

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors **DATE:** July 18, 2025

FROM: Rodd Lee
Assistant General Manager, External Affairs

SUBJECT: State Legislative Update – Second House Policy Committee Deadline

Today, July 18, was the deadline for bills to pass their second house policy committees. Below is a summary of actions taken on bills with a Board position.

ASSEMBLY BILLS

Assembly Bill (AB) 259 (B. Rubio) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences

This bill would extend, until January 1, 2030, the sunset date for provisions of the Brown Act that allow any member of a legislative body to participate in meetings from a remote location for a limited number of meetings each year, when a quorum of the body is present in the physical meeting location as well as for a member to participate remotely due to “emergency circumstances.”

AB 259 was referred to the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Local Government but was not set for hearing. As a result of missing the policy committee deadline, the bill will not move forward this year. Provisions of AB 259 have been incorporated into another bill, [Senate Bill \(SB\) 707](#) (Durazo), that makes several changes to the Brown Act and associated open meetings laws. This bill passed the Assembly Committee on Local Government (6-2) on July 16. It now awaits action in the Assembly Appropriations Committee; a hearing date has not yet been set.

AB 394 (Wilson): Public transportation providers

This bill would expand an existing sentencing enhancement for assault against a transit operator or passenger to apply to all public transit employees and contractors. Additionally, the bill would allow a court to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) against an individual that has harassed, committed violence against, or threatened to commit violence against a transit worker.

Amendments dated July 17 clarify the definition of “employer” to also include a joint powers authority or a public transit operator that operates a transit system itself as a public entity or through a contract or subcontract. These amendments also strike a provision that previously allowed for a TRO to be enforced across the entirety of the public transit system.

AB 394 passed the Senate Committee on Public Safety (6-0) on July 1 and the Senate Committee on Judiciary (13-0) on July 15. It now awaits action in the Senate Appropriations Committee; a hearing date has not yet been set.

SENATE BILLS

SB 63 (Wiener/Arreguín) San Francisco Bay area: local revenue measure: transportation funding

This bill would authorize a regional transportation funding measure on the November 2026 ballot to enact a sales tax in Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco Counties, with an option for San Mateo

and Santa Clara Counties to opt in. Funds from the measure would support transit operations and rider-focused transit coordination improvements.

Amendments dated July 9 designate County Connection, Tri-Delta Transit, LAVTA, Union City Transit, WestCAT, and WETA as “above the line” recipients of regional measure funds. Previously these agencies were designated as eligible recipients of funds returned to counties after the deficits of regional transit operators (BART, AC Transit, Muni, and Caltrain) were funded. Additionally, the percentage of measure funds that are to go to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for the implementation of transit transformation initiatives was reduced from up to 10 to up to 5 percent.

SB 63 passed the Assembly Committee on Transportation (11-4) on July 7 and the Assembly Committee on Revenue & Taxation (4-2) on July 14. It now awaits action in the Assembly Appropriations Committee; a hearing date has not yet been set.

[SB 71](#) (Wiener) California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions: environmental leadership transit projects

As amended on July 17, this bill would extend the sunset on existing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemptions for various transportation plans and projects until January 1, 2040, while retaining a January 1, 2032, sunset for projects using near-zero emission, natural gas, or low-nitrous oxide (NOx) technology. These amendments also specify that projects utilizing Tier 4 or cleaner locomotives that are not zero-emission are not eligible for CEQA exemption if located in air basins designated as high risk for particulate and ozone pollution. Additionally, amendments specify that projects must be located in existing rights-of-way, be they rail, highway, or otherwise public.

This bill would also expand the existing CEQA exemption to include the redesigning of transit networks and the construction or maintenance of transit infrastructure to charge, refuel or maintain zero-emission buses, trains or ferries as well as for microtransit, paratransit, shuttle, and ferry projects, as specified.

SB 71 passed the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources (12-0) on July 14. It now awaits action in the Assembly Appropriations Committee; a hearing date has not yet been set.

[SB 239](#) (Arreguín) Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body.

This bill would authorize a subsidiary body of a legislative body to use alternative teleconferencing provisions under the Brown Act and would impose requirements for notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed. The bill would require the subsidiary body to post the agenda at the primary physical meeting location and would require the members of the subsidiary body to visibly appear on camera during the open portion of a meeting that is publicly accessible via the internet.

On June 3, the bill was ordered to the inactive file at the request of the author. Provisions of SB 239 have been merged into [SB 707](#) (Durazo), which continues to move through the Assembly.

[SB 276](#) (Wiener) City and County of San Francisco: merchandising sales

This bill would authorize, until January 1, 2031, the City and County of San Francisco to adopt an ordinance, for a period of up to three years, that would prohibit sale of specified merchandise on public property without a permit, with a written warning issued for a first violation.

Amendments dated July 17 make the second and third violations within 18 months of the first violation punishable as infractions; subsequent violations after three prior violations within that 18-month period

shall be punishable as infractions or misdemeanors carrying a sentence of imprisonment in the county jail for a period of up to six months or by both imprisonment and fine.

SB 276 passed the Assembly Committee on Local Government (10-0) on July 2 and the Assembly Committee on Public Safety (9-0) on July 15. The bill now goes to the Assembly floor for consideration. This bill is an urgency measure that would take effect immediately upon being signed by the Governor. It requires a two-thirds vote of each house of the Legislature for passage.

Summer Recess and Appropriations Deadline

The Legislature is now on Summer Recess and will return on August 18. The next legislative deadline is August 29, when all bills considered fiscal must pass the Appropriations Committee in their second house.

GCR staff and BART's state advocates will continue to monitor and provide regular updates as bills move through the legislative process. If you have any questions, you may contact Alex Walker, Manager of Government Relations and Legislative Affairs, at (510) 299-6514 or alex.walker@bart.gov.

cc: Board Appointed Officers
Deputy General Manager
Executive Staff
Director of Government and Community Relations
Manager of Government Relations and Legislative Affairs