

Appendix B
BART System Expansion Policy

System Expansion

Over forty years ago, residents of Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco Counties supported the creation of the BART District. Since that time, BART has become a critical component of the region's transportation system. Today, the pressures of growth in the Bay Area continue. Accommodating this growth continues to drive further dispersal of jobs and housing. At the same time, BART and other transit systems demand a continued level of reinvestment to maintain service. Finally, financial support for BART and other transportation systems must compete with their infrastructure and social needs. It is imperative that BART, as a steward of public funding for transportation investments, continue to:

- Ensure cost-effective transportation investment decisions;
- Protect the taxpayers' investment in the District's physical infrastructure;
- Ensure the financial health and sustainability of the District; and
- Enhance the Bay Area's environment and quality of life.

GOALS:

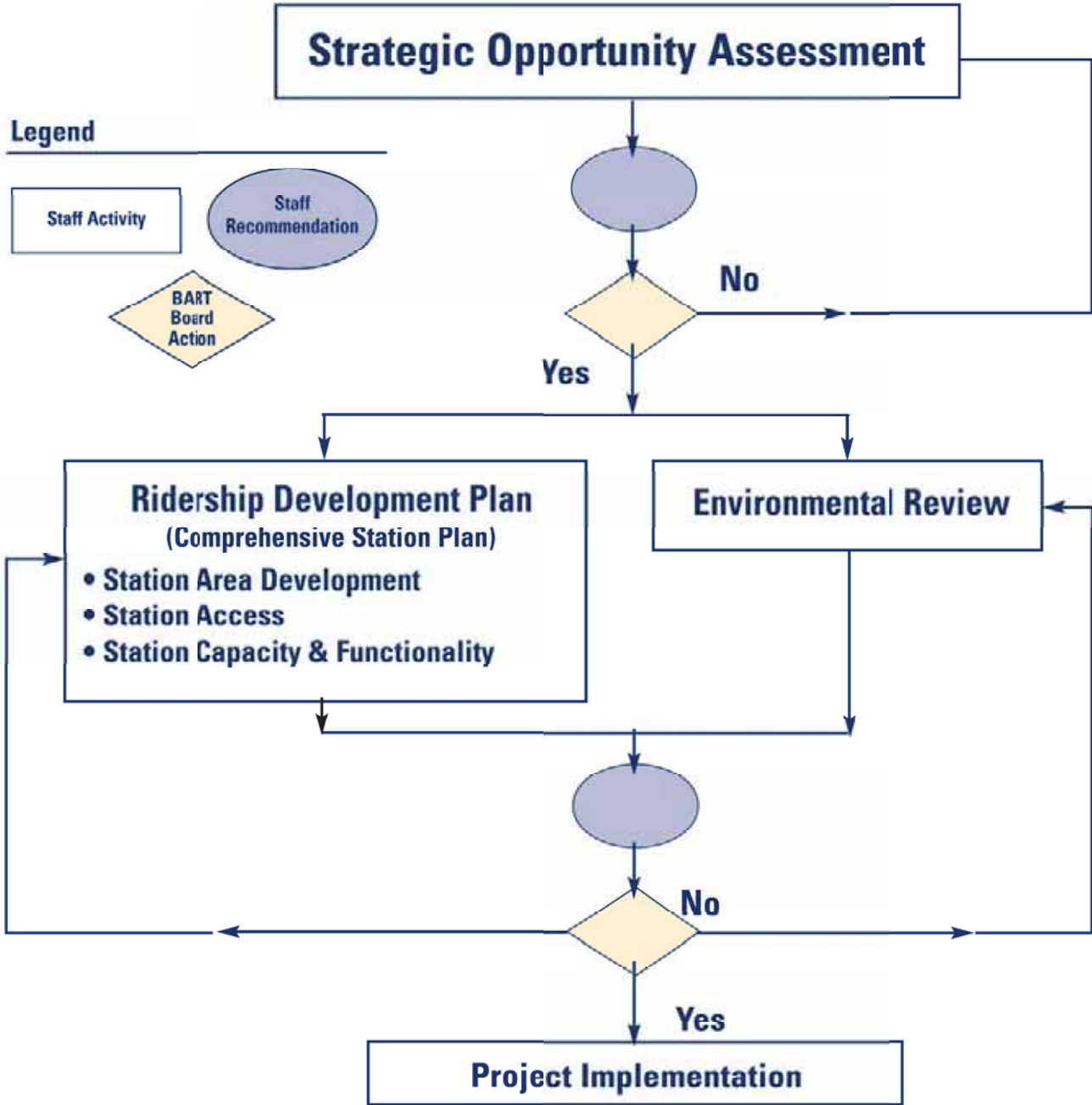
- 1 Enhance regional mobility, especially access to jobs.
- 2 Generate new ridership on a cost-effective basis.
- 3 Demonstrate a commitment to transit-supportive growth and development.
- 4 Enhance multi-modal access to the BART system.
- 5 Develop projects in partnership with communities that will be served.
- 6 Implement and operate technology-appropriate service.
- 7 Assure that all projects address the needs of the District's residents.

STRATEGIES:

PARTNERSHIP Seek partnerships with other transit agencies, local communities, and private entities to plan and implement service expansion.

TRANSIT SERVICE OPTIONS Explore new BART and other transit service options (e.g., commuter rail, light rail, quality bus), where appropriate, and possibly as an interim service.

CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR PROJECT ADVANCEMENT Develop a process and set of criteria for evaluating expansion opportunities and create some guidelines for determining whether to advance potential projects to the next phase.



PROJECT ADVANCEMENT PROCESS

STAGE 1

Strategic Opportunity Assessment

- Initial planning assessment of transit expansion opportunities.
- Level of effort commensurate with funding availability for study.
- May include several planning efforts before project recommendation brought forward to the Board.

Project Advancement

- Staff uses study reports to evaluate a project against the criteria and decides whether to recommend a project for advancement to the next stage.
- Board considers staff recommendations and decides whether to advance project recommendation to the next stage for further study.

STAGE 2

Ridership Development Plan

- Work in partnership with local jurisdictions to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) laying out coordinated timelines for transit project Environmental Review and the Ridership Development Plan process.
- Work in partnership with local jurisdictions to achieve transit ridership thresholds by balancing transit-oriented development (TOD) and access goals with community desires; seek commitments from local jurisdictions regarding land use and access plans.

Environmental Review

- CEQA and/or NEPA environmental review process (as applicable).

Project Advancement

- Ridership Development Plan prepared concurrently with Environmental Review and brought forward to the Board.
- Staff uses both documents to evaluate projects with the criteria and decides whether to recommend a project for advancement.
- Board considers staff recommendations and decides whether to advance projects to the next stage.

PROJECT ADVANCEMENT CRITERIA

Transit Supportive Land Use and Access

- Existing Land Use: Residential and/or Employment
- Existing Intermodal Connections
- Land Use Plans and Policies

Ridership Development Plan

- Ridership Threshold
- Station Context

Cost-Effectiveness

- Cost per New Rider: Base Case
- Cost per New Rider: with TOD
- Cost per Transportation System User Benefit

Regional Network Connectivity

- Regional Transportation Gap Closure

System and Financial Capacity

- Core System Improvements
- Capital Finance Plan
- Operating Finance Plan

Partnerships

- Community and Stakeholder Support