projects at 15 schools in 6 Solano County Cities

\$431,000 of funding for four Bike/Pedestrian wayfinding projects identified by STA's Citizen Advisory Boards in Suisun City, Rio Vista, and Vallejo were approved by the STA Board

Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (AVA) Program removed over 53,000 vehicles over 10 years; STA is re-designed to oversee the AVA Program for additional 10 year term

STA submits request to Caltrans District 4 to initiate Project Study Report for I-80 Managed Lanes in Dixon

SECOND QUARTER

Solano Mobility launches revised "Buck for Bikes" incentive program and hosts Bike Bingo for May Bike Month

Awarded \$4.7M in Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Cycle 10 funds - more than any other Bay Area County

Hannigan Station improvements approved to expand the parking lot and install EV Chargers as the first of three phases, programmed with State Transit Assistance Funds, and MTC Safe and Seamless Quick Strike Program Funds

Board approve participation in MTC's Regional Wayfinding & Mapping Pilot Program for Solano County transit operators

STA award \$188,000 of BAAQMD Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) funding to six projects



FOURTH QUARTER

Solano Mobility introduces 2 For 1 incentive program for SolanoExpress Daily and Monthly passes

Safe Routes to School (SR2S) hosted Walk or Wheel to Wherever Week (WoW), which included International Walk to School Day

Board allocates additional \$4.4M in ARP funds allocated to SolanoExpress and local transit operators

STA enters funding agreement with Suisun City for the new Suisun City Mobility Hub to house future micro-transit vehicles, STA's vehicle share vans, and parking for Suisun City's community events

The Bay Trail Steering Committee awards \$400,000 to the Bay Trail/Vince Trail Gap Closure Project in Vallejo

SR2S Program awarded \$305,000 from the Office of Traffic Safety and the California Department of Public Health

Virtually hosted the 24th STA Annual Awards

STA and Suisun City unveiled two public artwork pieces in front of the STA's office building, which will be open to the public in January 2022

2021 Quick Facts and Figures



Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Microgrant Program Cycle 2:

Implemented school safety projects and programs among 17 schools, school districts, cities and nonprofits in Solano County for a total of \$130,000

Free Bike Repair Events: Held at 5 schools and repaired 100+ bikes for students, providing helmets and bike safety information

Grant Awarded: \$155,000 grant from the Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to support SR2S Education and Enforcement in partnership with Benicia and Suisun City Police Departments; \$150,000 grant from the California Department of Public Health's Kids Plate to support continued Solano SR2S efforts



Solano Mobility Call Center

Served 7,097 phone customers and
58 walk-in customers
9 new vanpools created



Solano Intercity Taxi Card Program

5,115 ADA passenger trips provided



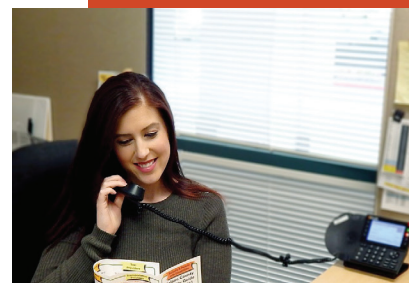
Solano Mobility In-Person American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Assessments

639 ADA assessments completed.
167 Automatic Renewal Process allowed a
program savings of \$19,716



Travel Training

109 participants in the Solano County Travel Training program completed trips to local events, shopping centers and points of interest via transit



Emergency Ride Home

40 registered employers with
11 of their employees registered



Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program

8,803 vehicles abated county wide in 2021



Local Preference Policy

\$3.24 million in **local** purchases in 2021 totaling over \$19.4 million since the 2010 inception of Local Preference Policy



Legislation and Transportation

As the pandemic continued to limit in-person gatherings, the Solano Transportation Board continued to advocate on behalf of county residents for their transportation and mobility needs. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act expired on September 30, 2021 and was reauthorized by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, or the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). While the STA successfully advocated for the inclusion of three Community Funding Projects in the House version of the IIJA, the Senate version which was eventually adopted, did not include any Community Funding Projects.

These three projects - the State Route 37 and Fairground Dr Interchange Improvement Project, the I-505 and Vaca Valley Multi-Modal Interchange Project, and the Jepson Parkway Phase 2C: Vanden Road and Travis Air Force Base North Gate Access Project - will continue to be legislative priorities for 2022.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force released a set of 27 recommendations to revive and improve the region's transit systems by making them "more connected, more efficient, and more user-focused ..." While the State Legislature mainly focused on COVID-19 relief and vaccinations during 2021, the second year of the legislative cycle will likely see the implementation of the Task Force's recommendations, including the Seamless Bay Area Bill, which was made a two year bill.



Planning for Solano County's Future Transportation Needs

State Designates Suisun-Fairfield Train Station as The Solano Rail Hub

The California State Transportation Authority's (CalSTA) designation is part of the California State Rail Plan. The Solano Rail Hub would link existing regional and local transit service (Capitol Corridor, SolanoExpress, SolTrans, FAST, Delta Breeze, and Napa Vine) with future rail services (Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Rail Extension and Link21, which would provide one-seat rail service from Suisun City to Downtown San Francisco).



The location of the Suisun-Fairfield Station is adjacent to Priority Development Areas (PDAs) in both cities and the State designation provide an important opportunity for Transit Oriented Development and presents commuters with several multi-modal transportation options. STA funded and initiated a Project Study Report (PSR) to prepare for the design and engineering of a 3rd rail track and improved pedestrian and bicycle access to the station.

STA is currently working with several partner agencies, including CalSTA and CCJPA, to update the 2022 State Rail Plan and advance the Solano Rail Hub Project.

Solano County's Congestion Management Program (CMP) Completed

As the Congestion Management Agency for Solano County, the STA is responsible for maintaining the Congestion Management Program, which is updated every other year. The CMP assess transportation impacts on the environment and ensures that mobility on the County's streets and highways are maintained and operating efficiently.

STA Appointed as Solano County Collaborative for Housing



The Solano County Board of Supervisors designated the STA's Solano Housing Investment Partnership (SolHIP) as the Association of Bay Area Governments' (ABAG) County Collaborative for Solano County. In collaboration with all seven Cities, Solano County, and ABAG, SolHIP is supporting efforts to update the County's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), provide consultant services, and identify grant opportunities for affordable housing projects located in Priority Development Areas (PDAs) adjacent to regional transit services.

Completion of the SR37 Solano Public Access Plan

In partnership with the County of Solano, City of Vallejo, the Solano Land Trust, and other community stakeholders, STA planning staff identified eight public access and educational sites within close proximity to State Route 37 (SR37) and Mare Island.

The list of potential public access points takes advantage of the rich march ecosystem and wildlife in the San Pablo Baylands and would provide abundant recreational activities, which would be easily accessible for visitors and residents of Vallejo.



Submitted over \$450 million for Plan Bay Area 2050



In coordination with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the cities and county of Solano, STA planning staff submitted over \$450 million in planned transportation projects for inclusion in Plan Bay Area 2050.

Plan Bay Area 2050 is a long-range plan for the nine-county Bay Area Region and contains 11 themes, and 35 specific implementation strategies divided in four elements – Transportation, Housing, Economy, and Environment. These strategies were developed to ensure that by the year 2050, the Bay Area is affordable, connected, diverse, healthy, and vibrant for all.

Grant Funds Allocated

- ▶ \$371,189 in Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program funds to clean air project in the southwestern portion of Solano County
- ▶ \$385,299 in Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD) Clean Air Funds to seven projects in the northeastern portion of Solano County
- ▶ \$431,683 in Transportation Development Act Article 3 funds for Active Transportation Projects throughout the entire County



Delivering Projects to Improve Solano County's Transportation Future

I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange 2A Project – Construction Midpoint Milestone

After a full year of construction, the I-80/I-680/SR12 Package 2A Project officially reached the Midpoint Milestone on November 6, 2021 when traffic was switched over from the old single lane Eastbound Highway 12 connector to the newly constructed Highway 12 two lane connector to Eastbound I-80. Two weeks later the old connector was demolished and removed.

When fully completed in Fall 2022, this Project will greatly improve safety and ease congestion along the busiest freight and commuter corridor in the Northern California Region. The remaining construction includes adding direct on and off-ramps from I-80 to Green Valley Road, which helps reduce the frequency of vehicle accidents.



Countywide Electrification Plan

The STA developed a three-prong (Consumer, Transit, and Freight) electrification strategy to plan and implement capital improvements to install charging infrastructure throughout the county. In addition to the 58 EV chargers added within the County; the STA, Solano County Transit (SolTrans), and Fairfield and Suisun Transit (FAST) were successful in obtaining multiple grants for transit EV infrastructure and electric bus purchases. En-route inductive charging sites are being designed and the first installation at the Curtola Park and Ride is scheduled to be operational in Q1 2022. Design work on the I-80 Westbound Truck Scales includes electrical infrastructure to support freight charging and the Eastbound Truck Scales is being considered for retrofit with add capabilities for electric freight charging.



Launched the Connected Mobility Plan



Through its various programs, the STA has implemented multiple programs including – Safe Routes to Transit, Lyft First/Last Mile, RideAmigos Travel Demand Management, and Rio Vista's Microtransit Pilot. The goal of the Connected Mobility Plan, which launched in 2021 and is scheduled to be completed by the Fall of 2022, is to compile all programs into a single comprehensive plan for all of Solano County. The plan will evaluate how well current programs are satisfying the needs of the commuting public, identify transportation gaps, and provide a two, five, and ten-year framework to integrate mobility options, establish benchmarks for success, and prioritize capital improvements and programs to implement should funding become available.

Westbound Truck Scales

STA and Caltrans are currently designing a new state-of-the-art inspection center to replace the current outdated I-80 Westbound truck scale facility. By increasing inspection throughput, reducing traffic collisions, and decreasing congestion, this Project will benefit all Northern California consumers and businesses as freight traffic between the Port of Oakland and Sacramento continues to grow.

Next up will be securing construction funds for the Project, which is projected to increase the number of safety inspections and includes electrification of freight and create a Clean Freight Corridor between Sacramento and the Port of Oakland.



Solano Transportation Authority Office Building

Construction of the STA's new office building was completed in December 2021 and scheduled to be open to the public on January 12, 2022. The new three-story building houses the Board Chambers, STA administration, project delivery, planning, program staff, committee conference rooms, and several formal and informal collaboration spaces. The new building displays multiple art pieces, both outside and indoors, and a bicycle repair station available to the public.



Programs to Improve Mobility Options for Solano County



SolanoExpress Begins Transition from Two Operator to Single Operator

All four SolanoExpress Lines (Blue, Green, Red, and Yellow) will now be operated solely by Solano County Transit (SolTrans). Transition of the Blue and Green Express Lines will begin in 2022 and is expected to be completed by 2023. Transitioning to a single operator model reduces duplicative operating expenses and increases route coordination and fare integration.

As a “Thank You” to riders for their patience during the service transition, the Solano Mobility Program is offering the “2 for 1” promotion, which give riders a matching pass when they buy a Daily or Monthly pass on any SolanoExpress Line. For more information or to sign up for this promotion, riders should call 800-535-6883 or visit SolanoMobility.org

Suisun City Community Based Transportation Plan Launches

At the request of the City, STA launched the Suisun City Community-Based Transportation Plan (CBTP). In partnership with Suisun City staff, STA will be working with Suisun City residents to identify potential transportation improvements and community priorities to facilitate the development of future equitable and accessible transportation programs and projects.



The CBTP will help the City and STA better understand current transit conditions, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and opportunities to make mobility services more accessible and efficient for older adults, youth, low-income, individuals with disabilities, and all residents across the community. Kicking off with an online webinar in Fall 2021, the Draft Suisun City CBTP is schedule to be released in Fall of 2022.

Bike Month Bingo, Summer Bucket List Challenge, and New Buck for Bikes Program Launched

To celebrate Bike Month 2021, the STA's Solano Mobility Program hosted "Bike Bingo" events for each of the seven Cities. Three winners were selected from 125 participants who visited nine bike-accessible checkpoints that were established at major transit centers and other well-known city landmarks.

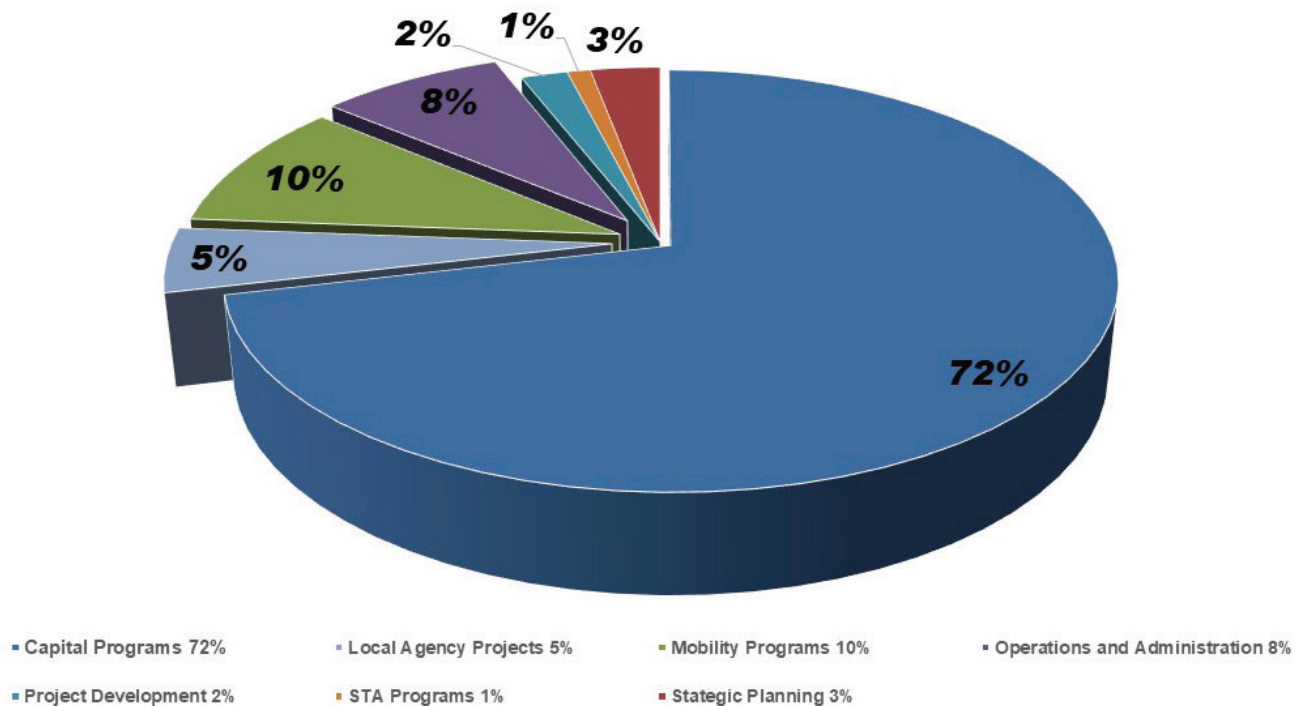
As a way to continue encouraging active transportation, Solano Mobility also created the Summer Bucket List Challenge, which listed multiple family-friendly outdoor activities all over Solano County. Additionally, the Buck for Bikes Program was revamped and the new program launched with an increased incentive – now a \$300 reimbursement towards the purchase of a new bike.



Transportation Funding in Solano County

The Solano Transportation Authority budget consists of capital programs, operations and administration, STA programs, Solano Mobility programs, local agency projects, transit programs, strategic planning, and project development. Based on the results of the independent audit for Fiscal Year 2020-21, the STA received its 16th consecutive unqualified audit with no findings.

STA Budget FY 2020-21 **Revenues by Source \$24,865,344**



Solano County State & Federal Programming **FY 2020-2021 \$39,602**

