



SPUR

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April 16, 2017

Office of Senator Bob Wieckowski
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 680 (Wieckowski) – BART TOD– SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wieckowski:

SPUR is pleased to offer support SB 680, which expands the maximum distance within which the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) is allowed to develop a transit-oriented development (TOD) project, from ¼ mile to ½ mile.

SPUR (San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association) is a member-supported nonprofit organization that promotes good planning and good government. We bring people together from across the political spectrum to develop solutions to the big problems our cities face. With offices in San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland, we are recognized as a leading civic planning organization and are respected for our independent and holistic approach to urban issues.

Transit-oriented development is a key aspect of the state's efforts to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Last year, BART adopted a bolder TOD policy, reflecting the adopted Plan Bay Area framework, the loss of redevelopment tools and growing regional affordability challenges resulting from a serious housing shortage. Transit-oriented development at BART stations presents a major opportunity to grow the region's housing stock and job opportunities in the right places, near transit and other amenities.

The proposed change to ½ mile, or typically a 10 minute walk, is consistent with recent legislation that has allowed the distance for TOD for projects such as transit villages (AB 987) and enhanced infrastructure financing districts (SB 628) to be ½ mile.

SPUR supports Senator Wieckowski's efforts to strengthen BART's ability to pursue transit-oriented development and consequently develop 20,000 housing units by 2040 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 680,000 pounds per day. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kristy Wang
Community Planning Policy Director