

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 2,000th MEETING THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 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 9, 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 9:01 a.m.

A. Roll Call.

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance: President Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Introduction of Special Guests: None.

2. REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

President Hernandez announced that the BART Board meetings which had been scheduled for July 23, 2026 and August 27, 2026 have been canceled.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

President Hernandez brought the consent calendar forward:

A. Draft Minutes for March 26, 2026 BART Board meeting.

B. Amendment to Agreement with Ogletree Deakins for Increase in Funding for Legal Services.

C. Award of Contract No. 59CT-140 with Hart Design Build Inc. for Wayfinding Improvements Phase 4.1.

D. Award of Contract No. 15TC-121 with Goebel Construction Inc. for Slope Stabilization Maintenance of Way (MW-12- North Slope).

Vote Summary

Moved by: Director Foley/ Seconded by Director Raburn.

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

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Director Ames

Result: 8-0-0, motion carried by roll call vote.

4. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

Ridership: March ridership was up 13% above budget and up 20% from last year. March 25 was the highest ridership day since the pandemic with almost 230,000 riders using the system, thanks in part to the San Francisco Giants opening night. Saturday, March 28, with 152,000 riders, was the second highest Saturday since the pandemic. The month of March 2026 also had the fewest train delays for any month in the last ten years.

On April 2, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and Directors Foley and Rinn rode the system, starting at the Pleasant Hill/Contra Costa Centre BART Station. BART also gave a tour with representatives from Congressman Swallow's staff on that day.

The Cherry Blossom festival is this weekend in Japantown in San Francisco.

Also, at the next Board meeting, BART will feature participants from "Take your Kids to Work Day."

Public Comments

Sal Cruz and Barney Smits addressed the Board on this item.

5. ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

President Hernandez introduced Chairperson Janice Li to lead the following item:

A. Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Operating Budget Overview.

Pam Herhold, Assistant General Manager for Performance and Budget, and Chris Simi, Director of Budgets, gave the informational presentation.

Public Comments

There were no public comments on this item.

Discussion:

Director Raburn had questions about the deferrals, especially as it concerned Retiree Health Benefits Trust and the negative impacts of future debt.

Director Rinn also asked about future debt, and expressed his concern about loans, which create future liabilities. He said there is still work to be done on internal expenses. As BART compares 2019 to today, how are the number of Full-Time Employees impacted, given the reduction in ridership. He doesn't want to solve the problem today at the expense of future budgets.

Director Flores asked questions about the five-year outlook, and sales tax projections, given how dependent BART is on sales tax revenue. He also questioned how labor costs are forecast, given the uncertainty of future collective bargaining agreements.

Director Ghosh asked questions about vacant positions, some of which are critical. Her focus is on a safe and secure BART system. She asked about the service plan, if it will change in the upcoming fiscal year, and how it compares to pre-pandemic levels, especially as it relates to the number of full time employees. Her focus is on the service BART is running and the budget required to operate that service, seeking efficiencies whenever possible. She reiterated that there are no fare increases in Fiscal Year 2027, assuming the funding measure passes.

Director Foley asked for a 5-10-15 year financial roadmap, with respect to efficiencies and innovations, given all the uncertainty ahead. He thinks a longer financial view would help guide the organization.

Vice President Wright doesn't think BART should be borrowing to close a deficit. He asked about the large increase in the Clipper and bank fees. The cost increases are tied to the challenges of Clipper, as well as the Tap and Ride increased transaction fees. He expressed concerns of the banking fees of Tap and Ride, from a budgetary perspective, and explored ways to reduce transactional fees. He acknowledged the interconnection between ridership growth and budget reductions as a challenge when looking for ways to balance the budget.

President Hernandez explored different approaches in credit card fees, to reduce the increased fees from the growth of the Tap and Ride program. She asked questions about breakdown by county of sales tax information.

Director Raburn asked if BART can aggregate transactions from Tap and Ride on a daily/weekly basis, versus on an individual basis, as a way to reduce the fees incurred.

Chairperson Li has great concerns about increasing borrowing, and its impacts on future budgets. She asked what BART can do now to address the shortfall – can BART reduce its expenses by \$50 million now? She asked about multi-year contracts that will be renewing over the next 18 months. If BART delays these contracts, it would have a compounded benefit in the future, due to savings from the reduction of loan repayments.

6. PLANNING, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, ACCESS, AND LEGISLATION

President Hernandez introduced Chairperson Robert Raburn, who led the following informational item and split the presentation and discussion into three parts: the 3 Federal bills, AB 1241, and SB 1218.:

A. Federal and State Legislation for Consideration.

Rodd Lee, Assistant General Manager of External Affairs, and Alex Walker, Manager of Government Relations and Legislative Affairs, gave the presentation.

Public Comment:
Barney Smits addressed the Board on this item.

Discussion:
The Board did not vote on AB 1941, keeping it on the Watch list.
Director Flores recused himself from SB1218, leaving the Board room for the discussion.

Vote Summary on support for the 3 Federal Bills (S3455, HR3449, HR7298)

Moved by: Director Li / Seconded by Director Ghosh.
Aye: Directors Flores, Foley, Ghosh, Li, Raburn, and Rinn, Vice President Wright and President Hernandez.
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: Director Ames
Result: 8-0-0, motion carried by roll call vote.

Vote Summary for support of SB1218

Moved by: Director Foley/ Seconded by President Hernandez.
Aye: Directors Foley, Li, Raburn, and Rinn, Vice President Wright and President Hernandez.
No: 0
Abstain: Director Ghosh.
Absent: Director Ames and Director Flores (who recused himself)
Result: 6-0-1, motion carried by roll call vote.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Barney Smits and Roland addressed the Board on this item.

8. BOARD MATTERS

- A. Board Member Reports.
- B. Roll Call for Introductions.
- C. In Memoriam.

Director Foley:
He attended the Antioch Town Hall, along with Mayor Bernal, State Senator Grayson and California State Treasurer Ma.

Director Flores
March 26: Attended the EBALDC Topping-off ceremony and the East Bay Innovation Awards (BART Legacy Award) at the Kaiser Performing Arts Center
March 31: He co-presented w/Director Raburn to the Oakland Chamber Public Policy Committee,
April 7: He participated in the Emeryville City Council meeting and gave a presentation on BART.
April 8: He went to the Alameda Mayors' Conference, also in Emeryville.

Director Raburn:
March 26: He went to the Asian American Architects & Engineers, International Hotel, SF
March 26: East Bay Innovation Awards (BART Legacy Award), Kaiser Performing
March 26: EBALDC Topping-off ceremony, Clara E. Chan Senior Affordable Housing, future Oakland Chinatown Station
March 31: Director Raburn gave a co-presentation w/Dir Flores to the Oakland Chamber Public Policy Committee, zoom

April 1: He attended the BART/AC Transit Interagency Liaison Committee, EB Paratransit

April 6: He went to the San Leandro Council Swearing-in of James Aguilar

Director Ghosh:

March 27: She attended the WCCTAC, which included SF Ferry presentation.

April 1: She attended the BART/AC Transit Interagency Liaison Committee for the first time.

April 1: She met with Berkeley Mayor Ishii to discuss BART's Alternative Service Plan, among other items.

April 1: She participated in Richmond Rising's community event.

Director Raburn also delivered the following In Memoriam for Rod Diridon, Sr.:

I adjourn this meeting in memory of Rodney John Diridon, Sr., often deemed the "father" of modern public transportation in Santa Clara County. He served as chair of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, California High-Speed Rail Authority, and the San Jose Diridon Train Station Steering Committee. He passed away on April 3, 2026, at the age of 87.

Supervisor Diridon was born in Dunsmuir, California and worked his way through college on the railroad as a brakeman and fireman. After receiving his master's in business administration, he served the United States Navy from 1963 to 1967, including two combat tours in Vietnam.

He began his political career as a councilmember in the City of Saratoga before becoming the youngest person elected to the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors in 1974. While on the Board of Supervisors, he chaired several regional government agencies, including the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments, and the Bay Area Quality Management District.

Supervisor Diridon's leadership was instrumental to the passage of the first half-cent sales tax in California to pay for public transit in 1976. This supported the birth and expansion of VTA, known at the time as County Transit. Along with Congressman Norman Mineta, Supervisor Diridon championed building VTA's light rail system, which opened to the public in 1991.

Supervisor Diridon worked extensively to build the region's rail network, chairing the Peninsula Transportation Alternatives Project and serving on the Joint Powers Board that led to the creation of Caltrain. He also played important roles in establishing the Altamont Express and Capitol Corridor rail services.

From 1993 to 2014, he was the founding executive director of the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI), which to this day plays a critical role in shaping transportation policy and practice around the country.

After retiring from the Board of Supervisors, Diridon fought to save a historic Cahill train station damaged by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. Restoration was completed in 1994, and the station was renamed the San Jose Diridon Station. Today, the San Jose Diridon Station serves Capitol Corridor, Caltrain, ACE Train, VTA light rail system, and regional and local bus lines. It is the planned future stop for California High Speed Rail and the Silicon Valley BART Extension.

Diridon believed deeply that public transportation was the solution to mitigate the impact of climate change and dedicated over 50 years of his life toward improving transit for everyone. Our deepest condolences go out to his family, friends, and the broader transportation community.

Public Comment

Roland addressed the Board on this item.

9. CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered into closed session for items A and B at 10:55am. There were no public comments on the item.

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Designated Representatives: Robert Powers, General Manager; Michael Jones, Deputy General Manager; and David Coleman, Director of Labor Relations
Employee Organizations: BART Police Managers' Association Government Code Section: 54957.6

B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Designated Representatives: Robert Powers, General Manager; Michael Jones, Deputy General Manager; and David Coleman, Director of Labor Relations Employee Organizations: AFSCME, SEIU, and ATU Government Code Section: 54957.6

10. OPEN SESSION

A. Announcements from Closed Session, if any.

The Board returned from Closed Session at 1:01pm and had no announcements on the Closed Session items. There were no public comments on the item.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Bob Franklin
District Secretary