

Memorandum

DATE: November 11, 2025

TO: AC Transit Board of Directors/File

FROM: Murphy McCalley, Director Ward 4

RE: Notes from the 2025 California Transit Association Annual Conference

I attended the California Transit Association's annual conference held in Long Beach, CA and sponsored by Long Beach Transit, November 5-7th 2025. Below are the highlights/take aways from the sessions attended.

November 5th Keynote Address

The keynote speaker was Former Secretary of Transportation Mr. Pete Buttigieg. He provided some insights on the previous and current administration. He stated that he was most proud of the passage of the infrastructure bill. Conversely, he was disappointed by the fact that they did not get more of the projects started and grants awarded, which would have saved these funds from being clawed back by the current administration.

November 5th Sessions

IDEA Task Force meeting:

- This task force is chaired by Beverly Green, VTA. The purpose of the task force is to address the recently issued Federal guidance regarding the Disadvantage Business Enterprise DBE program resulting in the elimination of the program. There is also guidance related to prohibiting granting a commercial driver's license whose citizenship is in question.

Transit Workers Assaults and Special Events:

The session discussed SB 434, collection of data on assaults and AB 394 expanded penalties for an assault. Also, discussed were strategies for reducing assaults. Take ways were as follows:

- Use of targeted enforcement campaigns
- Preplanning for large events
- Long Beach Transit discussed their use of ambassadors
Greeting vs. guarding (i.e., customer focus)
- Use of a rider code of conduct and posting top 10 violations on buses
- WMATA uses a "wanted posters" of repeated offenders
- Important to press charges against perpetrators

Cutting Cost without Cutting Service

Take aways from the sessions:

- Utilizing AI to assist with dispatching for paratransit services
- Use of TNCs for first/last mile (agencies can set the subsidy amount, if any)
- Redesign routes and network

November 7th Sessions

Selling Your Transit System Success Stories:

This session focused on how to promote a positive message about your system.

- Partner with advocacy groups and community events
- Improve your product/revise your network
- Be supportive of advocacy groups
- Promote a community celebration program (participate in community events)
Long Beach Transit and SD MTS had arts/mural programs
- Naming rights
- Transit = Community
- SDMTS promoted the economic benefits of transit (i.e., \$1 spent = \$5 economic benefit)

ICT Program Regulation Relief:

The session focused on the State efforts regarding the implementation of ZEB program considering current bus manufacturing industry, suppliers, the Federal funding program changes, and the energy sector. They have formed a task force to address these issues over the next 2 years:

- Financing issues
- Energy supplies/cost
- Impact on small and rural systems
- Infrastructure issues (long-term risks)
- Federal pull out of ARCHES program