2.0 Introduction

2.1 Vision

The Walnut Creek BART station is a key piece of infrastructure for a thriving community that can also be characterized as the business and arts center for Contra Costa County. With Downtown Walnut Creek shopping, the Dean Lesher Center for the Performing Arts and the offices of the Golden Triangle all within an easy walk, the Walnut Creek BART station acts as a gateway between these regional destinations and the entire Bay Area. And although the station and the area are clearly successful, the City of Walnut Creek and BART are seeking to build on that success.

BART will soon initiate a joint development project at the station that will bring new jobs, shops and residences to the station property. In addition, initiatives such as a new Bicycle Pavilion continue to improve the station's quality and ability to serve our patrons. The City of Walnut Creek is currently engaged in a General Plan Update effort that will help define the goals and objectives of the City for the foreseeable future. The County at large feels so strongly about Walnut Creek that it was chosen as a "test site" for in-depth study in the recently completed Shaping Our Future planning effort.

This Comprehensive Station Plan attempts to both document the diverse efforts looking at the station and surroundings as well as identify areas for future attention.

2.2 Goals and Objectives

BART's goals for the Walnut Creek Station are an extension of the goals for the system as a whole and serve to reinforce the policy direction set by the BART Board in 1999 when it adopted the BART Strategic Plan.
Strategic Plan Focus Area: The BART Customer Experience

Comprehensive Plan Goal: Deliver quality transportation to Walnut Creek Station BART riders

Objectives:
- Ensure the Walnut Creek Station meets the needs of BART commuters through quality design of station facilities such as stairs, escalators, fare gates, platforms and paid areas.
- Provide convenient access to the station by every mode. Work together with partner transit agencies, localities and others to improve rider's access to and from the station.

Strategic Plan Focus Area: Building Partnerships for Support

Comprehensive Plan Goal: Work proactively with local businesses, the development community, transit agencies and government partners to plan for the station and station area's future.

Objectives:
- Coordinate station upgrades and modifications with Walnut Creek Transit Village Associates, government and transit agency partners to minimize disruptions to BART passengers, area residents and neighboring businesses.
- Improve access to the station for underserved communities through active partnerships with transit agencies and government agencies.
- Seek opportunities to improve the station and station area through partnerships with local businesses and business associations.

Strategic Plan Focus Area: Transit Travel Demand

Comprehensive Plan Goal: Alleviate crowding and congestion on the system through effective design and efficient access at the Walnut Creek Station.

Objectives:
- Identify design issues that address capacity concerns such as width of platforms, expansion of fare gates, and increased vertical circulation.
- Support initiatives to alleviate peak period congestion through access programs such as...
additional midday parking or reverse commuting.

- Facilitate transit-oriented development to encourage access to the station by walking and encourage off-peak trips.
- Plan for access improvements to the station by all modes and work with regional partners to implement a set of access recommendations.

**Strategic Plan Focus Area: Land Use and Quality of Life**

Comprehensive Plan Goal: Establish transit-oriented development on-site and within the station area.

Objectives:

- Work closely with the designated Walnut Creek BART station developer, Walnut Creek Transit Village Associates and the City of Walnut Creek, to ensure the success of the proposed development project.
- Work together with the City of Walnut Creek to foster and encourage high-density commercial and residential development in the immediate station area.
- Respond to concerns of older residential communities such as Almond-Shuey as station upgrades and development moves forward.

**Strategic Plan Focus Area: Physical Infrastructure**

Comprehensive Plan Goal: Accommodate the needs of BART commuters and area residents for the next 25 years.

Objectives:

- Develop a concept plan for upgrading the station to meet capacity needs until the Year 2025.
- Identify construction priorities and develop a conceptual understanding of the costs and time required to accomplish improvements.

**Strategic Plan Focus Area: People of BART**

Comprehensive Plan Goal: Accommodate the needs of BART staff.

Objectives:
• Include new and upgraded staff facilities in station concept plan.

Strategic Plan Focus Area: Financial Health
Comprehensive Plan Goal: Identify areas in need of improvement to enhance BART's short-term and long-term financial health.

Objectives:
• Encourage transit-supportive land uses in station vicinity that will generate higher ridership in the future.
• Support efforts to develop BART property in a manner that will provide future revenue stream and enhance ridership.
• Develop cost-effective capital improvements and programs that will improve the station's functionality and encourage enhanced ridership.

2.3 Comprehensive Station Plan Process

The Comprehensive Station Plan process was initiated by the BART Board to coordinate the disparate planning efforts within and outside of BART that affect the stations. As a result, much of the planning process involved bringing together internal and external stakeholders, developing an understanding of plans and initiatives that impact the station, and facilitating a common vision for these efforts. At the same time, the comprehensive plan team analyzed station needs and developed recommended actions in the three areas of concentration: station area development, station access and station design.

It should be noted that the Walnut Creek BART Station Comprehensive Plan was developed at the same time as planning for the station's joint development was taking place. While this gave BART the fortunate ability to enter into a dialogue with the development team as work progressed, many issues are still unresolved. At the time of publication, the development is still in the planning phase of the project, forcing the BART staff to make certain

Figure 2: The Comprehensive Plan process incorporates Station three interrelated areas of concentration.
assumptions when planning for access and capacity improvements. It is recommended that this report be viewed as a work-in-progress that must be revisited as the development becomes more clearly defined.