

# **Pennsylvania Avenue Extension (PAX) Bridging Study:**

## **Professional Services Contract with HNTB Corporation for Consulting Services**



**San Francisco  
County Transportation  
Authority**

Community Advisory Committee - Agenda Item 7  
March 25, 2026

# Project Context

- **Railyards Alignment and Benefits Study (SF Planning Dept - completed 2018)**
  - Studied the Caltrain/HSR corridor through San Francisco and confirmed The Portal's alignment, connecting to Salesforce Transit Center
  - Established the PAX tunneled alignment as San Francisco's preferred long-term option for grade separation of the Caltrain/HSR corridor in San Francisco
- **PAX Project Initiation Study (SFCTA - completed 2022)**
  - Evaluated multiple tunnel design options south of The Portal interface
  - Considered project constraints and narrowed range of feasible alternatives
- **Railyards Preliminary Business Case (Caltrain/Prologis - completed 2024)**
  - Developed medium- and long-term concepts for the Railyards Site, consisting of vertical development and rail/station infrastructure improvements
- **The Portal/Downtown Rail Extension Project (TJPA - ongoing)**
  - Currently in Engineering Phase of Federal Transit Administration grant process, with planned revenue service date of 2036 (subject to funding)



Source: SFCTA

# SFCTA PAX Project Initiation Study: Key Outcomes

## 1. Developed and narrowed down feasible alignment options

- Three broad families of options identified

## 2. Developed preliminary capital cost estimates for design options

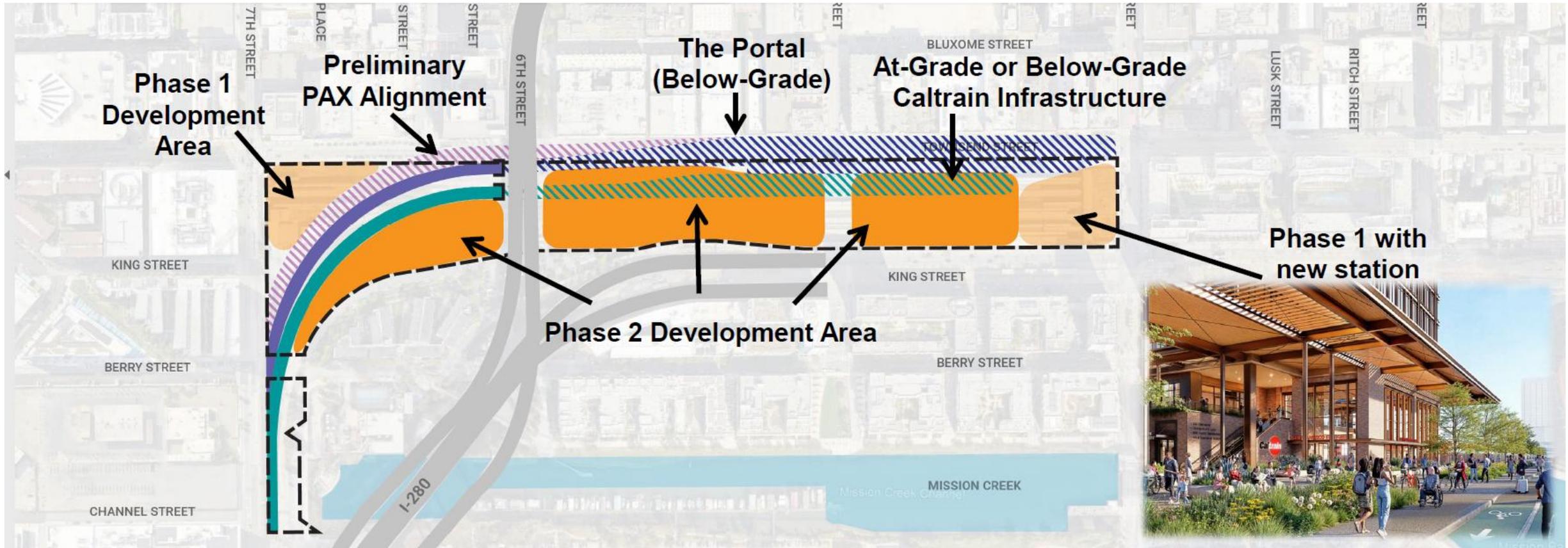
## 3. Advanced assessment of project interfaces

- Portal project
- Railyards site
- Existing corridor infrastructure



Source: SFCTA / Google Earth

# Railyards Site Development: Project Vision at Full Buildout



Source: Caltrain

# PAX Bridging Study Objectives and Phases

## Study Objectives

- Develop stated requirements for PAX design and construction, with consideration of related projects
- Investigate opportunities to reduce PAX cost and risk
- Coordinate with related projects
- Engage with partner agencies, stakeholders, and the community
- Identify potential next steps for the Project

## Phase A: Project Requirements & Optioneering

- Approximately 12 months
- Focus on Project design, constructability, and integration with adjacent/interfaces projects focusing on the north end of the Project alignment
- Consultant budget ceiling: up to \$700,000

## Phase B: Project Advancement (OPTIONAL)

- Approximately 12 months
- If pursued, would continue to advance the Project, guided by the outcomes of Phase A
- Consultant budget ceiling: up to \$350,000

# Procurement Process

- Request for Proposals issued - October 31, 2025
- Pre-proposal conference - November 10, 2025
- Proposals due - December 19, 2025
- Six proposals received
- Interviews with four teams - week of January 12, 2026
- Highest ranked firm: HNTB Corporation
- LBE/SBE/SFCTA DBE participation of 13%

# Recommendation

Adopt a of support to:

- Approve a two-year professional services contract with HNTB Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$1,050,000 for consultant services for the PAX Bridging Study
- Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate contract payment terms and non-material terms and conditions

# Thank you.

[sfcta.org/pax](https://sfcta.org/pax)

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