

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 1,999th MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 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 March 26, 2026 in the BART Board Room, 2150 Webster Street, 1st Floor, Oakland, California. Vice President Edward Wright presided, with Bob Franklin as District Secretary.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Wright 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, and Vice President Wright. President Hernandez participated remotely under the “just cause” provision of SB 707.

B. Pledge of Allegiance:

Director Foley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Introduction of Special Guests:

None.

2. REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Vice President Wright reported that the BART Board traditionally cancels one meeting in July and August of each year. This year, Vice President Wright announced that the BART Board meetings scheduled for July 23, 2026 and August 27, 2026 are canceled.

Public Comment

Barney Smits and Joe Kunzler addressed the Board on this item.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice President Wright brought the Consent Calendar forward.

Consent Calendar items:

A. Draft Minutes for March 12, 2026 BART Board meeting.

B. Appointment of BART Accessibility Task Force Member: Ryan Manriquez.

C. Amend Resolutions No. 5480 and No. 5587 related to State Master Agreements and Program Supplements for State-Funded Transit Projects.

D. Amend Resolution No. 5223, Authorizing the Filing of Applications and Executing Funding Agreements.

E. Procurement with Transource Services Corporation, a National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) Provider, for Software as a Service, Purchase Order 6M4935.

F. Approval of BART Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP).

G. Lease and Rental of Non-revenue Vehicles and Equipment.

H. Use of State of California Leveraged Procurement Agreements for BART Police Department (BPD) vehicles.

Director Foley asked staff to consider deferring items that may not be needed past January, given the financial uncertainties that face the District next year.

Director Ames pulled Item F from the Consent Calendar and moved that the item be postponed. There was not a second on that motion.

Public Comment

Ryan Manriquez and Aleta Dupree addressed the Board on this item.

Vote Summary

For items: Items A through H except Item F

Moved by: Director Li/ 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.

For item: Item F

Moved by: Director Li/ Seconded by Director Raburn.

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

No: Director Ames

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

Result: 8-1-0, motion carried by roll call vote.

4. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

Ridership: March ridership was about 10% above budget, thanks to events, good weather and solid commute patterns. Ridership on Saturdays is up to 85% of pre-pandemic levels. March ridership is up 14%, compared to March 2025.

This weekend there are several large events: No Kings rallies, an Oakland Roots game, and San Francisco Giants home games.

Tonight is the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (East Bay EDA) dinner, where BART is selected as the Legacy Awardee for the 2026 East Bay Innovation Awards. President Hernandez will be sharing a video with Directors Flores, Foley, and Raburn in attendance.

Yesterday was the Blind and Low Vision event at the 19th Street/Oakland BART station, when over 100 explored an out of service train, new faregates, and a mockup of refuge area underneath the platform edge.

The movie Deep Cuts is filming today at the El Cerrito Plaza BART station.

BART Mart will take place today as well at Millbrae BART from 4pm to 7pm, featuring local anime artists, in partnership with Caltrain and SamTrans.

The GM also announced the departure of Shane Edwards, the Assistant General Manager of Operations and who has been at BART for 11 years. He was responsible for getting the VTA phase 1 extension up and running and serving as the main liaison for VTA. He was instrumental in fostering a collaborative relationship with all labor organizations.

Lastly, the GM reported on the advocacy trip to Washington DC. The GM acknowledged the work of Rodd Lee, Amanda Cruz and the External Affairs Department. He introduced a slide show of the meeting with the delegation. Staff thanked members of Congress for funding received and provided an update on the alternative service plan if a funding measure fails in November.

Public Comment

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

Discussion

Director Raburn also recognized Shane's leadership in seismically retrofitting the Transbay Tube. Director Raburn also referenced that BART now has Tap and Ride, which it didn't during the last "No Kings" rally, which should make it easier for new BART riders for this and other large upcoming events in the Bay Area.

Director Ghosh thanked staff for the Washington DC advocacy trip and thanked Shane Edwards for his service. Vice President Wright also expressed gratitude to Shane, as well as to staff, lobbyists and Directors for the successful advocacy trip to Washington DC.

5. ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS ITEMS

Mark Foley, Chairperson, brought forward the following item:

- A. Use of State of California Leveraged Procurement Agreements for Fleet Vehicles Procurement.

Sylvia Lamb, Assistant General Manager, Infrastructure Delivery; and Javed Khan, Group Manager, Capital Projects; presented the item.

Public Comment

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

Discussion

Director Li asked for more detail on the kinds of vehicles and their uses for future EDD's on vehicle procurement. Director Ghosh also wanted more details so that the public has a clearer understanding of the intent of the procurement. She also asked how vendors are selected from a leveraged procurement.

Director Ghosh also requested that if an agenda item has the amount or source of funding unidentified, it should be on the regular calendar and not the consent calendar.

Director Raburn wanted more information on the vehicles out to the public, which used to be provided through a coloring book, which generated enthusiasm.

MOTION: The General Manager is authorized to purchase District fleet vehicles, pursuant to California Public Contract Code Section 10298, in an amount not to exceed \$9 million, using the State of California Leveraged Procurement Agreements as the procurement method until DGS discontinues these or subsequent contracts, subject to the availability of funding.

Vote Summary

Motion: Moved by Director Li/ 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.

6. PLANNING, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, ACCESS, AND LEGISLATION

Vice President Wright introduced Director Robert Raburn, Chairperson of the Committee, who introduced the following item:

- A. Five County Resident Survey Results.

Boris Lipkin, Assistant General Manager, Planning and Development; David Martindale, Director of Marketing and Research; and Curt Below from FM3 Research presented the item.

Public Comment

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

Discussion

Director Li asked how people who don't ride BART get their information about BART. She conveyed interest in strengthening BART's advertising tag line, particularly around the use of the term "satisfied." She suggested to highlight ambassador partnerships around station areas, and all the efforts and positive outcomes of BART's partnerships.

Vice President Wright said the main takeaway is the message about public safety improvements, which to the public are the most important thing upon which BART can be focused. Crime is the most important issue, which is key to understand when prioritizing BART's work plan. He said that a public facing dashboard of Quarterly Performance Report is critical, so the public can view how initiatives are performing, including how crime on BART is trending. He thought travel to the airport on BART had a significant upside and asked what BART is doing to increase ridership. With respect to marketing and communications, he asked how does BART measure success of marketing initiatives. Will BART test messages for ads? He is interested in hearing results of BART's marketing efforts.

Director Rinn said the sampling size is a very small microcosm of county populations. He wants to see a broader sampling. The story this survey reveals is clear: cleanliness is up, crime is down, customer satisfaction is up, which all show that BART is concerned about crime and cleanliness and have the metrics to prove it.

Director Ames thinks convenience needs to be part of messaging. She also wants to show collaboration with other agencies and expand the first and last mile options and its conveniences. She said that she wants to add transit passes and make transit fares more affordable.

Director Ghosh wanted to focus on the 59% of respondents who are open to taking BART more often. There is a need for trusted messengers to let people know about BART. She also wanted to highlight transit ambassadors, crisis intervention specialists, and elevator and restroom attendants as ways BART is improving cleanliness, safety and customer experiences. She appreciates the trusted messaging of earned media through all of the events that BART is sponsoring.

Director Foley asked if data can be broken down by county. He focused on First Mile and Last Mile travel and asked if BART has reached out to Tri Delta Transit to learn from their Try My Ride program. He wants to encourage riders to view small operators and become aware of new alternatives. He also wants to see the survey translated into action items to address any BART's shortcomings revealed from the survey.

Director Flores said that the best ways to change perception is to get people into the system, so they can see for themselves recent BART improvements. The areas surrounding stations are tough to improve, but staff could still identify key areas. Director Flores also asked if Bay Wheels shares data about where passengers go with bikes when they leave BART stations. He also explored the idea of reducing the fare on the Oakland Connector, as it is expensive for a family of four compared to the cost of a rideshare. He also suggested a raffle on Southwest Airlines for those arriving by the Connector and a potential Warriors partnership.

Director Raburn noted that riders have consistently more favorable impression of transit and BART than non-riders. He asked if there were any other information on nonriders, such as if they know someone who is a regular rider on BART. He is looking to understand the discrepancy in opinions of BART between riders and non-riders. He wants to see how barriers translate to action, with crime being a critical issue. He said the new faregates are game changers. He suggested incentivizing the BART app, as part of the action plan and to add bike trips and Bay Wheels as trip planning features. He also thought it would be worthwhile educating people about how they can easily report issues on the BART app.

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

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

8. BOARD MATTERS (Part 2)

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

Director Foley gave the following update:

With all the events coming to town, Director Foley asked if Bay Pass is being offered to incentivize public transit for people attending large events. Staff said they are working on it.

Director Li made the following report:

March 13: She attended the Regional Network Management committee, where Lyft was given a 5-year extension to operate Bay Wheels. MTC is reinvesting \$2.5 m for dock and e-bike expansion, with a goal to expand bike share at transit and key hubs.

Director Ames thanked the External Affairs Department for their support of the advocacy trip to Washington DC. She also mentioned Bike to Work day in Fremont on May 14 and mentioned that Bike Fremont wants to do additional energizer stations this year and expand past Warm Springs.

Director Flores gave the following update:

March 13: gave an update to Assemblymember Bonta.

March 16-18: he attended the advocacy DC trip and thanked the Government and Community Relations team.

March 20: He participated in the Autism Family Event at BART headquarters.

March 25: He went to the Oakland Economic Forecast from Oakland Met Chamber with Director Raburn.

March 25: He presented an update on BART at the Colma town council meeting.

Director Ghosh reported on the following:

March 16-18: she attended the advocacy DC trip and thanked the Government and Community Relations team for their assistance.

She attended a Hercules City Council meeting to give a presentation on the alternative service plan. Hercules depends upon BART service, even though it doesn't have a BART station. She thanked Henry Symons for all of his support.

Director Raburn gave this report:

March 12: He attended the Hayward State of the City at HUSD Performing Arts Center

March 17-18: He participated in the Federal Advocacy on Capitol Hill (House T&I, Senate Approp, 7 Congressional Member Offices: Simon, Khanna, Liccardo, Lofgren, Garamendi, DeSaulnier, and Friedman).

March 19: He gave a "Defining Year for BART" presentation to Young at Heart at the San Leandro First Presbyterian Church.

March 25: He attended the Oakland Economic Summit at the OMCA.

March 25: He participated in the CCJPA Vision Plan 2026 at BHQ.

Vice Presiden Wright gave the following update:

Dc trip, protected federal funding and even got additional funding for world cup games.

Desire to schedule campaign contribution rules.

HBD to Director Li

Public Comment

There was no public comment on this item.

9. CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered into closed session under items A and B on the agenda at 11:43 am.

A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Titles: General Manager, General Counsel, District Secretary, Inspector General, and Independent Police Auditor

B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Designated Representatives: President Hernandez, Vice President Wright and Director Foley Title: Inspector General

Public Comment

There was no public comment on this item.

10. OPEN SESSION

The Board returned from Closed Session at 12:51 pm.

A. Compensation and Benefits for Inspector General.

Motion: that the base salary of the Inspector General be increased by \$14,815 retroactive to January 1, 2026 and that the Board President be authorized to execute any necessary changes to the Inspector General's employment agreement to incorporate the change.

Vote Summary

Motion: Moved by Director Li/ Seconded by Director Flores.

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

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: President Hernandez

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

Public Comment

Claudette Biemeret addressed the Board on this item.

B. Other Announcements from Closed Session, if any.

There were no other announcements.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Wright adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

Bob Franklin
District Secretary