



California Transit
Association

2025 SPRING

Legislative Conference



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

caltransit.org





California Transit
Association

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Sharon Cooney

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



caltransit.org



Thank you to our Sponsors



caltransit.org





California Transit
Association

Keynote Address

2025
Secretary Toks Omishakin
California State Transportation Agency





California Transit
Association

Q&A

Microphones will be in audience

caltransit.org





California Transit
Association

State Legislative & Budget Update



Michael Pimentel
Executive Director



Matt Robinson
Legislative Advocate



Brendan Repicky
Legislative &
Regulatory
Advocate



Beverly Greene
State Legislative
Committee Chair,
Moderator



Budget Update



CaliforniaTransit
Association

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

caltransit.org



Budget Update



California Transit
Association

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



California Transit
Association

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



California Transit Association

- 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 Arreguín and Assemblymember Mark Gonzalez

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 94049
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834-0049
PHONE 916-227-0004
FAX 916-227-0154

DISTRICT OFFICE
300 WEST 4TH STREET, ROOM 1000
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013
PHONE 213-486-3462
FAX 213-486-3419

EMAIL
MARK.GONZALEZ@LEGISLEGOV.CA.GOV

Assembly
California Legislature
MARK GONZALEZ
MAJORITY WING
ASSEMBLY FLOOR, 1111 N STREET DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH
PUBLIC SAFETY
RAILS
UTILITIES AND ENERGY

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Steve Bennett
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4
1021 O Street, Suite 4710
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for \$2 Billion in New Flexible Funding To Save and Improve Public Transit

Dear Assemblymember Gabriel and Assemblymembers:

Public transit is the backbone of California's economy, quality goals, and essential for affordability. Uniformly, face severe financial challenges. Service cuts and class essential workers, people of color, and working-class \$2 billion in flexible funding over two years, beginning operators address operating shortfalls and advance cap revenue solutions.

California State Senate
SENATOR
JESSE ARREGUIN
MINORITY SENATE LEADER

March 4, 2025

Senator Pro Tem Tom Torlakson
1021 O Street, Suite 8118
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Scott Wiener
1021 O Street, Suite 8020
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Louis Richardson
1021 O Street, Suite 7340
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Request for \$2 Billion in New Flexible Funding to Save and Improve Public Transit

Dear Pro Tem Torlakson, Senator Wiener, and Senator Richardson:

Public transit is the backbone of our state's economy, and it is essential for California to meet its climate and air quality commitments and make our state more affordable. Unfortunately, many transit agencies across the state continue to face dire fiscal challenges, and any cuts and closures will disproportionately impact essential workers, people of color, and working class families. Therefore, we respectfully and urgently request \$2 billion in new flexible funding for public transit over 2 years, beginning in fiscal year 2025-2026 to help transit agencies address operating shortfalls and deliver capital projects while they simultaneously work towards more sustainable revenue sources.

The effects of the pandemic have been dramatic and ongoing, and it has impacted agencies differently because each agency has a different mix of revenue sources. Some agencies, especially those that were largely self-supporting pre-pandemic, continue to suffer the most, including the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), AC Transit, and Caltrans, among others. Multiple public transit agencies are running out of time, and we likely to hit fiscal cliffs before 2028.

Logos: SPUR, AARP, SEIU, UNITE HERE, SAMCEDA, TRANSFORM, LEVEL, WALK, WEITCAMP, ENIC, ClimatePlan, and many others.



Our Budget Advocacy



California Transit
Association

- 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



California Transit
Association

- 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



California Transit Association

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



California Transit
Association

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

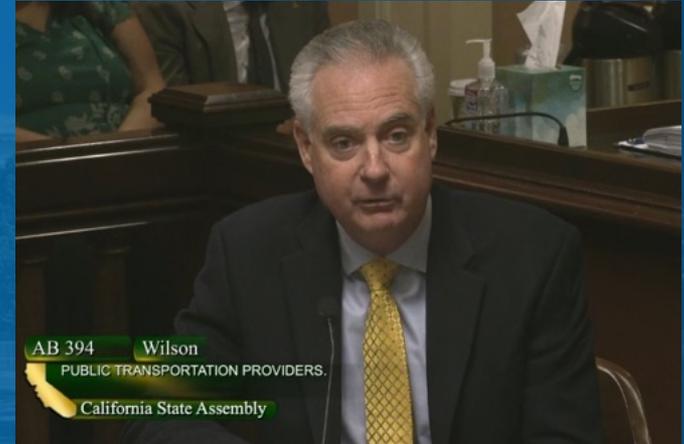
Status of Association-Sponsored Bills



California Transit
Association

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



California Transit
Association

- 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



California Transit
Association

- 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



California Transit
Association

- 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



California Transit Association

- 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 26, 2024

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.

U.S. Department of Labor Office of Labor-Management Standards
200 Constitution Ave., NW, N-9003
Washington, D.C. 20210 

March 31, 2025

Daniel Smith
General Counsel
Amalgamated Transit Union
10000 New Hampshire Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20903-1706

Re: Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District – CA-2025-022-00; CA-2025-026-00;
CA-2025-027-00; CA-2025-031-00
Central Contra Costa Transit Agency – CA-2025-016-00
Riverside Transit Agency – CA-2025-018-00

Dear Mr. Smith:

This is in response to letters objecting to the Proposed Terms for Employee Protection Certification contained in the Department’s referral letters for the above referenced grants. Pursuant to Department Guidelines (29 C.F.R. Part 215), your objections were timely received.

The Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), on behalf of its affected locals, has objected to the Department’s proposed certification on the ground that the Public Employees’ Pension Reform Act of 2013 (“PEPRA”), Cal. Gov. Code § 7522 *et seq.*, precludes the Department from certifying the transit agencies’ compliance with the condition that they continue collective bargaining rights as required by 49 U.S.C. § 5333(b)(2)(b) of the Federal Transit Act (also known as Section 13(c)(2) of the Urban Mass Transportation Act) in order to be eligible for this federal funding. ATU cites as support the various documents written by the Department and ATU over the years of litigation surrounding PEPRA and Section 13(c). As explained below, following a review of the materials submitted and the prior history, the Department has determined that the objections are not sufficient.

Only a brief summary of the extensive litigation regarding the Department’s determinations about PEPRA is provided here.¹ In 2013, and again in 2015, the Department denied certification to grants for the Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRTD) and the



California Transit
Association

Q&A

Microphones will be in audience

caltransit.org





California Transit
Association

Michael Pimentel

Executive Director



caltransit.org



Federal Update



California Transit
Association

Ray Tellis

FTA Region IX Administrator



Federal Transit Administration

caltransit.org





California Transit
Association

Q&A

Microphones will be in audience

caltransit.org





California Transit
Association

2025 SPRING

Legislative Conference



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

caltransit.org





California Transit
Association

Michael Pimentel

Executive Director



caltransit.org





California Transit
Association

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



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



caltransit.org



California Transit
Association

Q&A

Please submit your
questions via Slido
Code #2701123



caltransit.org





California Transit
Association

Matt Robinson
Legislative Advocate



caltransit.org



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



CaliforniaTransit
Association



**Senator
Catherine Blakespear**
D – District 38



**Senator
Scott Wiener**
D – District 11



**Assembly Member
Lori Wilson**
D – District 11



Alejandro Lazo
CalMatters,
Moderator





California Transit
Association

Q&A

Please submit your
questions via Slido
Code #2701123



caltransit.org





California Transit
Association

Michael Pimentel

Executive Director



caltransit.org





Join the top voices in transit

November 5-7, 2025

Long Beach, CA



Keynote Speaker
Pete Buttigieg

CaliforniaTransit
Association



Thank you to Association Staff



California Transit
Association



caltransit.org





California Transit
Association

THANK
Thank you
for joining us
YOU

caltransit.org

