



SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

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2023

July 19, 2023

Janice Li
PRESIDENT

Mark Foley
VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Powers
GENERAL MANAGER

Jim Wunderman, President and CEO
Bay Area Council
The Klamath, Bay Area Council Headquarters
Pier 9, The Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA 94111

RE: Fare Gate Timeline

DIRECTORS

Debora Allen
1ST DISTRICT

Mark Foley
2ND DISTRICT

Rebecca Saltzman
3RD DISTRICT

Robert Raburn, Ph.D.
4TH DISTRICT

John McPartland
5TH DISTRICT

Elizabeth Ames
6TH DISTRICT

Lateefah Simon
7TH DISTRICT

Janice Li
8TH DISTRICT

Bevan Duffy
9TH DISTRICT

Dear Mr. Wunderman:

Thank you for your letter and for your ongoing support of our highest priority project, the Next Generation Fare Gates.

Our work to make BART the first transit agency in the country to adopt this new state-of-the-art fare gate system began four years ago. At every turn, we have made the rigorous process public through briefings and reports to the BART Board of Directors.

After years of advocating for project funding and getting public input and feedback at eight BART board meetings, we have put in place an aggressive timeline to install 775 new fare gates as soon as possible. Throughout this public review process and our persistent requests for county, state, and federal funds for the project, we have received feedback from Bay Area stakeholders on the gates and our ambitious timeline. However, your request to move up the timeline by five months was never addressed to BART.

We fully understand the impact fare evasion has on BART's public safety perception and finances. We have prioritized new fare gates as an essential component of our strategy to get Bay Area riders back on BART. We have pursued the Next Generation Fare Gate Project with a steadfast commitment to award the historic contract while simultaneously testing various prototype designs in-house and rolling out new, taller fare gates to enclose all elevators in the paid area. Also, we completed infrastructure changes at stations to prevent fare evasion, such as heightened barriers and alarmed swing gates and exit doors.

We share your urgency to get the new fare gates installed quickly and we are working with our highly qualified vendor to move swiftly but doing so with a fundamental responsibility to modernize our fare gates in a way that ensures safety and proven reliability in the system prior to full deployment. We are now fully underway in finalizing the design, and the first fare gates will come online as soon as December, followed by over half our stations in 2024 and the remaining stations in 2025.

We are developing our station prioritization plan based on the positive benefit to each station as well as the positive impact on the deployment schedule. We will continually look for ways to speed up the pace, but we simply cannot do so at the cost of the functionality and reliability of this project. I have ensured the BART project team is being fully supported to get the work done.

BART is ahead of the curve in the United States in delivering trailblazing fare gate technology that will improve our rider experience, optimize reliability, and boost safety.

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I have attached to this letter the fare gate deployment schedule presented to the BART Board of Directors, which became public on Friday, April 7, 2023. We will continue to brief Bay Area stakeholders and riders on our progress and timelines. As a reminder, this \$90-million project is 85% funded. Your advocacy in helping us secure the remaining funding would be tremendously helpful as it took multiple years to line up money for the base contract.

Our work to improve the rider experience and enhance safety goes beyond deploying new fare gates. We are trying new approaches to safety and addressing harassment and homelessness in our system. We are doubling down on our cleaning efforts and enhancing the lighting at stations. In September, we will increase evening service by 50% and improve frequencies on weekends. On weekdays, our busiest line into San Francisco, the Yellow Line, will see a train every 10 minutes instead of every 15 minutes.

Despite persistent remote work trends and a slow downtown recovery, we are seeing positive signs of riders returning to BART, including workers traveling on weekdays and families making leisure trips on weekends. Total ridership in Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023) came in at 45.8M trips, an increase of 33% compared to 34.5M trips in FY22.

We will continue to work to increase ridership by focusing on what our riders care most about — a safe, clean, and reliable system.

I want to thank you again for your continued partnership. Working together as a region is the only way to ensure BART continues to deliver on the shared promise we and the Bay Area Council embarked on more than 50 years ago — to build and operate our region's great connector.

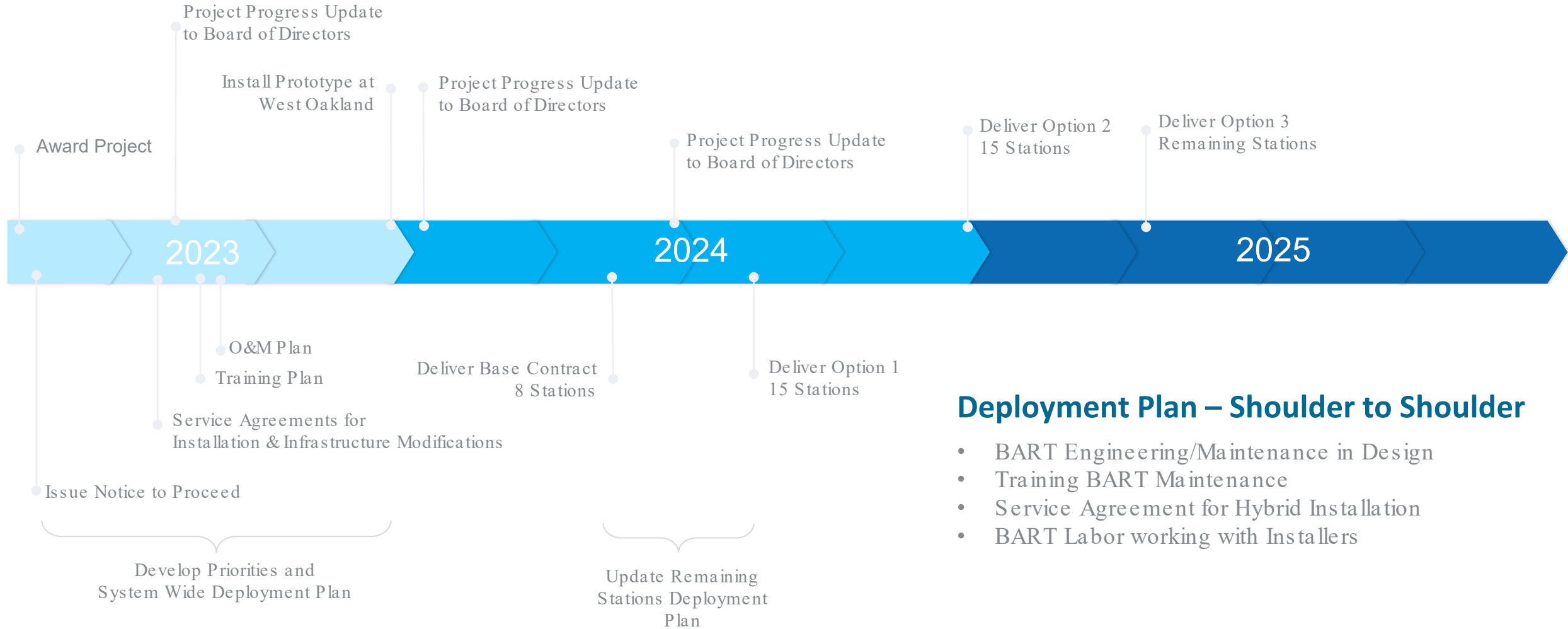
Sincerely,



Robert Powers
General Manager

cc: BART Board of Directors
Bay Area Council Board of Directors

Next Generation Initial Deployment Schedule



Deployment Plan – Shoulder to Shoulder

- BART Engineering/Maintenance in Design
- Training BART Maintenance
- Service Agreement for Hybrid Installation
- BART Labor working with Installers