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January 8, 2025

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Bay Area Metro Center 375 Beale Street, Suite 800 San Francisco, CA 94105

## SUBJECT: MTC Planning Committee, January 10, 2025, Agenda Item 9A Plan Bay Area 2050+ Final Blueprint Retaining Irvington BART Station as a Near-Term Priority

Dear Commission Members,

This to express support from the City of Fremont to retain the Irvington BART Station project as a near-term priority (for the years 2025 to 2035) in the proposed Plan Bay Area 2050+ plan, as recommended by MTC staff in their report to the MTC Planning Committee (January 10, 2025, Committee Agenda Item 9A).

The planning for a future Irvington BART Station began in 1989 and was environmentally cleared by BART as part of the BART extension to Warm Springs/South Fremont. The station construction was deferred due to funding constraints at the time the Warm Springs Extension began construction, and then it became a "named project" for partial funding in the 2014 Measure BB transportation improvement program approved by the voters of Alameda County. In partnership with BART, Alameda County Transportation Commission, MTC and Fremont, the project is at a high state of readiness with an updated environmental clearance complete, an adopted station area development plan, 80% design completion, and 14 of 17 properties already acquired. To date, the City has invested \$45 million, and the only impediment to project delivery is full funding for construction.

The Irvington BART Station is a catalyst in Fremont for transit-oriented development and affordable housing within the Irvington Transit Priority Development Area (PDA). Currently, 679 new units of affordable housing development (among 5 projects) are under construction or in the pipeline for approval that have been justified based on adjacency to the planned Irvington BART Station. This is in addition to 276 affordable housing units already occupied near the future station. A significant factor for developer and local support of these housing investments has been the current regional designation of the Irvington BART Station as a "near-term priority."

We appreciate MTC's proposal to retain the Irvington BART Station as a near-term priority in Plan Bay Area 2050+. We look forward to continuing a partnership on the project with MTC, BART, and Alameda CTC for project funding and delivery.

Sincerely,

Raj Salwan Mayor, City of Fremont

MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee January 10, 2025 Page 1 of 1 Public Comment Received Agenda Item 9a