

# BART link idea gaining support

■ **LIVERMORE:** New committee may be formed to research how to pay the \$1 billion for line to city

By Mike Adamick  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A petition drive in support of a BART extension to Livermore is gaining steam — if a new committee to investigate the matter can be considered progress.

BART board director Zoyd Luce is urging the board to create a "BART to Livermore" committee to explore ways to pay for the estimated \$1 billion link between the Dublin-Pleasanton station and Livermore.

The move comes after more than 1,000 people signed a petition urging BART to build the link before expanding south toward San Jose.

Livermore BART advocate Linda Jeffery Sailors said Tri-Valley residents have been paying taxes for more than 40 years yet no money is available for the extension. Livermore should get an extension before the Silicon Valley, she said.

Luce is hoping Tri-Valley elected officials and residents will join the committee to help find ways to come up with the roughly \$1 billion.

If past experience holds true, a Livermore extension seems to be years, if not decades, away.

Antioch board member Joel Keller said Thursday that he recalls East Contra Costa County residents petitioning in the late 1980s for a BART extension. More than 20 years later, the extension is still years away from completion — though funding has been secured.

Still, Livermore advocates say they have to start somewhere.

"I think when the people start speaking, the major efforts become possible," Luce said.

Reach Mike Adamick at [madamick@cctimes.com](mailto:madamick@cctimes.com) or 925-945-4745.

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## Raise your voice

Who is Clarence Hoenic to criticize Linda Jeffery Sailors (former mayor of Dublin) and Ayn Wieskamp (former Livermore City Council and current East Bay Regional Park District Board director) for trying to bring BART to Livermore?

Perhaps he did not know that they, along with Karin Mohr (former Pleasanton City Council) and Erlene DeMarcus (former BART Board director) were the people who fought for the first Dublin station and won. I know, because I also was involved in that successful effort.

BART came to Dublin because we refused to believe the regional transportation agency when they said that there wasn't enough money for BART in the Valley. It just wasn't their priority. BART also told us that we couldn't support a

BART station because we didn't have enough potential riders. Within the first month of operation, the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station reached its 10-year ridership projection.

You only have to look at I-580 to know that we could fill the trains. I suggest that Clarence leave this issue to those who have the knowledge and history to pull it off.

Anyone interested in voicing your desire for a Livermore BART station should sign their petition. Call (925) 449-7274 for information.

**Cathie Brown.**

Former Mayor of Livermore

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