

Travel Report – Director Silva
California Transit Association Conference

Meetings I attended.

1. Maintenance Committee meeting:

Tariffs effects on bus body/chassis parts, or finished buses, how they affect cost of procurements, and can increase a bus price up to 5% -15% after the original bus price.

How this is currently impacting bus manufacturers and transit agencies: e.g., cost increases, lead-times, supply chain disruptions.

How it burdens translate into higher acquisition cost for agencies, possible budget strain, and the knock-on effects for maintenance (higher parts cost, slower part delivery).

Organizations should Incorporate tariff risk into your maintenance plan: e.g., plan for price escalation, longer lead times, alternative sourcing.

2. Operations committee meeting:

Talked about use of (TRO) Temporary restraining order.

This suggests agencies are considering TROs as a tool to deal with individuals who may pose ongoing threats in transit operations (to employees or riders).

Practical aspects may include how to file, enforce, coordinate with law enforcement, etc.

3. Keynote Presentation Pete Buttigieg.

4. Keynote Address: Lynda Tran.

5. The Powerless Brokers: Why California Can't Build Transit:

The session aligned with the conference theme of “shaping the future of transit in California” and directly addressed a major operational challenge: why many transit-expansion efforts remain stalled despite funding or voter support.

6. 2025 Status update on CA. Zero-Emission Bus Regulations:

For large transit agencies in California: by January 1,2026, 50 % of all new bus purchases must be zero-emission buses. For smaller agencies, the threshold is 25%.