

San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District

2150 Webster Street, P. O. Box 12688, Oakland, CA 94612-2688



BOARD OF DIRECTORS DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 2,001st MEETING THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026

Members of the Board of Directors

Melissa Hernandez, President (District 5)
Edward Wright, Vice President (District 9)
Matthew Rinn (District 1)
Mark Foley (District 2)
Barnali Ghosh (District 3)
Robert Raburn (District 4)
Elizabeth Ames (District 6)
Victor Flores (District 7)
Janice Li (District 8)

MEETING DESCRIPTION

A Regular Meeting of the BART Board of Directors was held on April 23, 2026 in the BART Board Room, 2150 Webster Street, 1st Floor, Oakland, California. President Hernandez presided, with Bob Franklin as District Secretary.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Hernandez called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

A. Roll Call.

Directors Present in Oakland: Directors Ames, Flores, Foley, Ghosh, Li, Raburn, and Rinn, and Vice President Wright and President Hernandez.

B. Introduction of Special Guests. President Hernandez welcomed the Special Guests for this meeting and gave the following address:

i. BART "Take Our Kids to Work Day" Participants.

- We have some very special guests in the audience. Today is Take Our Kids to Work Day. And I am excited to welcome the kids of BART employees who have joined us in the Boardroom this morning. Thank you for being here. It is great to see all of you.
- In this room, very important decisions are made that directly impact how BART operates and how BART supports the Bay Area. Today, our kids get to see firsthand how elected officials make policy decisions and hopefully they envision themselves in our seats and become our future leaders.
- This year's theme is "*The Future is at Work*". It reminds us that the work we do every day isn't just about the present. It's also about shaping the future. We are participating in this nation-wide event to help ignite our kids' dreams, and open doors for the next generation.
- Throughout the BART District today, we are joined by over 400 children of nearly 300 BART employees. This is a great opportunity for us to highlight career pathways in transit, from engineering and planning, to operations and the police.
- To our BART kids visiting today: Thank you again for joining us! We hope you have an exciting day. We have a lot of fun activities and tours planned for you.
- Also, thank you to everyone who made today possible, including the Workforce Development Team and all the BART volunteers. A special thanks to each BART parent or guardian who brought their child here today to see what we all do to keep the Bay Area moving.
- At this moment, I would like all the BART kids to please come forward to join us for a group photo.

Pledge of Allegiance: One of the special guests, Anai Lewis, led the pledge of allegiance.

2. REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

President Hernandez did not have a report.

Public Comments: Aleta Dupree and Barney Smits addressed the Board on this item.

3. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Rinn briefly provided an update on the following agenda items from the Audit Committee meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2026:

1. The Chief Financial Officer made a brief report recapping the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

2. The Committee discussed the Office of Inspector General’s Authority Over Executive Leadership and Retaliation Investigations.
3. The OIG presented the results of its Workers’ Compensation Audit’s Employee Survey of 289 employees.
4. The IG presented results from its investigations into Proportional Billing Practices and other investigations.
5. The IG presented a snapshot of its work through March.
6. Internal Audit presented its Fuel Card Program Audit & Fuel Vendor Cost Controls Audit Update.
7. Crowe, LLP presented its financial audit plan for fiscal year 2026 and will present its draft final reports to the Audit Committee in November with the final reports presented to the full Board in December.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

President Hernandez brought the consent calendar to the Board:

- A. Minutes for April 9, 2026 BART Board meeting.
- B. Approval of Distribution from Pension Liability Trust for Administrative Costs for Fiscal Year 2026, Fiscal Year 2025, and Fiscal Year 2024.
- C. Authorization for the General Manager (or his designee) to Execute State and Local Government Agency-Required Agreements for Affordable Housing Projects.
- D. Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Application Agreements - Round 10.
- E. Amend Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Policy to Add Language Establishing Surplus Lands Act Portfolio and Declaring Land in the Portfolio to be Exempt Surplus Land.
- F. Procurement with Transource Services Corporation, a National Association of State Procurement Officials Provider, for Firewall Hardware, Software, and Related Maintenance, Training and Support Services, Agreement 6M4937.

Public Comments:

Barney Smits addressed the Board on the consent calendar.

Vote Summary

Motions: Moved by Director Raburn/ Seconded by Director Rinn.
 Aye: Directors Ames, Flores, Foley, Ghosh, Li, Raburn, and Rinn, Vice President Wright and President Hernandez.
 No: 0
 Abstain: 0
 Absent: 0
 Result: 9-0-0, motion carried by roll call vote.

5. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

President Hernandez introduced BART General Manager Bob Powers, who gave the following report:

April ridership was 10% higher than a year ago and 6% over budget.

Highway1-80 closures over the past weekend also helped contribute to improved BART ridership.

The Transbay Tube lighting project will occur over 3 upcoming weekends, which will impact service throughout the system.

BART received the Government Finance Officers’ Association award for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which is a recognition of excellence in government accounting, for the fourth year in a row.

The Next Gen Faregate project also continues to win awards.

The Regional Network Management committee has produced a new series of wayfinding maps for riders, which are regional transit connection maps going in available display cases.

San Mateo station enhancements are mobilizing today, as a way to improve San Mateo County stations.

Today BARTy train wraps are rolling out, which is a potential new revenue source. The General Manager will report back on rider comments and how the program is going.



Lastly, the GM paid tribute to Molly Burke, Government and Community Relations representative, on her retirement and 35-year career at BART. Ms. Burke addressed the Board and then took a picture with the Board members. Directors shared their stories to give thanks for all of Molly Burke's amazing accomplishments.

Public Comment

Barney Smits, Aleta Dupree, Glen Overton and Bob Franklin addressed the Board on this item.

6. ADMINISTRATION ITEMS: Janice Li, Chairperson

President Hernandez turned the items over to Janice Li, Chairperson for the committee.

Chairperson Li introduced Item A.

- A. Adopt a Resolution Ratifying the Agreements to Extend the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and Create a Successor Agreement with the BART Police Managers' Association (BPMA).

The General Manager introduced David Coleman, Director of Labor Relations. He also recognized the accomplishments of Mr. Coleman, as his last day with BART is today. David Coleman gave the presentation along with Cassondra Brown, Manager of Labor Relations.

Public Comment

Scott Strance, BPMA President, and Glen Overton addressed the Board on this item.

Director Foley thanked David Coleman and BPMA leadership for aligning interests and moving forward.

Director Ames asked about other contract negotiations.

Chairperson Li recognized the trust between BART and its labor partners and thanked BPMA President Strance and its members.

Vote Summary

Motions: Moved by Director Foley/ Seconded by Director Raburn.

Aye: Directors Ames, Flores, Foley, Ghosh, Li, Raburn, and Rinn, Vice President Wright and President Hernandez.

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

Result: 9-0-0, motion carried by roll call vote.

- B. Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget Update and Rail Service Plan Overview. For Information.

Pamela Herhold, Assistant General Manager, Performance and Budget; Sylvia Lamb, Assistant General Manager, Operations; John FitzGibbon, Manager of Scheduling and Service; and Christopher Simi, Budget Director presented on the item.

Public Comment

Glen Overton addressed the Board on this item.

Director Foley thanked staff and asked if staff shares the proposed new schedule and rationale behind it with transit agency partners, being cognizant of the impacts BART scheduling has on small operators, before it is implemented.

Chairperson Li asked staff to highlight schedule improvements and benefits during regional meetings with partner agencies, as this is a priority of MTC.

Director Raburn thanked staff for their work and asked about investment income, to highlight its improvement, including the TIFIA loan. He also inquired about key transfers between the Orange and Blue lines (Dublin to Richmond). It is a priority transfer with a wait time of about 4 minutes currently, down from 17-19 minutes.

Director Ames asked questions about timed transfers, especially for passengers travelling between Dublin/Pleasanton and Fremont.

Vice President Wright acknowledged the tremendous scheduling improvements which will benefit BART riders. He also wanted to understand the tradeoffs if headways of service on the Yellow line is lengthened. He also would like to see marketing plan during these presentations for future schedule changes.

C. Fiscal Year 2027 Strategy for Loans, Deferrals, and Reserves.

Chairperson Li introduced the item. Joseph Beach, Chief Financial Officer, gave the presentation.

Public Comment

There were no public comments on this item.

Director Foley had a question about the State loan and whether BART has to commit to the loan before the elections in November and if BART could delay taking that loan to minimize the impact if the revenue measure is unsuccessful in November.

Director Rinn wanted to discuss the tradeoffs between the use of operating reserves versus loans. He is also advocating for reducing expenses, so neither option is needed and wants to have a discussion about the balance of using reserves versus incurring future debt.

Director Raburn thanked staff and asked if BART could defer the State loan until after the elections, and if there are separate loan agreements for each operator. Staff said the terms would be similar, but the agreements would be separate. Director Raburn reiterated that TIFIA is required to use sales tax returns, but the repayment prioritization goes first to sales tax revenue bonds, then to a potential TIFIA loan.

Director Ghosh is reluctant to use reserves, especially from the Retiree Health Benefit Trust, as these deferrals cost the most and too much to use. Director Ghosh is also in alignment with staff's plan, based upon the information available now. She doesn't want service cut or fares increased if the sales tax measure passes.

Director Ames asked about how the use of reserves impacts credit ratings.

Chairperson Li summed up the presentation about the nuance and complexities of balancing the budget and appreciated the clarity around options BART has and the rationale of how they are sequenced. She said BART is fortunate to have all these tools. She also said BART should decrease borrowing and deferrals and instead strive to reduce operating expenses, increase revenue/ridership, and further hone in on projections. She is aligned with the financial sequencing presented on slide 8 of the deck. She also pointed out another challenge to BART staff: to develop a similar strategy in case the measure fails, perhaps after the budget is passed.

7. ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS ITEMS:

President Hernandez introduced Chairperson Mark Foley to lead the following item:

A. Award of Contract No. 17BY-110B to provide and install two (2) 300KVA Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) systems at the Lake Merritt Administration Building (LMA) to Blocka Construction, Inc.

B.

Sylvia Lamb, Assistant General Manager, Operations; Joy Sharma, Assistant General Manager Infrastructure Deliver – Interim; and Rachel Russell, Senior Project Manager Infrastructure Delivery; gave the presentation.

Public Comments

There are no public comments on the item.

Director Raburn asked if the increased cost of the contract was due to the Federal change or due to changes in the contract, and staff said the DBE requirements imposed by the Federal Government accounted for all the cost increases.

Chairperson Foley asked if it could be deferred until after the funding revenue. Staff explained there was a funding constraint, which required BART to use the funds now.

Vote Summary

Motions: Moved by Director Raburn/ Seconded by Director Ghosh.
Aye: Directors Ames, Flores, Foley, Ghosh, Li, Raburn, and Rinn, Vice President Wright and President Hernandez.
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 0
Result: 9-0-0, motion carried by roll call vote.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Barney Smits and Glen Overton addressed the Board on this item.

9. BOARD MATTERS

A. Board Member Reports.

Vice President Wright gave the following report:

This past weekend began a monthly series of cultural and art activities and plaza vending, which is a culmination of many community groups working together to develop a program that is both sustainable and scalable.

Today is the groundbreaking of the property bordering Mission Housing with an affordable housing project.

The 16th Street/Mission Station plaza redesign is underway, with office hours on April 27, 2026 from 4-6pm at Kitava Kitchen, on May 5, 2026 from 2 to 4pm at the Youth Arts Exchange, and on May 13, 2026 from 6 to 8pm for a spanish language community meeting at 518 Valencia.

May 21, 2026 will also host an open house at the Friendship House.

Vice President Wright thanked AICD and BART's Government and Community Relations Department for all their work and collaboration.

Director Raburn provided the following report:

April 9: San Bruno weed abatement request from CM Marty Medina that I forwarded to Sylvia Lamb. Within 24 hours Sylvia sent photos of completed work led by Michael Gibson and Greg Lombardi.

April 15: CCJPA Board, Suisun City

April 17: YIMBY Gala, 511 Harrison St, SF

April 18: BART Presentation to Teachers Advancing Climate Action, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

April 22: Estamos Unidos, Juntos Fruitvale with Unity Council and the Oakland Mayor

April 22: Oakland Town Hall with Mayor Barbara Lee and Council President Kevin Jenkins, Northeastern University.

Director Ghosh

April 16: She gave a presentation to Berkeley City Councilmember Terry Taplin about the Alternative Service Plan and Police Department vacancies, especially with transit ambassadors.

April 16: She attended BART's Audit Committee meeting.

April 19: She participated on a panel at the Accelerating the Transition Conference for San Francisco Climate Week, along with El Cerrito Mayor Gabriel Quinto, Berkeley City Councilmember Igor Tregub, Oakland City Councilmember Charlene Wang and Humboldt Supervisor Mike Gipson. She thanked staff for the support.

She also thanked Sylvia Lamb for her short- and long-term approaches in addressing water leaking issues and Boris Lipkin for his support on the Ohlone Greenway bike path project.

She also reiterated her request for improved communications in general, especially during service interruptions.

She recognized that the Northern Section of the California Chapter of the American Planning Association acknowledged the North Berkeley BART TOD project with an award for excellence in urban design. The Lake Merritt Station Area Plan Implementation also won an award.

Director Foley gave the following report:

He thanked Mag Tatum for providing service over the weekend to members of the BART Police Civilian Review Board.

April 13: he attended the Pleasant Hill BART Station Leasing Authority Board meeting with Director Rinn to discuss Block D Transit Oriented Development options.

April 14: Director Foley gave a presentation to Oakley City Council, who wanted to know if no additional revenue is identified to fund BART and if BART can't safely operate, will the property tax dedicated to BART be reduced or suspended?

Director Foley also expressed an interest in District-specific Town Halls to have a conversation about BART, looking to the General Manager and the Government and Community Relations Department for support. He also wished all Moms a Happy Mother's Day.

Director Ames provided the following update:

April 22: BART presented at the Fremont Rotary Club meeting. She thanked Bradley Dunn and Sergio Ardila for this support.

April 18: She spent Earth Day in Fremont and then attended a Celebration of Life at the Elk's Lodge.

B. Roll Call for Introductions.

C. In Memoriam.

Director Ames provided an in memoriam for Charles John Wolosz in Hayward. He was a former BART employee, and she acknowledged how he would never use his sick leave while working for BART.

10. CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered into Closed Session under item A at 12:02pm.

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

Name of case: Tonya Lewis-Williams, et al. v. San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District

Case Nos.: 25-740; 22-cv-06119

Government Code Section: 54956.9(d)(1)

11. OPEN SESSION

The Board returned from Closed Session into Open Session at 12:32pm.

A. Announcements from Closed Session, if any.

There were no announcements to make.

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 12:32pm.

Bob Franklin
District Secretary