



## **2023 STATE ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

### **PROPOSED DISTRICT SPONSORED LEGISLATION**

1. Ensure that the electricity needed for zero emission public transportation is prioritized over increasing demand from other uses
2. Introduction of legislation to place a \$10 billion statewide bond on the ballot to help finance California's transition to 100 percent zero emissions by 2040
3. Require managed health care plans to reimburse public transit agencies for the cost of providing non-medical transportation

### **CORE PRINCIPLES**

1. The District will pursue policies and actions that support its mission "to deliver safe, reliable, sustainable transit service that responds to the needs of our customers and communities."
2. Our advocacy efforts will be further guided by our commitment to:
  - a) promoting diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility;
  - b) advancing sustainability and promoting environmental justice; and
  - c) fostering healthy communities and environments.
3. Funding for transit is central to achieving our goals. The District will vigorously pursue efforts to secure the funding needed to provide transit service now and into the future.
4. Technology, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic have and will continue to transform mobility. The District will pursue policies, actions, and partnerships to sustain and enhance our essential service in this rapidly evolving environment.

### **FUNDING**

#### ***Identify and secure long-term funding for...***

1. Ongoing COVID-19 pandemic-related expenses
2. The components needed to allow California transit agencies to use cameras mounted on transit vehicles to discourage illegal parking in transit only zones
3. Full implementation of the District's zero emission bus (ZEB) transition plan
4. Environmental sustainability initiatives that reduce the District's carbon footprint
5. The creation of an advanced workforce training facility and program to provide zero-emission technological skills for transit workers
6. Apprenticeship, workforce development and workforce training programs, with an emphasis on climate and environmental sustainability
7. Increasing the participation of Disadvantaged and Small Business Enterprises in contracting opportunities with the District

8. Ongoing operations, maintenance and enhancement of the District's buses, facilities, assets and key programs
9. All-hazards strategies that protect and make more resilient the District's physical and cyber infrastructure and its human resources
10. School transportation operations and student transit pass programs
11. Initiatives that support broad-based access to public transit, including enhanced fare payment options and reduced or fare free service
12. Efforts that seek to coordinate, integrate and streamline public transit in the region
13. Innovative technology initiatives, partnerships, and investments that support public transit

### **TRANSPORTATION RELATED ADVOCACY**

#### ***Advocate for transit-supportive laws, regulations, actions, and policies that...***

1. Exempt public transit providers from state sales tax
2. Prioritize and define bus only lanes on major transit corridors and create bus only lanes on state-owned bridges and highways
3. Exempt public transit and paratransit vehicles from state and local truck route ordinances
4. Allow permanent use of freeway shoulders by public transit buses and paratransit vehicles
5. Seek to coordinate, integrate and streamline public transit in the region
6. Require direct representation of transit districts on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) governing board
7. Require any mandatory regulations be fully funded
8. Reduce the 2/3 approval threshold for local transportation tax initiatives
9. Support the ability of local jurisdictions to increase fees and gas taxes to support local mass transit
10. Streamline or eliminate outdated, irrelevant, or onerous regulatory requirements that impede the District's ability to conduct its operations and/or deliver transportation services
11. Enhance the District's ability to convert capital funds to support operating purposes
12. Facilitate the District's transition to 100 percent zero emission by 2040
13. Ensure the stable and predictable supply and affordable cost of electricity and hydrogen, while ensuring that their use for mass transit is prioritized
14. Provide incentives for employees and employers to use public transportation to commute to work
15. Prioritize public transit in local planning and/or project development
16. Facilitate new mobility collaborations, "smart cities" initiatives, first/last mile solutions, and data sharing agreements that reduce reliance on personal vehicles and promote increased public transit ridership
17. Require transportation network companies (TNCs) to help fund local public transportation

18. Establish mileage-based road user fees and congestion pricing programs that generate revenues for public transit
19. Provide funding and improve coordination between state health agencies and transit operators to provide services to individuals with a disability or mobility limitations
20. Protect employees by making battery of a transit worker a felony and allow the District to ban designated persons from entering District property
21. Improve enforcement of speeding and dedicated lane violations on state and local roads (e.g., high-occupancy vehicle and managed / express lanes)
22. Implement alternative traffic enforcement measures and technologies which reduce racial disparities
23. Achieve cost savings for public transit operators by securing and/or preserving reduced or no-cost rents at state-owned facilities, and/or allow the subletting of these facilities, including those at the Salesforce Transit Center
24. Deliver or enhance key intermodal connections for AC Transit service

#### **COVID-19 PANDEMIC RELATED PRIORITIES**

##### ***Pursue laws, regulations, actions, and policies that...***

1. Designates public transit employees as essential workers and prioritizes resources to them

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE AND NON-TRANSPORTATION RELATED ADVOCACY**

1. Seek to harmonize treatment of independent public agency retirement systems with large systems (e.g., CalPERS, CalSTRS)
2. Support efforts that maintain existing workers' compensation carveout provisions
3. Consider efforts to reform tort general damages for all public agencies
4. Monitor actions regarding California's Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA)
5. Monitor administrative and regulatory compliance legislation that potentially impacts the District
6. Support legislation that limits liability for common carriers.

**KEY DATES: 2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR***All dates subject to change*

01/04/2023	State legislature reconvenes
01/10/2023	Governor's proposed 2023-24 budget is released
01/20/2023	Last day to submit new bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel
02/17/2023	Deadline for introduction of new bills
03/30/2023 – 04/10/23	Spring Recess
05/13/2023	Governor's May revision of the budget is released.
06/15/2023	2023-24 budget must be passed by legislature
07/14/2023 – 08/14/23	Summer Recess
09/14/2023	Last day for each house to pass bills. Interim recess begins upon adjournment.
10/14/2023	Last day for governor to sign or veto bills