

## 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
- 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