

Jean Walsh, AC Transit Board Director, Ward 2
California Transit Association Fall Conference & Expo
San Jose, CA
November 20-22, 20224

Panels and sessions attended

- Transit Transformation Task Force Update
 - CalSTA Chief Deputy Secretary and CTA Executive Director discussed updates and took audience questions. VTA has achieved 100% pre-covid ridership.
- Keynote speech by Jarrett Walker, transportation planner
 - Suggested aiming for attracting a diverse ridership base, vs making the distinction between “choice” and “transit dependent” riders.
- Innovative Ideas to Mitigate Operator Shortages and Enhance Operator Well-Being
 - Discussion of online sign up programs to improve the operator sign up process. AC Transit is already using an online sign up process.
- Difficult Conversations: Ethics Complaints Against Employees and Board Members
 - The presentation centered on options for proceeding and the risks and challenges with various approaches, including public trust, transparency, etc.
- Recruitment, Retention and Reinvention: Build a Diverse, Durable Transit Workforce
 - Panelists discussed options in addition to compensation to improve operator wellbeing and increase retention, including modernized scheduling to enable junior operators to have improved schedules, childcare, better facilities, improved operator engagement and inclusion, etc

Transit Tour

- Caltrain electrification project
 - The group rode the new electric Caltrain to Mountain View and had discussions with the project leadership team. Ridership is up significantly since electrification. The bike cars will be retrofitted with handles so riders can hold on in the car and keep an eye on their bikes.