



*Office of the Mayor*

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February 25, 2026

Board of Directors  
Bay Area Rapid Transit  
2150 Webster Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

**RE: Public Comment - February 26, 2026, Agenda Item 6A**

Dear Board of Directors:

On February 26, 2026, the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) will be making a consequential policy decision that will likely determine the fate of Warm Springs BART station in Fremont and other BART stations, in the event that the Connect Bay Area measure fails or if the budgets for upcoming fiscal years are no longer sustainable to maintain or expand BART's existing services and operations.

Prior to your workshop on February 12, 2026, we submitted a brief public comment outlining the significance of the Warm Springs BART station to the Bay Area economy and other potential benefits it could bring in the near future, given its low operating cost and its proximity to a transit-oriented development (TOD) project. The station is adjacent to Tesla's Fremont factory, the highest-output automotive plant in North America, which employs more than 25,000 people. This factory is one of the top property and sales tax revenue generators in the Bay Area. Broadly, Warm Springs is an 850-acre area featuring a concentration of pioneering tech companies, renowned as a leading advanced manufacturing and innovation hub in California.

Both current and future economic activities near the station area will bring additional millions of square feet of industrial development and create more employment opportunities. The majority of the jobs in the Warm Springs/Bayside area are "middle wage" or higher, primarily in essential industries. Notably, because these jobs are generally incompatible with remote work, public transit in Warm Springs must be prioritized. Further, the station area's TOD master plan has resulted in approximately 4,000 new housing units. We anticipate that this TOD project will help increase ridership at the station once it is complete.

We respectfully submit this letter of public comment in advance of your meeting on February 26, 2026. We recognize that BART will need to make difficult decisions to resolve its fiscal challenges. **However, we strongly urge BART to avoid closing the Warm Springs BART station, particularly if BART trains will operate through the station under the "Measure Fails" scenario.** Our basis for this recommendation is as follows:

- **The Warm Springs BART station has a very low operating cost due to its modern design and energy efficiency.** The Warm Springs BART station was opened in 2017 and has been celebrated by BART as its most environmentally sustainable station. The station was designed for low energy use and has a large array of solar energy panels. The station was also designed for operational efficiency in maintenance and security. If considered for closure, Fremont requests information on the incremental operating costs of keeping the station open and on a process to consider a public-private partnership to help cover or fund the station's operating costs.
- **Closing the Warm Springs BART station hinders BART's credibility for TOD.** The Warm Springs BART station has been recognized by the Urban Land Institute as a model for TOD. The station is purposely designed as the center of an active transit-oriented village. A pedestrian pathway runs through the station, allowing area children to safely walk to school, and this access would be cut off if the station is closed. Housing developers have invested significantly in building

affordable and market-rate housing near the station. Residential units are still being constructed, and the east side of the station has lands owned by BART that offer substantial development and revenue-generating opportunities. Closing the Warm Springs BART station in the midst of active housing construction and future development opportunities would undermine BART's credibility as a reliable TOD partner.

We welcome opportunities to engage further with BART's staff and leadership to discuss the agency's strategies for the upcoming fiscal year and to prepare for the outcome of the upcoming Connect Bay Area measure, which may impact the future of the Warm Springs BART station.

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  
The Honorable David Haubert, Alameda County Board of Supervisors  
The Honorable Elisa Márquez, Alameda County Board of Supervisors