



*Office of the Mayor*

3300 Capitol Avenue, Building A | P.O. Box 5006, Fremont, CA 94537-5006

510 284-4011 *ph* | 510 284-4001 *fax* | [www.fremont.gov](http://www.fremont.gov)

February 17, 2026

The Honorable Toks Omishakin  
Secretary of Transportation  
California State Transportation Agency  
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2340  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Public Comment on the 2026 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program Draft Guidelines**

Dear Secretary Omishakin:

On behalf of the City of Fremont, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the California State Transportation Agency's (CalSTA) draft guideline for the 2026 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP). Since its creation via Senate Bill 862 in 2014, the program has provided grants through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to support capital improvements of rail and transit systems across the state. Through the seven cycles of TIRCP funding, CalSTA has awarded more than \$11.5 billion in funding to 153 projects throughout the state.

Currently, the City of Fremont is collaborating with the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) to develop the proposed Irvington BART station located in Fremont. This infill station is at a high state of readiness, and has a completed environmental clearance; property acquisition is partially complete, and final design is 80% complete. Based on a transit-oriented development plan approved by the Fremont City Council for the station area, 700 affordable housing units are already occupied, 200 more have been approved, and 700 other housing units are in the planning process.

The City of Fremont views TIRCP as the best funding opportunity for the construction of the Irvington BART station, with a funding need of \$200 million. Other funding sources include \$120 million from the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC), \$2 million from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and a prior \$45 million investment from the City of Fremont.

We submit this letter as a public comment on CalSTA's draft guideline for the 2026 TIRCP. We respectfully urge CalSTA to consider the following feedback as the agency finalizes its guidelines:

- **Expand the definition of “eligible applicants” for TIRCP funding to include “project sponsors” for transit projects.** Historically, the requirements for TIRCP, including the 2026 TIRCP, stipulated that eligible applicants of the program must be public agencies that operate or have planning responsibility for existing or planned regularly scheduled rail and/or transit services. Because the City of Fremont is not a transit agency, the City has not been able to submit an application for TIRCP funding. For the Irvington BART station, Fremont is considered the “project sponsor” with a role to identify project funding. BART is the “implementation agency”. We request that the current definition of “eligible applicants” for TIRCP be expanded to include “sponsors” of transit projects.
- **Create a “reserve” category for TIRCP funding.** The draft guideline specifies requirements relating to project delivery deadlines. To that end, we respectfully urge CalSTA to allow TIRCP funding to be set aside or be “reserved” for future use, subject to certain conditions being met. In the case of the planned Irvington BART station project, BART is not able to commit to a project delivery timeframe due to a current lack of operating revenue for the existing BART system. An effort is underway to seek voter approval for new transit funding for BART. The “reserve” category would help facilitate continued progress toward full project readiness and support the continuation of transit-oriented development in the station area by signaling the availability of construction funding for the project.

We recognize the significant success and progress CalSTA has accomplished through TIRCP. As CalSTA finalizes its draft guideline and begins soliciting applications for the 2026 TIRCP funding opportunity, we respectfully urge CalSTA to consider our feedback. The City is open for further discussions regarding the importance and need of TIRCP funding for our Irvington BART station project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raj Salwan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Raj Salwan  
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Dr. Aisha Wahab, California State Senate  
The Honorable Alex Lee, California State Assembly