



2025 Federal and State Legislative Advocacy Program

BART Board of Directors

December 5, 2024



2024 Federal Advocacy Highlights

Delegation/Legislative Engagement

- In March, BART Directors, the General Manager and staff conducted a two-day advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. meeting with Members of Congress, the FTA, and professional committee staff.
- In April, Director Raburn and staff participated in the APTA Legislative Conference.
- In May, the Deputy General Manager and AGM of External Affairs participated in a Bay Area Council D.C. advocacy trip.
- The Board of Directors took positions on 3 bills in the 118th Congress.



2024 Federal Advocacy Highlights

FY25 Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending Requests

- Senators Butler and Padilla have a joint \$2 million request for Station LED Lighting pending within the Senate Appropriations bill.
- Speaker Emerita Pelosi and Rep. Garamendi each have \$250,000 requests for Station LED Lighting pending within the House Appropriations bill.
- Rep. Barbara Lee has a \$850,000 request for relocation of the Lake Merritt Station Uninterruptible Power Supply pending within the House Appropriations bill.



2024 Federal Advocacy Highlights

Grants and Loan Awards

- Awarded \$14.1 million Charging & Fueling Infrastructure grant for EV charging at BART-operated parking facilities.
- Awarded \$2 million for Real-Time Pathway Navigation Pilot from SMART Grant program.
- In October, TIFIA loan closed with the Build America Bureau for up to \$544.6 million. First disbursement of funds will support BART's new Police Headquarters.

FTA Engagement

- In October, BART hosted FTA Deputy Administrator Veronica Vanterpool for a ride on the system to highlight the District's safety initiatives.



Proposed 2025 FEDERAL Advocacy Goals

- Support Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 appropriations levels consistent with those authorized in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)/Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
- Submit Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending requests to federal delegation to support priority projects.
- Engage in early discussions regarding surface transportation reauthorization; Advocate for new formula funding for transit operations, eligibility of state of good repair capital investments, and other policies favorable to the District.
- Educate federal delegation on BART's priorities within a regional transportation revenue measure; Engage members in discussions on enabling legislation sponsored by the District or the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC).
- Continue to educate the delegation and Administration on BART's responsible stewardship of emergency relief funding and recent efforts to increase revenue, trim costs and operate more efficiently.

Proposed 2025 FEDERAL Advocacy Goals (cont.)

- Provide updates on activities within the Progressive Policing and Community Engagement Bureau and progress on the Next Generation Fare Gates project.
- Seek additional funding for cybersecurity measures and support increased appropriations for the Transit Security Grant Program.
- Engage federal delegation and agency staff in support of grant applications; Explore opportunities to improve BART's eligibility and competitiveness under existing and potentially new programs for priority projects and to address the District's backlog of urgent state of good repair needs.
- Monitor the ongoing legal dispute surrounding the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA); Support efforts to ensure federal funding continues to flow to California transit agencies.

2024 State Advocacy Highlights

Legislative/Budget Engagement

- Engaged the Board in taking positions on 18 bills in the 2023-2024 legislative session.
- Conducted two-day advocacy trip with BART Directors, Executive Leadership, and Labor Partners to meet with members, Governor's Office, committee staff, and agency officials.
- President Dufty provided testimony at the Senate Transportation Committee in support of SB 1031.
- Participated in Statewide Transit Transformation Task Force convened by CalSTA.
- Hosted Assembly Transportation Committee Chair Lori Wilson on a tour of the OCC and BART system.



2024 State Advocacy Highlights

Sponsored Legislation

- Introduced and passed AB 2325 (Lee) revising BART's financial structure.
- Bill passed the Legislature on consent and was signed into law on July 15.



Grants Advocacy

- Obtained letters of support from our state delegation for local, state and federal grant applications.
- Awarded \$25 million for the North Berkeley Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Mobility Enhancements Project from TIRCP.



Proposed 2025 STATE Advocacy Goals

- Engage in efforts coordinated by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to develop enabling legislation for a regional transportation revenue measure to be placed on the ballot in November 2026.
- Parallel to a bill led by MTC, BART will work to secure additional legislative authority for new funding mechanisms within future BART District measures.
- Advocate that transit funding within the FY26 State Budget not be eliminated, shifted, or used for non-transit purposes; Work with member offices to submit budget requests that align with BART priorities.
- As a member of the Transit Transformation Task Force, participate in the development of a final report to the Legislature that provides findings and recommendations on how to grow transit ridership, improve the rider experience, and increase opportunities for transit operations funding.

Proposed 2025 STATE Advocacy Goals (cont.)

- Engage with transit agency partners and the California Transit Association on the reauthorization of the Cap and Trade Program; Advocate for new funding for transit operations, eligibility of state of good repair investments, and other policies favorable to the District.
- Engage in legislative efforts concerning transit worker and rider safety such as enhanced penalties for crimes against transit workers and expansion of prohibition order authority.
- Pursue state grant funding to support transit-oriented development (TOD), related infrastructure, and station access improvements; Support legislation to encourage density of housing and jobs near transit.
- Engage in efforts to refine California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemptions for transit projects and explore other opportunities for permitting reform.