



CaliforniaTransit
Association

2025 SPRING

Legislative Conference



THE KIMPTON SAWYER HOTEL
SACRAMENTO, CA / MAY 8, 2025

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Welcome & Opening Remarks



CaliforniaTransit
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Sharon Cooney

CEO of San Diego Metropolitan
Transit System (MTS) and the
33rd Chair of the Association's
Executive Committee



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Keynote Address

2025
Secretary Toks Omishakin
California State Transportation Agency





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Q&A

Microphones will be in audience

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State Legislative & Budget Update



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Michael Pimentel
Executive Director



Matt Robinson
Legislative Advocate



Brendan Repicky
Legislative &
Regulatory
Advocate



Beverly Greene
State Legislative
Committee Chair,
Moderator



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Budget Update



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January Budget projected a balanced budget with a modest surplus

- Maintains previous \$5.1 billion investment
- Proposed 2025-26 budget would advance remaining \$1 billion in SB 125 - TIRCP funding
- TDA revenues steady

However, since January budget outlook has worsened

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Budget Update



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Los Angeles Wildfires 🔥

- State has authorized several billion dollars in relief
- Those affected have been given until October to file their taxes

Stock Market Dip 📉

- Stock market has strong correlation with capital gains tax revenue
- This makes up a significant portion of California's general fund

Possible Lost Federal Revenues 💰

- Trump Administration has moved to cut programs that may require State to backfill

Budget Update



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Budget picture uncertain as May Revise looms

- Franchise Tax Board met its revenue targets for April
- Delayed LA County payments may still have big impact
- Speculation is to expect significant deficit
- May Revise expected May 14

Our Budget Advocacy



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- Protect \$1 billion in planned funding
- Support coalition request for \$2 billion in new funding
 - Vital to help address shortfalls and deliver projects
 - Led by Senator Arreguin and Assemblymember Mark Gonzalez



Our Budget Advocacy



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- Collected information from Association members to support advocacy
- Participated in Legislative budget hearings
- Request faces an uphill battle in this budget climate



Cap-and-Trade Reauthorization



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- Created Subcommittee and identified reauthorization principles
- Engaged key stakeholders on reauthorization principles
- On April 15, State leaders announced they want to extend program in 2025
- Trump Administration has threatened to roll back climate action, including Cap-and-Trade
- Cap-and-Trade market has destabilized in the face of uncertainty



Status of Association-Sponsored Bills



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SB 71 (Wiener) Sponsor CEQA Streamlining

- Makes CEQA exemptions for transit projects permanent
- Adds additional project-types (ferry terminals, transit operations analysis, bus stops and shelters)
- Passed policy committees; now in Senate Appropriations Committee



Status of Association-Sponsored Bills



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SB 752 (Richardson) **Sponsor**

Zero Emission Bus Sales and Use Tax Exemption

- Extends sales tax exemption for zero-emission buses 2 additional years, to 2028
- Saves \$40,000 to \$70,000 per bus
- Set to be heard in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee on May 14

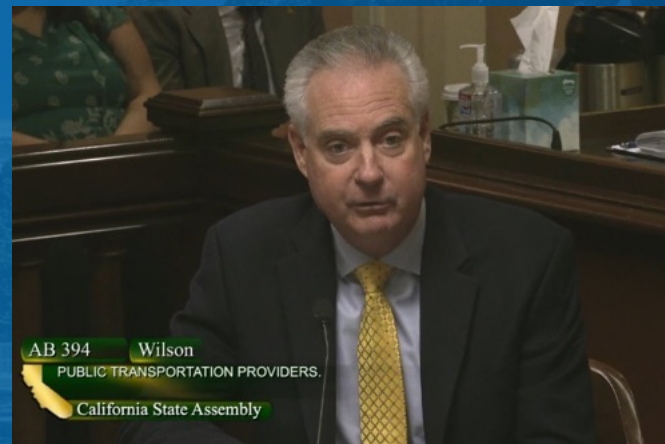
Status of Association-Sponsored Bills



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AB 394 (Wilson) Sponsor Transit Safety

- Expands protections to all employees
- Empowers agencies to seek a restraining order against a perpetrator
- Allows a Judge to apply the order across the entire transit system



Advocacy Goals and Action Items



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- For when you meet with your legislators:
 - Support for maintaining \$1 billion TIRCP investment under SB 125
 - Support \$2 Billion in additional SB 125 funding
 - Support protecting Transit Funding in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund during Cap-and-Trade negotiations
 - Support Association's Sponsored Bills – AB 394, SB 71, SB 752

Federal Lobby Day



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- Last week, Association members and staff traveled to lobby Congress and the Federal Transit Administration
- Federal Legislative Committee prepared a set of Infrastructure Investment and jobs Act (IIJA) reauthorization principles



Federal Lobby Day



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- Priority to maintain IIJA baseline and grow funding if possible
- Maintain federal and local match requirements for transportation projects
- Establish greater flexibility in Buy America requirements
- Create greater flexibility in useful life and spare ratio requirements
- Continue funding for zero-emission transit buses in the Low or No Emissions Grant Program
- And more . . .

PEPRA Update



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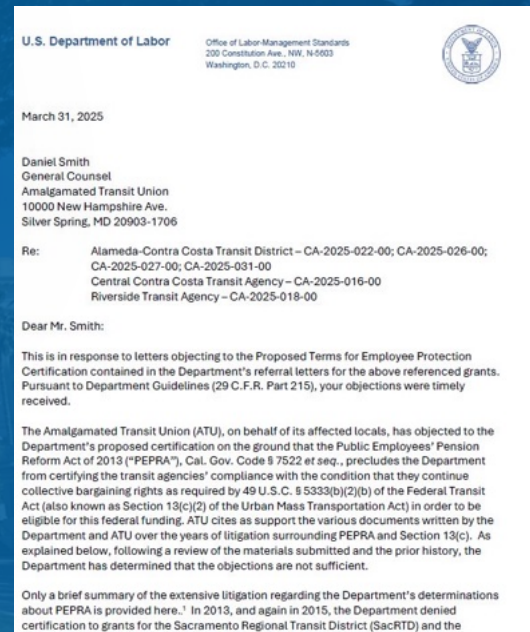
- On March 31, the US Department of Labor issued a letter conclusively finding that PEPRA ‘does not substantially affect transit employees’ benefits under existing collective bargaining’ and that Section 13(c) arrangements are ‘fair and equitable’
- We now expect US DOL to protect certification of federal grants owed to California transit agencies

The Association's Appeal: End Pension Law Confusion Now

Blog

Aug 28, 2014

As yet another court ruling once again casts doubt on whether the federal government will certify California transit agency grant applications, the Association is rallying to protect agency projects and transit workers.





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Q&A

Microphones will be in audience

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Michael Pimentel

Executive Director



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Federal Update



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Ray Tellis

FTA Region IX Administrator



Federal Transit Administration



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Reimagining Transit's Future: Insights from CalSTA's Transit Transformation Task Force



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Chad Edison

CalSTA Chief Deputy
Secretary for Rail and Transit



Carl Sedoryk

Monterey-Salinas Transit
General Manager and CEO



Kari Watkins, PE, PhD

UC Davis Associate
Professor and Transit
Research Center Co-Director



Laura Tolkoff

SPUR Transportation
Policy Director



Michael Pimentel

Executive Director,
Moderator



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Q&A

Please submit your
questions via Slido
Code #2701123



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Matt Robinson

Legislative Advocate



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Improving California's Climate Strategy Through Cap-And-Trade Reauthorization



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Senator
Catherine Blakespear
D – District 38



Senator
Scott Wiener
D – District 11



Assembly Member
Lori Wilson
D – District 11



Alejandro Lazo
CalMatters,
Moderator



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Q&A

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Code #2701123



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Michael Pimentel

Executive Director



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Join the top voices in transit

November 5-7, 2025

Long Beach, CA



Keynote Speaker
Pete Buttigieg

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Thank you to Association Staff



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THANK
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for joining us
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