

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010

## \$400M to go toward Transbay Transit Center train station

BY JOHN UPTON

The U.S. Department of Transportation on Thursday announced that \$400 million will be provided from the federal stimulus program to allow construction of a high-speed rail station in San Francisco.

The federal government announced \$8 billion in high-speed rail allocations from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, including \$2.35 billion for the \$42 billion Anaheim – San Francisco project.

But the \$2.35 billion is listed in public documents as a single line item, which does not specify which individual projects or regions will share in the funds.

Department spokeswoman Maureen Knightly said the \$2.35 billion includes a reservation of \$400 million for construction of an underground train station at the Transbay Transit Center.

“US DOT will work with California authorities to get the (the underground train station) project underway as soon as all the proper approvals are final,” Knightly said in an email Thursday. “(Secretary Ray) LaHood has reserved \$400 million to be available.”

Construction work recently stalled on the project to tear down and rebuild the Transbay Transit Center – which is imagined as the heart of a new downtown area – because the Federal Rail-



*Cross section of Transbay Transit Center*

road Administration experienced delays in allocating its stimulus funds.

Transit center planning work has continued despite the construction delay.

In June, TJPA directors expected a ruling on the \$400 million application by October, but that ruling was delayed in October until winter.

Train tracks presently do not reach the transit center, but officials hope to even-

tually raise \$2 billion needed to extend the line from Fourth and King streets.

Inclusion of a train station in the construction project will cost \$400 million – and that price would rise to \$500 million if the station is excavated after the center is built as a bus stop, TJPA figures show.