

# San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District

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



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES OF THE 1,995<sup>th</sup> MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 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: February 26, 2026

## **MEETING DESCRIPTION**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors was held on January 22, 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 9:02 a.m.

#### A. Roll Call.

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

Absent: None.

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

C. Introduction of Special Guests: Director Ghosh introduced William White, who was a founding member of the BART Police Civilian Review Board and who served on the Committee for 15 years. Chairperson Dana Lang and former Board member Sharon Kidd accepted an award on behalf of Director Ghosh and BART to recognize his years of service.

Patrick Cesares spoke addressed the Board in support of Mr. White.

### **2. REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

President Hernandez announced that the Board workshop will be held on February 22, 2026.

### **3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

President Hernandez brought the following Consent Calendar items before the Board. She requested one change to Consent item B, swapping the roles of Director Ames and Vice President Wright on the VTA committee, making Director Ames a member and Vice President Wright an alternate.

A. Approval of Minutes for the January 8, 2026 BART Board meeting.

B. 2026 Organization of Committees and Special Appointments.

C. Appointment of BART Police Civilian Review Board Member - District 7.

D. District Base Pay Schedules.

E. Award Single Source Agreement No. 6M2126 to PCG Equipment for Cash Handling Cart Retrofit.  
**TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED.**

F. Submittal of California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) Form 130, Designating Agents Necessary to Provide for All Matters Pertaining to State and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Reimbursements.

G. Change Order to Agreement with SHI International Corporation for a Software Subscription from Auth0, Inc. for Cloud-Based Identity Management Software.

H. Extension of Labor Peace Agreement Policy for Transit-Oriented Development Hotel Operations.

I. Appointment of BART Accessibility Task Force Member Esther Waltz.

J. Grant of Utility Easements to Pacific Gas and Electric for Gas Transmission Lines in Dublin.

### **Public Comment**

Jennifer Rakowski, Esther Waltz, Barney Smits and Aleta Dupree addressed the Board.

### **Vote Summary**

Moved by: Director Raburn/ Seconded by Director Rinn, as amended.  
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.

#### **4. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

President Hernandez introduced General Manager Bob Powers, who gave the following report: Ridership is 3.5% above budget for January, driven by on-time performance and large events in the Bay Area. The workshop will be on February 12, 2026, with its singular focus on the fiscal cliff. Single tracking will occur over the next two Sundays between Rockridge and Orinda – to manage vegetation, as well as to perform traction power improvements. West Oakland Transit Oriented Development has been able to secure tax credits and financing for Phase I, which will deliver amongst other things 240 affordable housing units, with construction beginning this summer. The Comedy Train is this Saturday, a sold out event which is helping to drive up ridership. The Super Bowl is coming up and BART is prepared to run longer trains and is coordinating with other transit providers throughout the region in the week leading up to the Super Bowl and Super Bowl Sunday. After the Board meeting, the BART Accessibility Task Force will host its annual reception in the multipurpose room. Everyone is invited to attend, to meet the Task Force members. Next Tuesday and Wednesday, BART will be going to Sacramento with Directors, staff, advocates and Labor to meet with over 25 government officials.

#### **Public Comments**

Glen Overton, Aleta Dupree and Barney Smits addressed the Board for this item.

#### **5. OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL'S (OIG) REPORT**

President Hernandez introduced the following item: OIG Report Audit of Construction Contract Change Orders.

BART's Inspector General Claudette Biemeret introduced Julian Metcalf of GPP Analytics, who gave the presentation.

Director Foley asked how this report intersects with the Bond Oversight Committee. IG Biemeret said that the report will be shared with the committee. He also asked if they are looking at the root cause of change orders, and asked if there is a list of contracts for what the Board approved and how the cost and scope of the contracts changed over the life of the project.

Director Ames expressed concerns about descoping and proposed different ways to address it.

Vice President Wright asked BART staff for a response about the OIG's recommendations. Staff said that they accepted all of the OIG's recommendations.

Director Raburn asked about contingencies and if there were any that were not swept up and remained with the project. He asked if there is a procedural mechanism to reallocate contingency funds.

Director Ghosh asked if there is a timeline for implementation for the OIG's recommendations, which staff said would all be by July 2026. She also asked about contingency funding, and how change orders impacted the budget of the project. Lastly, she asked if descoping ever triggers a rebidding of a contract.

Director Li thanked the OIG for the report and to staff for accepting the recommendations. She wanted to reiterate the BART has a strong grasp of project cost and uses change orders only as necessary for project realities. Director Li also asked for a process to track the implementation and status of recommendations.

Director Flores expressed appreciation for all the work involved in these audits. He wants to take a deeper dive into what is causing the change orders.

President Hernandez confirmed that this was the first change order audit from the OIG.

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

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Glen Overton, Barney Smits, Aleta Dupree and Chriss Finn addressed the Board for items not on the agenda.

## **7. ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS ITEMS**

A. Root Cause Investigation Update on Recent M-Line Service Disruptions. For Information.

Chairperson Foley introduced Michael Jones, Deputy General Manager, who provided context to the presentation for this item. He introduced the entire maintenance and infrastructure leadership team. He turned it over to Sylvia Lamb, Assistant General Manager of Infrastructure Delivery. She introduced Zara Younossi of 3VI, a subconsultant of Parsons, who oversaw the investigation. The team gave the presentation on the root cause of service disruptions.

After the presentation, public comment was taken. Glen Overton, Jerry Grace, Barney Smits, Aleta Dupree and Roland addressed the Board.

Director Ames had some questions about the service disruptions on August 29 and blown insulators, including maintenance records and cleaning protocols for insulators. She also asked about paddles that break off from vehicles, and what happens when this occurs.

Vice President Wright asked if the cleanliness of the insulators was the root cause of the service disruptions, which staff and its consultant said it wasn't. He said the overall service of BART is great, but it doesn't excuse the fact that the service interruptions are occurring. He asked why the cross bonds were removed and not placed back. He also asked if BART now has standardized project language to return work sites to normal working order once a project is complete. Staff is working on this change control process. He asked for a timeline for "in progress" items in the investigation and is looking for a final report when the investigation is complete.

Director Ghosh wanted to know if schedule changes played a role in the service disruptions. She also asked if the location contributed to the incidents, as the service disruptions occurred in a heavily used section of the District.

Director Flores thanked staff for the transparent presentation and appreciated the external evaluation of the root causes for an independent objective investigation. He asked about the non-standard failures of the fuses, clarifications about why paddles fail, and the contributing factor of blown insulators.

President Hernandez wanted to ensure that there is a departmental checklist for all processes during an incident, as well as during post-capital project restoration.

Director Li thanked the team for the 15,000 hours of work to understand these incidents and to set up a process to avoid them in the future. She feels this leads to transparency and credibility of the BART system amongst the public and is proactive in keeping BART safe for its riders.

Chairperson Foley also recognized the transparency of this study, and shared that the impact of a service disruption not only affects BART riders, but the entire region as well with traffic on the roadways. He asked if BART contacted its peers and other systems to find out if they have experienced similar interruptions. He also asked if BART had contacted Alstom, the new train manufacturer, to see if they have insights. He suggested BART explore capturing undertrain video, as a source of information when there is a service disruption.

## **8. PLANNING, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, ACCESS, AND LEGISLATION ITEMS**

President Hernandez began the committee and turned it over to Chairperson Raburn, who introduced the following item:

### A. Fremont Transit-Oriented Development: Goals and Objectives.

Chairperson Raburn introduced Monica Meagher, Interim Assistant General Manager, Planning and Development. She in turn introduced Kasheica McKinney, Director Transit Oriented Development; Matt Lewis, BART Principal Property Development Officer; and Kamala Parks, Principal Planner of Station Planning who presented the item.

Glen Overton addressed the Board on the item.

Director Ames thanked staff for all the work on this initiative, and stated she is looking for a housing and workplace balance. She explained all the work of Fremont to create a multimodal corridor. She moved to approve the TOD goals, with Director Flores seconding the motion.

Director Foley also expressed his support for these objectives and clarified for what objectives the Board was voting. He had questions about the risks of building next to an active earthquake fault and how BART could reduce its exposure to risks. Staff explained the precautions set up by strict building codes.

Director Flores recognized all the collaboration and rezoning undertaken by the City of Fremont. He asked about who was overseeing the Middle-Income Housing program and its qualifications. Staff responded that the goal is set but the process is not developed yet, which will be the responsibility of the developer.

Director Ghosh also expressed her support for the project and how it expands access to the station, with great potential to develop housing.

Director Raburn reemphasized the 35% affordable goal, as well as calling out the recreational activities nearby. He said access to Lake Elizabeth could be improved, as explained in the Safe Routes to BART plan.

### Vote Summary

Moved by: Director Ames/ Seconded by Director Flores.

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.

## **9. BOARD MATTERS**

### A. Board Member Reports.

Director Ames expressed her appreciation to Alicia Trost for adding Super Bowl transit information on the BART website. She is requesting Levi Stadium add BART to its transportation options on its website.

Director Li asked General Manager Bob Powers to explain BART's role in its participation with the Host Committee, to explain the regional role and BART's connections for transit to FIFA and the Super Bowl.

Director Foley gave the following update:

January 8: Attended the Contra Costa Mayors' Conference.

January 13: Attended the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors Reorganization event.

January 20: Gave a BART's Role in the Region presentation to the East Contra Costa Democratic Club. He thanked Director Rinn for attending the Contra Costa Transportation Authority meeting, which allowed him to celebrate his retirement from East Bay Municipal Utility District after 33 years of service!

Director Raburn provided the following report:

January 10: He attended former San Leandro Mayor Stephen Cassidy's memorial service at San Leandro High School.

January 12: He attended the BART Police Civilian Review Board meeting, which was also attended by Cephus and Wanda Johnson. They provided details about a Happy Birthday event for Oscar Grant. Cephus also mentioned a report between the California State Department of Justice and the BART Police Department, as a result of Senate Bill 2 (2023).

Director Li:

Attended San Francisco Mayor Lurie's State of the City with General Manager Bob Powers and Chief of Police Kevin Franklin on Thursday January 15, 2026.

Director Ghosh:

Attended on Monday January 19 the Berkeley Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast.

VP Wright:

Thanked staff for Reyes Magos New Year Mercado at 16<sup>th</sup> Street/Mission BART Plaza on January 10<sup>th</sup>, which was rescheduled due to rain. He said it was a preview of more collaborations to come, as vendors asked, "when can we do this again?!"

Jerry Grace addressed the board on this item.

B. Roll Call for Introductions.

C. In Memoriam.

## **10. CLOSED SESSION**

The Board entered into closed session at 1:29 pm for the following item:

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION Carole Cox and Edward Cox v. BART

Alameda County Superior Court case no. 24CV081424 Government Code Section: 54956.9(d)(1)

## **11. OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to open session at 2:05 pm. No announcements were made.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

President Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 2:05 pm.

Bob Franklin  
District Secretary