



## **DRAFT 2026 STATE ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

### **CORE PRINCIPLES**

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.”

~~Our advocacy efforts will be further guided by the core values of Safety, Service, Environmental Sustainability, Equity, Innovation, Integrity, and Trust enshrined in the District's Strategic Plan.~~

### **DISTRICT SPONSORED LEGISLATION**

1. Sponsor legislation **that extends indefinitely transit agencies' existing authority to enforce parking violations in transit-only zones using automated, forward-facing camera technology.**  
~~to update the District's authorizing statutes in Transit District Law to reflect redistricting changes that include elections issues, board member compensation, and debt financing authority.~~
2. Sponsor legislation that exempts transit operators from state sales taxes when purchasing zero emission buses.
3. Sponsor legislation ensuring public transit agencies with independently elected governing boards have a voting seat(s) on the Board of a Metropolitan Planning Organization.  
~~secure equitable representation on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for transit districts with independently elected governing boards~~

### **DRAFT 2026 STATE ADVOCACY PRIORITIES**

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

1. The delivery of **safe, reliable, equitable, accessible**, and affordable public transportation **that is accessible to all.**
2. Workforce recruitment, training, development, retention, safety, **wellness**, and well-being.
3. **Transit and maintenance operations, paratransit program needs**, priority capital projects, and ridership **recovery growth.**
4. Addressing the District's projected, ~~post pandemic and inflation induced~~ operating deficits.
5. Sustaining and growing state investments in **bus** transit infrastructure, **rolling stock buses**, and **transit** amenities.
6. **School transportation operations Supplementary service to schools** and student transit pass programs.

~~7. Maintaining a state of good repair~~

8. Investments that protect and enhance the resiliency of the District's physical, cybersecurity, operational, and human assets.

~~Comprehensive sustainability initiatives, including but not limited to low-emission bus and paratransit program needs including non-emergency medical transportation~~

9. Achieving compliance with the Innovative Clean Transportation (ICT) ~~regulation~~ and other mandated regulations.

10. Efforts that seek to coordinate, integrate, and streamline public transit in the region.

11. Our priorities in the State's Cap-and-~~Trade Invest~~ Program extension.

**12. ~~BART feeder~~ Feeder service to BART.**

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

1. Provide the means needed to ensure the District's ~~fiscal integrity~~ **financial sustainability**.
2. Support transportation workforce development, training, and safety.
3. Respond to customer needs and ~~result in increased grow~~ transit ridership.
4. Support innovative technology initiatives, partnerships, and investments that benefit public transit and ~~increase grow~~ ridership.
5. ~~Support Secure new and existing funding streams that provide an equitable allocation of funds, and which equitably allocate those funds~~ to support the District's transportation infrastructure and services.
6. Reduce ~~or remove~~ regulatory barriers to efficiently develop and deliver District projects and services.
7. Avoid new, unfunded mandates and regulations.
8. ~~Advance transparent and accountable governance. Promote the District's responsible governance and effective administration~~
9. ~~Prioritize Support~~ the movement of buses and paratransit vehicles on local roads and state highways.
10. ~~Encourage the use of~~ ~~Ensure all transit riders can safely access and use~~ public transportation. ~~and disincentivize the use of personal vehicles~~
11. ~~Prioritize Promote~~ public transit in local, regional, and state planning, project development, and land use ~~decisions~~.
12. Seek to coordinate, integrate, and streamline public transit while encouraging ridership.
13. Support ~~the District's zero-emission clean propulsion technology~~ bus and paratransit service. ~~and programming~~
14. ~~Promote equitable access to transportation and prioritize underserved and disadvantaged communities~~
15. ~~Improve street safety to reduce traffic-related incidents/accidents and minimize the District's risk/liabilities~~

16. Update and modify the State Transportation Development Act (TDA) & State Transit Assistance (STA) Program **formulas**.

17. ~~Defer compliance due dates of the Innovative Clean Transportation (ICT) regulation~~  
~~Amend the Innovative Clean Transit regulation's *Zero Emission Bus Purchase Schedule* to reflect reasonable timelines based on funding availability and manufacturer constraints.~~

**DRAFT KEY DATES: 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**

*All dates approximate pending release of the 2026 legislative calendar*

<b>01/01/2026</b>	Statutes take effect
<b>01/05/2026</b>	Legislature reconvenes
<b>01/10/2026</b>	Governor's proposed 2026-27 budget is submitted to Legislature
<b>01/19/2026</b>	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
<b>01/23/2026</b>	Last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel
<b>01/31/2026</b>	All bills introduced in 2025 must be moved out of their house of origin
<b>02/16/2026</b>	President's Day
<b>02/20/2026</b>	Last day for bill to be introduced
<b>03/31/2026</b>	Cesar Chavez Day
<b>04/10/2026 – 04/20/2026</b>	Spring Recess Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess
<b>05/01/2026</b>	Last day for policy committees to hear and report to fiscal committees fiscal bills introduced in their house
<b>05/08/2026</b>	Last day for policy committees to hear and report to the Floor nonfiscal bills introduced in their house
<b>05/13/2026</b>	Governor's May revision of the budget is released
<b>05/15/2026</b>	Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 9
<b>05/22/2026</b>	Last day for fiscal committees to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house. Last day for fiscal committees to meet prior to June 9.
<b>05/25/2026</b>	Memorial Day
<b>06/01/2026 – 06/05/2026</b>	Floor session only
<b>06/06/2026</b>	Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house
<b>06/12/2026</b>	2026-27 budget must be passed by Legislature
<b>07/04/2026</b>	Independence Day
<b>07/02/2026 – 08/03/2026</b>	Summer Recess
<b>08/31/2026</b>	Last day for each house to pass bills. Interim recess begins upon adjournment.
<b>09/30/2026</b>	Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills