



2026 Federal and State Legislative Advocacy Program

BART Board of Directors

December 4, 2025



2025 Federal Advocacy Highlights

Delegation/Legislative Engagement

- In March, BART Directors, the General Manager, and staff conducted a two-day advocacy trip to Washington, D.C.
- On April 23, BART hosted Rep. Lateefah Simon for a tour of 19th Street and Fruitvale stations focused on efforts to enhance rider safety.
- On April 30, General Manager Bob Powers participated in a transit briefing for the Congressional FIFA World Cup Caucus.
- On May 29, Rep. Mark DeSaulnier keynoted BART's Next Generation Fare Gates ribbon cutting celebration for Contra Costa County.



2025 Federal Advocacy Highlights

FY26 Community Project Funding Requests

- Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and Reps. John Garamendi and Lateefah Simon submitted Community Project Funding requests for the Station LED Lighting Program.
- All three requests, totaling \$1.6M, are pending within the FY26 House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill.



Grant Awards

- In January, BART was awarded \$25M from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant program for the Train Control Modernization Program.
- In September, BART was awarded \$932,522 from the Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) for the BART Police Critical Asset Patrol (CAP) Team.



Proposed 2026 FEDERAL Advocacy Goals

- Educate federal delegation on BART's self-help efforts and the regional transportation revenue measure, including proposed expenditure plan, phased financial efficiency review, and accountability measures; discuss agency impacts of not securing additional operations funding.
- Within Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations and surface transportation reauthorization, advocate that funding levels for transit and passenger rail be maintained; seek new formula funding to support transit operations and state of good repair capital investments.
- Seek programmatic changes within reauthorization that are favorable to BART such as removing duplicative permitting requirements, increasing funding flexibility, and addressing administrative obstacles.
- Submit Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending requests to support priority projects or pilot programs.
- Continue national, state, and regional advocacy regarding funding for transit security and operations in preparation for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Proposed 2026 FEDERAL Advocacy Goals (cont.)

- Educate delegation and Administration on the successes of BART's safety initiatives including increased police presence, Next Generation Fare Gates, and efforts of the Progressive Policing and Community Engagement Bureau.
- Support increased appropriations and pursue federal grant opportunities for BART activities related to anti-terrorism, cybersecurity, and emergency response.
- Protect federal grants awarded to BART from the threat of rescission.
- Explore opportunities to improve BART's eligibility and competitiveness under existing and potential new programs for priority capital projects, transit improvements on airport property, and activities related to homelessness.
- Support federal funding and financial tools for active transportation projects and transit-oriented development (TOD).

2025 State Advocacy Highlights

Legislative and Budget Engagement

- The Board took positions on eight bills in the 2025 legislative session.
- Conducted two advocacy trips to Sacramento in February and June with BART Directors, executives, labor partners, and staff.
- Provided lead testimony at committee hearings in support of Senate Bill (SB) 63.
- Directors and staff met with legislators during the summer and fall on SB 63 and the state transit loan.
- Joint advocacy with the California Transit Association (CTA) on the reauthorization of Cap-and-Invest program.
- Ongoing engagement by General Manager with the State Transit Transformation Task Force.



2025 State Advocacy Highlights

Delegation Engagement

- On September 6, Assemblymember Alex Lee spoke at BART's Let's Glow! Anime Festival at Warm Springs/South Fremont station.
- On September 26, Assemblymember Liz Ortega spoke at Next Generation Fare Gate Project Ribbon Cutting at West Dublin/Pleasanton Station.
- On October 2, Directors Flores, Ghosh, and Raburn joined Senator Jesse Arreguín and Assemblymembers Matt Haney and Ash Kalra for downtown revitalization tours in Richmond and Oakland.
- On October 6, Director Wright served as a panel member with Senator Scott Wiener to talk about future of transit with SF Chamber of Commerce members.



Proposed 2026 STATE Advocacy Goals

- Negotiate with the Department of Finance (DOF) on terms of a state loan and advocate that the Legislature take budget action in early 2026 to approve funding.
- Educate the Bay Area delegation of BART's work to comply with financial efficiency requirements within SB 63; ongoing efforts to reduce costs, operate more efficiently, and grow ridership; agency impacts of not securing additional operations funding.
- Advocate that transit funding within the FY27 State Budget not be eliminated, shifted, or used for non-transit purposes; if State Budget situation allows, submit member budget requests.
- Seek to extend "hold harmless" statutory relief for State Transit Assistance (STA) and Transportation Development Act (TDA) farebox requirements through FY29.
- Explore opportunities to improve BART's eligibility and competitiveness under existing grant programs; pursue funding through Cap-and-Invest expenditure plan for BART priority projects and programs.

Proposed 2026 STATE Advocacy Goals (cont.)

- Partner with CTA and other transit partners on the implementation of Transit Transformation Task Force recommendations including long-term statutory and regulatory changes, flexibility in state funding programs, and enhanced value capture for transit agencies.
- Support legislative efforts concerning transit worker and rider safety; educate delegation and Administration on the successes of BART's safety initiatives; explore opportunities for state funding to support BART's quality of life initiatives.
- Engage in development of technical clean-up language for SB 79 (Chapter 512, Statutes of 2025); support legislation to expand tax increment financing and grant applications for TOD and related infrastructure.
- Support legislative efforts to refine California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemptions for transit projects and explore other opportunities for permitting reform.