

San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District

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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES OF THE 1,998th MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 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)

Adopted: March 26, 2026

MEETING DESCRIPTION

A Regular Meeting of the BART Board of Directors was held on March 12, 2026 in the BART Board Room, 2150 Webster Street, 1st Floor, Oakland, California. President Melissa 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 Ames, Flores (arrived at 9:03 a.m.), Foley, Ghosh, Li, Raburn, and Rinn, Vice President Wright, and President Hernandez.

Absent: None.

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 provided the following report:

Next week, seven Board members, the General Manager, and BART staff will travel to Washington, D.C. for BART's annual advocacy trip.

- It will be a busy two days, with over 15 meetings scheduled with members of BART's congressional delegation, professional committee staff, and others.
- The meetings will focus on improvements to the rider experience, the Board's initial approval of an Alternative Service Plan, and BART's priorities within the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization.
- She also wanted to thank members for securing nearly \$2 million in Community Project Funding for BART's LED lighting project and request support for FY 27 earmark submissions.
- With the support of staff and our federal advocates, President Hernandez said she know this will be another productive advocacy trip.

Public Comment

Barney Smits addressed the Board on this item.

3. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Raburn gave an update on the March 6, 2026 Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Partnership Special Committee.

Public Comment

Aleta Dupree and Roland addressed the Board on this item.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

President Hernandez brought the Consent Calendar forward. Director Raburn moved approval, with Director Rinn seconding the motion.

Consent Calendar items:

- A. Minutes for the February 26, 2026 BART Board meeting.
- B. Reappointment of Audit Committee Public Member.

- C. Award of Invitation to Bid No. 9140A to Custom Truck One Source of Kansas City, MO for procurement of High-Rail Inspection Crew Truck.
- D. Award of a Sole Source Technical Services Agreement No. 6M8225 with University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Rail Transportation & Engineering Center (RailTEC) to provide Condition Assessment of Legacy Concrete Ties Systemwide.
- E. Procurement with Presidio Networked Solutions Group, LLC for Cloudflare Enterprise Security Software, using the National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) Agreement No. 6M4933.
- F. Award of Agreements for Districtwide Glass Repair and Replacement Services to Vision and Viewpoint Glass.
 - i. Agreement No. 6M3760A - North Bay (Zone 1)
 - ii. Agreement No. 6M3761 - Peninsula/San Francisco (Zone 2)
 - iii. Agreement No. 6M3762 - East Bay (Zone 3)
 - iv. Agreement No. 6M3763 - South Bay (Zone 4)

Vote Summary

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 General Manager Bob Powers, who gave the following report:
 Ridership: February ridership ended 8.2% above budget, 12.5% higher than last year, a tribute to efforts to improve the rider experience. March is also exceeding expectations, with ridership about 8% above budget.
 There is a celebration today honoring Alysa Liu at 12th Street in Frank Ogawa Plaza.
 He is heading to Washington, to discuss \$10m in Federal earmarks, plus \$4.6m allocated for police vehicles.
 March 5: there was a groundbreaking at El Cerrito Plaza for the Transit Oriented Development project. Assembly Member David Chiu, who led the effort to pass AB2923 also attended, with Director Ghosh speaking at the event.
 March is National Procurement Month. The General Manager recognized John Mazza, Director of Procurement, and his team, for all their great work.
 Wednesday, March 18 is Transit Employee Appreciation Day.
 Thursday, March 19 at noon: There will be a Women’s History Month panel at BART with Deputy Police Chief Turner, Office of Independent Police Auditor Inez Gonzalez, and General Counsel Jeana Zelan.
 On Friday, March 20, BART is hosting 12+ families for the annual autism and transit project event in recognition of autism acceptance month.
 There are a few upcoming events featuring the BART Mobile: San Francisco’s Chinese New Years celebration and Dublin’s St. Patrick’s Day event.

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

6. BOARD MATTERS (Part 1)

President Hernandez introduced Jeana Zelan, General Counsel, who presented on the following item:
 A. Adopt a Board Policy Regarding Disruption of Telephonic or Internet Service During Board Meetings.

Director Raburn moved the item, with Director Ghosh seconding the motion.

Aleta Dupree addressed the Board on this item.



Vote Summary

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.

7. OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

President Hernandez introduced Claudette Biameret, Inspector General, and Jorge Oseguera, Deputy Inspector General, to give the report on the following two items:

- A. Fiscal Year 2026 Semiannual Report.
- B. Performance Audit of the Link 21 Program.

Aleta Dupree, Roland, and Glen Overton addressed the Board on this item.

Vice President Wright asked staff about the status of implementation of the recommendations. Dennis Markham, Director of Performance and Audits, addressed the question, saying that staff has accepted all recommendations, and are working on implementing them by early summer.

Director Ghosh asked for these audits to be forwarded to the organizations where this work resides, such as Capitol Corridor for Link21, as well as the Joint BART / VTA Special Partnership committee.

8. ADMINISTRATION ITEMS Janice Li, Chairperson

President Hernandez called upon Chairperson Janice Li to lead the item, who said she appreciated having this following item brought to a board meeting.

- A. Fiscal Year 2026 Second Quarter Financial Report.

Pam Herhold, Assistant General Manager, Performance and Budget; Pen Romero, Director of Accounting and Financial Controls; and Chris Simi, Budget Director, presented the item.

Aleta Dupree and Glen Overton addressed the Board on this item.

The following discussion was held:

Director Raburn focused on the total operating expense, by asking if BART can lower its expenses by right sizing train lengths in the next schedule change, reducing maintenance and energy costs, wear and tear and police time required for train holds.

Director Ames asked questions about unfunded liability. Staff said that liability is growing, but unfunded liability is decreasing. Investment return and benefits also impact liability on a long-term basis.

Vice President Wright asked how liability compared between 2020 and today. Staff said there was about a 5-10% increase. Vice President pointed out that inflation in that same time frame has been 26-27%.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT (for items not on the agenda.)

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

10. BOARD MATTERS (Part 2)

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

Director Raburn gave the following report of events that he attended:

February 27: Presented BART and CCJPA service updates to the Rail Passenger Association of CA & Nev, at Buttercup, Oakland.

February 28: He participated in the Oakland Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade.

February 28: He attended the Oscar Grant Gala, Scott's Seafood.

March 3: He attended a meeting on Oakland Encampment Abatement Policy with Council Member Houston, Council President's Chief of Staff, BART's Mili Choudhury, Deputy Police Chief Galetti, Deputy Police Chief Turner, and Government and Community Relations.

March 4: He gave an Alternate Service Briefing to Hayward Mayor Salinas, along with BART's Government and Community Relations Department and Michael Eiseman, the Director of Financial Planning.

March 6: He attended the Santa Clara VTA/BART Partnership Special Committee at BHQ.

Director Foley gave the following update:

March 7: He attended the San Francisco Chinese New Years Parade, and thanked Mark Nagales, Wren Fitzgerald, Jay Sathe, David Martindale and Angelo Arminio, Michael Banuelos and Joe Brummer for all the work bringing the BART mobile to the parade.

Director Ghosh provided the following report:

March 4: She provided a briefing with Director Flores to Assembly Member Buffy Wicks.

March 5: She attended the El Cerrito Plaza groundbreaking, along with Director Flores, the BART Real Estate Team (Carli, Shannon, Rachel and Boris), El Cerrito Mayor Quinto and Council members Saltzman, Wysinger and Motoyama. Funding representatives were also there.

Director Flores gave the following update of events that he attended:

Feb 26: He attended the League of Cities East Bay Division Legislative Dinner

February 28: He joined BART in the Oakland Lunar New Year Parade.

February 28: He participated in the Oscar Grant Gala.

March 4: He provided a briefing for Assembly Member Buffy Wicks.

March 4: He attended the Latinos in Transit Fundraiser at alaMar in Oakland.

March 5: He also attended the El Cerrito Plaza Transit Oriented Development Groundbreaking.

March 5: Later that night he attended Alameda State of the City, which was Mayor Ashcraft's last address, as she is termed out.

March 6: He attended the BART/VTA Partnership Special Committee at BHQ.

March 10: He presented along with Director Raburn an update on BART and its finances to Oakland Public Works.

Director Ames provided the following updates:

March 4: She met with Mayor Salinas and the City of Hayward to provide an update on the state of BART.

March 6: She attended virtually the BART/VTA Partnership Special Committee.

March 9: She attended the Alameda County Transportation Commission Planning and Policy Legislation committee.

March 11: She went to the Alameda County Mayors Conference in Union City, and thanked Bradley Dunn for her talking points.

President Hernandez mentioned that she will be participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin on Saturday, March 14.

March 11: She attended Hayward's 150th Birthday and provided a proclamation on behalf of BART.

11. CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered into closed session for the following items at 10:45 a.m.

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL--EXISTING LITIGATION

Samantha Hill and Maria Mora v. BART et al. Alameda County Superior Court Case No. 22CV015903

Government Code Section: 54956.9(d)(1)

B. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Title: Inspector General

Government Code Section: 54957

C. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Designated Representatives: President Hernandez, Vice President Wright and Director Foley

Title: Inspector General

Government Code Section: 54957.6

There were no public comments on the items.

12. OPEN SESSION

There are no announcements to make.

13. ADJOURNMENT

President Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Bob Franklin
District Secretary