



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*

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