

report

GENERAL MANAGER'S

Gov. Newsom and Sens. Wiener & Arreguín Deliver a Win for AC Transit Riders with SB 63

AC Transit extends sincere gratitude to Governor Gavin Newsom for signing Senate Bill (SB) 63 into law.

Successfully advancing this regional tax measure through the legislative process reflects the vision and leadership of State Senators Scott Wiener and Jesse Arreguín. AC Transit greatly appreciates their steadfast advocacy for public transit throughout the Bay Area.

SB 63 proposes a regional sales tax measure that could offer a long-term, sustainable funding source. By establishing a 14-year regional transit funding mechanism, AC Transit secures the resources needed to address immediate fiscal challenges and sustain our existing service delivery. It would also support our transit district's ongoing efforts to cut costs, hire strategically, and boost operational efficiency through an array of innovations.



SB 63 helps AC Transit address short-term fiscal challenges and preserve long-term bus service.

For longtime riders, the 65th anniversary bus feels like a warm hug from "Auntie Clara" – the affectionate nickname given to AC Transit in the 1960s and 1970s.

Happy Anniversary - Turning 65 and More Modern Than Ever

No matter where you go these days, you hear about midcentury modern. From furniture to fashion, the design world cannot seem to get enough of the sleek lines and bold colors that defined an era. But at AC Transit, midcentury isn't just a design trend, it's part of our DNA.

As we celebrate our 65th anniversary, our transit district is not only reflecting on where we've been; we're bringing midcentury back to East Bay streets in an incredibly modern way.

To mark our blue sapphire anniversary, AC Transit has reimagined one of our contemporary 40-foot buses into a museum on wheels. From a distance, the bus commands attention: a vivid wrap in our original teal green, white, and persimmon orange color scheme, crowned by the beloved AC Transit logo that first debuted in the 1960s.

No detail was overlooked in this recreation. Even the wheels rolled back in time, freshly painted in classic persimmon orange. It's a design that instantly stirs nostalgia and a nod to our beginnings when postwar optimism fueled population growth, and the East Bay was brimming with innovation and style.

The real magic begins once you step onboard. Riders are greeted by a gallery of recreated car cards – vintage placards that trace our story decade by decade. Each card showcases defining moments in AC Transit's evolution, from the early Key System days to the rollout of our first zero emission buses. Riders can also explore how our frontline uniforms have evolved through the decades and learn how the District stepped up to serve during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

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what's inside

- AC Transit's Home Run during the Baller's Parade
- Bold, Smart, & Connected - the all-new mobile app has arrived
- 65 Fleets, 1 Remarkable Memory - the story of Shirley Sanchen

This anniversary celebration is a labor of love, born from months of deep dives into District archives, newsletters, marketing campaigns, and advertisements that chronicled six and a half decades.



Over the next 12 months, AC Transit will continue celebrating its 65th anniversary with a series of special events.

The result? A heartfelt homage not just to transit history, but to the generations of employees, riders, and communities whose lives have unfolded onboard our buses: riders who caught their first bus to school, their first job, or even their first date.

For longtime riders, the “throwback” bus feels like a warm hug from “Auntie Clara” – the affectionate nickname given to our bus network in the 1960s and 1970s. For younger audiences, it’s a discovery of what makes AC Transit timeless. The retro aesthetic, once a marker of nostalgia, now symbolizes authenticity that today’s riders seek out in the brands and institutions they trust.

And the journey doesn’t stop here. Over the next 12 months, AC Transit will continue celebrating its 65th anniversary with a series of special events, social media spotlights, community partnerships, and even a collaboration with an iconic local apparel company to produce a limited-edition anniversary T-shirt.

The anniversary bus is more than a rolling tribute, it’s a reminder that while styles evolve and technology races ahead, our roots remain strong. For 65 years, AC Transit has been, and continues to be, a vital part of the East Bay’s story.



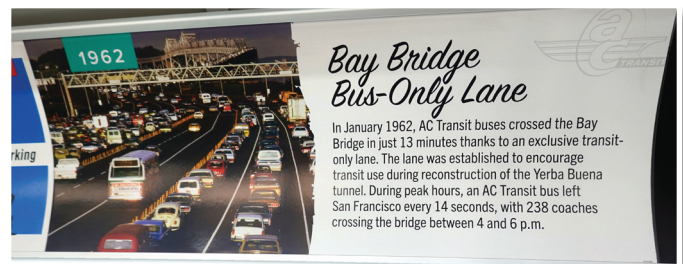
Bus Operator Gurjeet Singh takes the wheel of the 65 anniversary bus, kicking off its cross-Division tour, giving riders from Richmond to Fremont a chance to ride down memory lane.

SB 63 continued from page 1

Without the sustainable funding envisioned by SB 63, AC Transit faces service reductions of up to 37 percent, which would mean operating at less than half of our pre-pandemic levels. As a result, AC Transit and its policymaking Board remain collectively focused on preserving our 65-year-old bus network, which is a vital lifeline for more than 3 million East Bay riders every month who rely on our service for work, education, and daily life.

Governor Newsom’s approval of SB 63 is a pivotal step that now advances the measure toward qualification for the November 2026 ballot.

AC Transit is proud to stand alongside our regional transit partners and our elected leaders in pursuing a shared vision of fiscally sustainable transit that is equitable and reliable transit for all.



A 1962 AC Transit car card, uncovered during archival research, is part of a collection of historic cards and advertisements highlighting the District’s evolution since 1960.

40 Years, 65 Fleets, 1 Remarkable Memory

When it comes to remembering the past, AC Transit doesn't need to crack open a textbook or step into a museum. We have our own living archive right here at the Central Maintenance Facility. Inside its cavernous warehouse, among shelves of parts and tools, sits a modest pillbox office that houses one of the District's most treasured resources: Inventory Control Supervisor and guardian of AC Transit's mechanical memory, Shirley Sanchen.

For nearly 40 years, Shirley has been more than a steward of parts and records, she's been a keeper of stories, a historian of the fleet, and a quiet force preserving the continuity that links AC Transit's past to its present. Her encyclopedic knowledge of every bus that has ever rolled through our Divisions rivals the depth and pride of our 65th anniversary itself.

Shirley paused for a moment, her eyes narrowing in thought. "Sixty-five," she replied, "not counting one-offs, demos, and minibuses. And 11 manufacturers. Wow! That surprised me too."

Shirley joined AC Transit in 1985 as a Service Employee and found her calling in the Storeroom a year later. There, she began the work that would define her career, meticulously cataloging and managing every material the District purchases to operate.

"Everything from toilet paper to engine packages," she laughs. "Identifying parts to set up, parts that go obsolete, parts that cross over. I have to make sure it's all recorded and updated before a new fleet arrives."

Her knowledge runs so deep that she began drawing schematic cheat sheets for mechanics, hand-illustrated guides to help assemble parts more efficiently — a practice that earned her admiration across CMF.



Shirley's deep knowledge of fleet history and meticulous recordkeeping helped identify all the original details that restored the iconic Bus 100.

To mark this historic year, we decided to test Shirley's legendary recall with a few quiz show-style questions. The first: Which buses were in the fleet when you arrived on the Service Island?

Without hesitation, she smiled.

"The GM 'Fishbowl' 1300," she said. "That model arrived two years before me, in 1983. Also here were the 1400 and 1500 Gillig-Neoplan and the Flyer Industries (later New Flyer Industries) 100 series."

Before the imaginary clock could buzz, we pressed on: How many fleets has the District operated?

To call Shirley a "bus enthusiast" would be like saying Neil Armstrong merely enjoyed flying paper planes. Ask her about any bus in AC Transit's history, and she'll recall not just its make and model, but where it ran, what it replaced, and sometimes even who drove it.

"The GM 'Fishbowl' — any year — is perhaps the most beautiful bus ever designed," she says with the affection of someone describing an old friend. "The 900 series is my absolute favorite. Back in the 1970s, before I came to work here, I loved riding the Fishbowl between Alameda and Cal State Hayward."

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Her nostalgia extends even further back.

"I'm also in love with the 1965 Super Golden Eagle that we bought from Continental Trailways," she recalls. "There were only four in the world, and we operated our one and only — a 60-foot articulated bus — from 1966 through 1979, mostly on Line R. Then the MCI came on property. I love that bus!"



The glass entry door of the pillbox office inside the cavernous CMF showcases every AC Transit logo dating back to the Key System — each one hand-drawn in painstaking detail by Shirley.

That same devotion helped Shirley play a pivotal role in restoring one of AC Transit's greatest treasures — the 1960 GM New Look, better known around the District as Bus 100. Piece by piece, she tracked down nearly every part needed to bring the historic coach back to its former glory.

"Shirley is an absolute asset," says CMF Revenue Supervisor Arthur Hettinger. "From creating part numbers to tracking down hard-to-find components, she's relentless — especially with Bus #100, keeping it running and looking original throughout the 15 years I've been at CMF."

The 65th anniversary bus wrap drew its inspiration from the restored 'Fishbowl' Bus 100, nicknamed for its distinctive large, curved windshield that provided drivers and passengers with a panoramic view. Its lightweight, riveted aluminum body and a stainless-steel frame design became a familiar part of the urban landscape. The New Look bus embodied the can-do spirit of the District's beginnings. Bus 100's restoration — and the ability to recreate its authentic look — was made possible in large part thanks to Shirley's deep knowledge of fleet history and meticulous recordkeeping, which helped identify all the original details.

As AC Transit celebrates 65 years of service, it's fitting that one of our longest-serving employees, Shirley Sanchen, does more than manage bolts, bearings, and bus frames: she reminds us that the most valuable part of our history isn't built from metal, but from memory.



Shirley's self-taught cataloging of District parts enabled her to identify all 65 fleet changes and 11 manufacturers that make up AC Transit's rich history.



Arthur Hettinger (left) praises Shirley as a tireless force in the Storeroom, helping him track down the parts that have kept Bus #100 running smoothly and looking original for the past 15 years.

AC Transit Hits a Home Run with Ballers Parade

On October 5, the East Bay came alive with cheers, chants, and championship pride as AC Transit joined legions of fans in Oakland to celebrate the Oakland Ballers' 2025 Pioneer League Championship victory. The day-long rally and parade wasn't just about baseball but also a home run for community connection, making AC Transit the designated pitcher in a perfect partnership with Oakland's newest hometown heroes.

The celebration kicked off at City Hall. Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee, city leaders, and the Ballers organization honored the team's incredible first-season banner. Amid the sea of black and silver, AC Transit's "Built by Oakland" rally cards were clutched high by fans, players' families, and even Mayor Lee herself. The cards featured both the Ballers and AC Transit logos, and became an instant fan favorite, appearing in photos, social media posts, and multiple Bay Area news broadcasts covering the day's excitement.



Fans and players' families proudly waved AC Transit's "Built by Oakland" rally cards, which made a splash on social media and appeared on TV news broadcasts.

After the rally, the spirit continued to roll – literally. AC Transit's Marketing team hopped aboard a packed Line 22 and stood shoulder-to-shoulder with fans headed toward Raimondi Park for the championship parade. Along the route, staff distributed more rally cards and chatted with riders. They celebrated the win and shared in the community pride that defines Oakland.

The parade itself was a scene straight out of a Norman Rockwell illustration. AC Transit's minibus cruised in the procession, decked out and gleaming in the early autumn sun, while staff walked alongside, high-fiving fans and waving to the crowd.

At the post-parade celebration outside Prescott Market, AC Transit kept the energy high with a lively activation area - where we create experiences with our riders - next to the Ballers Bus. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as the team handed out giveaway items, shared service information, and spotlighted our growing partnership with the Ballers.

The day wrapped up not just as a celebration of a championship season, but as a reminder that AC Transit and the many communities we serve are truly one team.



AC Transit's minibus rolled through the championship parade, a scene straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting.



The championship celebration kicked off at City Hall, where Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee and the Ballers organization honored the team's incredible first-season banner.

AC Transit Honored with Business Partner of the Year Award

In today's competitive job market, public transit faces stiff competition for talent, especially in the Bay Area, where high-tech companies with sky-high salaries and workplaces that resemble spaceships from a Hollywood filmset dominate recruitment. It is easy for the incredible career opportunities within transit agencies to get overlooked, even though they offer competitive salaries and work that generates a lasting impact.

That is why October 9th is such a turning point in AC Transit's storied history. It is the day the District became the recipient of the prestigious Business Partner of the Year Award from the Eden Area Regional Occupational Program (EAROP). Recognized for our commitment to workforce development and strong community partnerships. This honor celebrates not just our commitment to building the next generation of transit professionals, but also the extraordinary opportunities waiting for those ready to step into the world of public transportation.

AC Transit's General Manager Salvador Llamas and Board Vice President Murphy McCalley proudly accepted the award from EAROP Superintendent Blaine Torpey. In addition, the District was honored with a Certificate of Recognition from the office of State Senator Dr. Aisha Wahab, for our role in supporting the launch of EAROP's newest program, Zero Emission Vehicle Technology.

EAROP is located within two miles of the District's Training and Education Center in Hayward and specializes in academic, professional, and technical instruction to high school juniors and seniors, and adults with entry-level career and technical training. They are literally a conduit to four major East Bay unified school districts. As with AC Transit, EAROP also partners with Chabot College, creating an attractive network connecting learning to career opportunities.

EAROP's curriculum has long offered students a variety of career pathways, including the highly sought-after automotive and body repair program. Yet when the venerable program sought to explore hydrogen and zero emission vehicle technologies, they faced an unprecedented challenge: none of their instructors had prior experience in this cutting-edge field.



GM Sal Llamas (left) proudly holds the Certificate of Recognition from the office of State Senator Dr. Aisha Wahab, while Board Vice President Murphy McCalley (right) showcases the Business Partner of the Year Award from the Eden Area Regional Occupational Program.

Recognizing that zero emission is the market of the future, EAROP turned to AC Transit's proven leadership in zero emission bus deployment, procurement and maintenance, for technical expertise. This fall semester, the collaboration bore fruit with the launch of EAROP's first high-voltage class – 27 students strong – marking the historic beginning of their Zero Emission Vehicle Technology program.

AC Transit's internal experts supporting a small business like EAROP highlights the power of community in building tomorrow's workforce. By sharing technical knowledge, we help launch pioneering programs in zero emission vehicle technologies, inspire East Bay youths to explore careers in transit, and showcases AC Transit as a premier employer.

And perhaps, just maybe, the next generation of workers will picture an innovative AC Transit worksite that looks like it came straight from a Hollywood blockbuster.

Bold, Smart, and Seamlessly Connected – Download the Mobile App

In an advancement that redefines how East Bay riders connect with our 123 bus lines, AC Transit proudly announces the launch of the all-new Mobile App. In our humble opinion, it is a substantial leap forward in digital innovation. Building on the foundation of the original app, this redesigned platform puts everything a rider needs, whether frequent rider or day trip, right at their fingertips.

Since beta testing kicked off in February 2025, both riders and employees have played a key role in shaping the app, helping to refine its features to ensure it effectively serves our community's needs. From instant access to nearby stops and real-time trip updates to the ease of mobile payment, the new app transforms every ride into a bold, smart, and seamlessly connected experience.

The new AC Transit Mobile app is built for today's on-the-go rider. So, we've made every step intuitive, fast, and simple:



Available on the App Store and Google Play.

Getting Started

A guided introduction helps riders download, acknowledge, and accept key permissions, ensuring a smooth start.

Trip Insights

Nearby Stops and Trip Details provide real-time predictions, display bus arrivals based on the rider's location, and providing faster and more accurate trip decisions. Riders can access trip information including stop-level details, including bus numbers, live arrival times, and connections for seamless trip planning.

How to Pay?

Integrated with multiple payment options, the app enables secure, contactless fare payment directly on mobile devices.

Rider Alerts

Improved push notifications and display of service alerts for changes in service and rider awareness

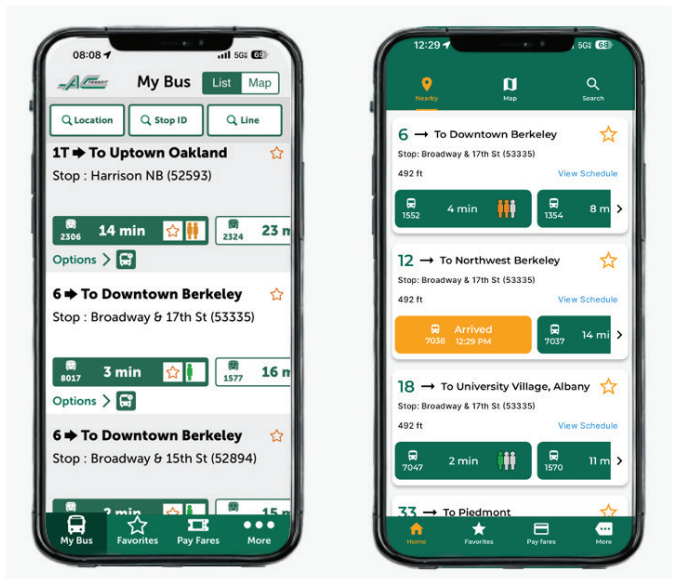
Personalize Your Ride

Riders can save preferred lines and stops, simplifying repeat access and reducing search time for frequent trips.

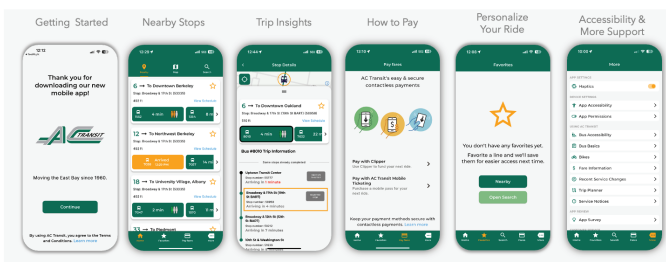
Accessibility and More Support

One-tap access to customer service, accessibility options, service notices, and trip planner tools supports rider confidence and accessibility.

This is just the beginning. AC Transit's IT, Marketing, and Operations teams will continue the months long collaborations to refine and expand the app, keenly focused on integrating industry best practices and rider feedback every step of the way.



The new app (right) introduces a cleaner, more contemporary design over its predecessor (left). Brighter colors, updated fonts, and an intuitive layout that makes navigation effortless.



The new app provides real-time bus arrivals, stop details, and connections, helping riders make faster, more accurate trip decisions.

District Budget Summary: August FY 202526

Keeping an Eye on Overall Spending

As we move through the second month of FY 202526, August results show total District operating expenses tracking slightly above the average monthly budget in certain labor categories. One-time labor costs have temporarily pushed operator expenses over budget, while salaried positions continue to be closely monitored. Monthly fluctuations in hiring and attrition have created minor variances from budget, but overall staffing levels are being managed carefully. Non-labor expenses remain well under budget, though they are expected to normalize as invoicing for services progresses throughout the year. At this point, we are 17% through the fiscal year, having spent 17% of the annual labor budget and 10% of the annual non-labor budget.

Budget Summary (Budget vs Actuals as of August End, 2025)

\$ in 000's	August		FY 2025-26 (17% of year completed)		
	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Actuals	% Used
Wages					
Operators Regular Time	6,170	7,075	74,035	13,879	19%
Operators Premium Time	1,806	1,931	21,676	3,537	16%
Maintenance Regular Time	2,469	2,581	29,632	4,949	17%
Maintenance Overtime	226	231	2,717	427	16%
Salaried Regular Time	4,135	4,471	49,624	8,694	18%
Salaried Overtime	100	87	1,201	176	15%
Misc Wages & Fringe	7,991	7,205	95,888	14,957	16%
Health Plans	6,255	6,575	75,057	13,130	17%
Pension	5,433	5,400	65,200	10,703	16%
Labor Total	34,586	35,556	415,029	70,453	17%
Key Services					
Professional and Tech Svcs	864	649	10,367	573	6%
Security Services	1,667	1,315	20,006	2,442	12%
Other Services	1,788	1,681	21,454	2,144	10%
Vehicle Parts	1,249	1,240	14,985	2,831	19%
Fuel & Lubricants	1,365	1,656	16,381	2,846	17%
Misc Supplies & Materials	393	314	4,712	561	12%
Utilities	582	388	6,980	890	13%
Liability	2,560	966	30,715	1,913	6%
Purchased Transportation	4,489	2,393	53,869	4,760	9%
Taxes & Misc	939	533	11,267	969	9%
Non-Labor Total	15,895	11,135	190,736	19,930	10%
Grand Total	50,480	46,691	605,765	90,383	15%

● areas over budget

Labor Expenses on Track with Minor Variances

Labor expenses for August came in just above the average monthly budget, with actuals totaling \$35.6 million compared to a \$34.6 million budget. Both Operator Regular Time and Operator Premium Time exceeded projections due to one-time training expenses tied to the implementation of Realign, though future months are expected to align more closely with the budget. Salaried Regular Time also ran slightly over budget as vacancy rates fluctuate, but projections indicate these costs will remain on target for the annual spend. Health plan expenses similarly edged above the monthly budget but are consistent with expected annual costs.

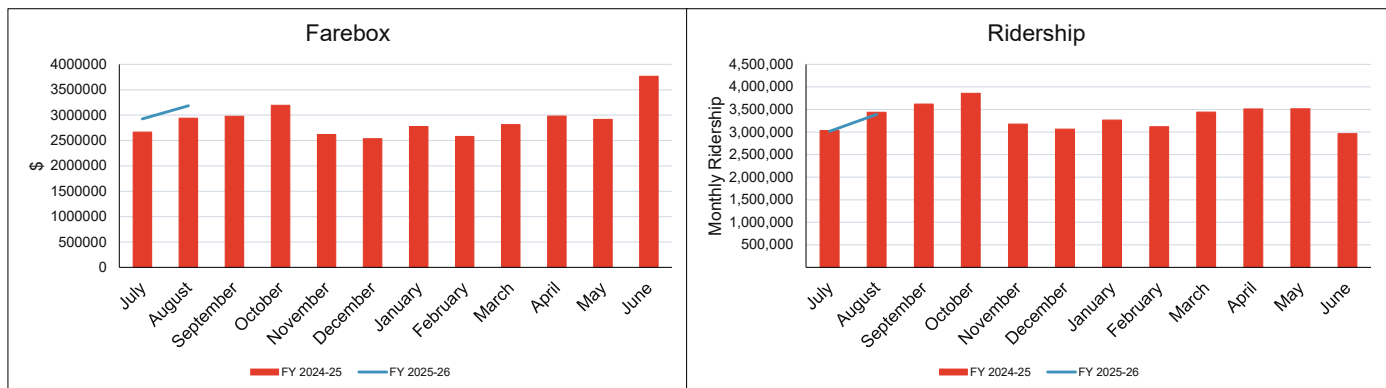
Non-Labor Expenses Remain Below Budget

Non-labor expenses tell a different story. For August, total non-labor spending came in well below the budget, with actuals of \$11.1 million against a budget of \$15.9 million. Vehicle parts expenses are tracked close to the monthly budget, though year-to-date totals are expected to exceed the annual budget due to standard inventory adjustments. Fuel and lubricants were slightly over budget for the month, reflecting the payment of two months of hydrogen fuel invoices in August for July and August.

Looking Ahead

Overall, while certain labor categories are temporarily above budget, the District's spending patterns remain largely consistent with fiscal expectations. Monitoring of staffing levels, hiring trends, and non-labor expenditures continues to ensure that the year's financial targets remain achievable.

Farebox Revenue and Ridership
FY 2025-26 vs. FY 2024-25



Farebox Revenue	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	FYTD	FY Projection
FY 2025-26	2,925,861	3,184,495											6,110,356	36,662,137
FY 2024-25	2,665,963	2,938,986	2,975,787	3,193,065	2,618,563	2,535,473	2,776,021	2,580,295	2,812,442	2,980,812	2,916,556	3,764,426	8,580,736	34,758,388
Y-Y %	9.7%	8.4%											-28.8%	5.5%

FY 2023-24	2,426,377	3,208,376	3,175,689	2,831,595	2,812,522	2,596,688	2,568,046	2,723,843	2,779,179	2,869,602	3,243,656	3,096,620	34,332,195	
FY 2022-23	2,125,902	2,423,509	2,545,561	2,701,189	2,413,388	2,148,142	2,241,310	2,337,789	2,620,407	2,468,050	2,838,748	2,828,051	29,692,045	

NTD Ridership	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	FYTD	FY Projection
FY 2025-26	3,016,031	3,391,206											6,407,237	38,443,422
FY 2024-25	3,032,088	3,437,049	3,620,210	3,856,971	3,176,095	3,065,235	3,265,629	3,118,703	3,441,068	3,511,375	3,517,013	2,963,279	10,089,347	40,004,715
Y-Y %	-0.5%	-1.3%											-36.5%	-3.9%

FY 2023-24	2,805,547	3,397,560	3,464,582	3,637,773	3,223,045	2,994,986	3,190,593	3,248,973	3,425,931	3,430,494	3,431,644	3,015,555	39,266,683	
FY 2022-23	2,377,977	2,908,645	3,006,534	3,117,377	2,859,953	2,595,953	2,741,588	2,776,502	3,099,633	3,100,238	3,154,143	2,855,248	34,593,791	

Notes:

- Farebox revenue is for per-boarding payments only; does not include EasyPass agreements or contract services (BART, City of Oakland, etc.)
- Current FY total ridership and farebox revenue projections are based on the average monthly ridership and farebox revenue applied to the rest of the fiscal year.

Human Resources Personnel Report

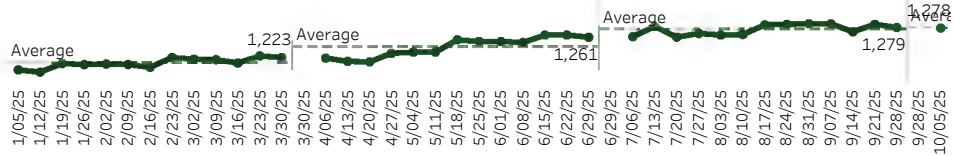
OPEN POSITIONS | Bus Operator: [Approved positions - Division workforce] as of October 5, 2025

Approved Positions	Division Workforce	Open Positions	Open Positions (%)
1,250	1,278	-28	-2.2%

Division Workforce

1,278

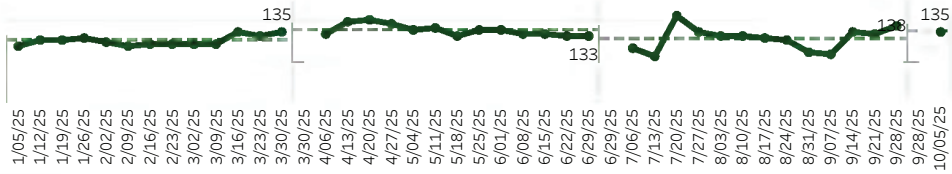
[as of: October 5, 2025]



Long-term Leave

135

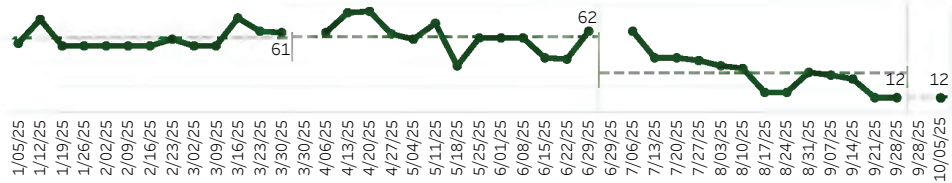
[as of: October 5, 2025]
135



Training

12

[as of: October 5, 2025]



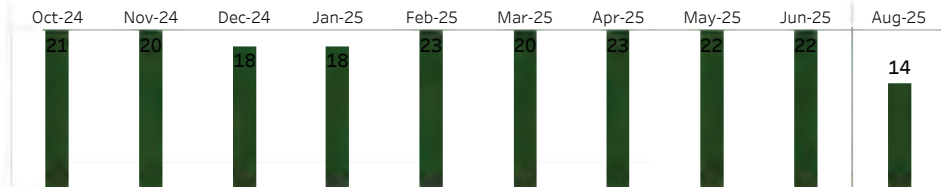
MONTHLY | Bus Operator: Hiring & Workforce Trends

WORKFORCE CHANGE

Hiring

0

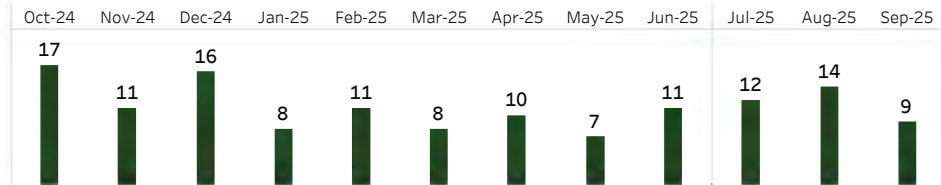
[YTD FY 2026 | September]



Separations

-9

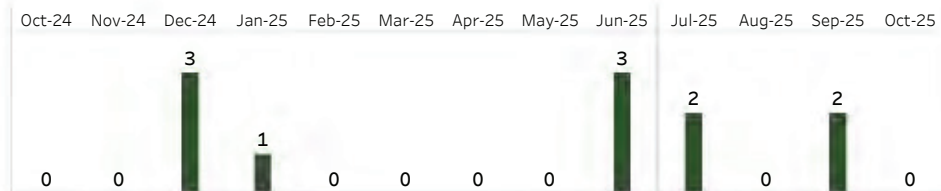
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Promotions

-2

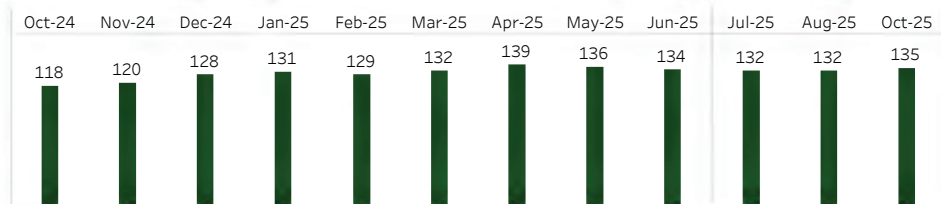
[YTD FY 2026 | September]



Long-Term Leave

+3

[YTD FY 2026 September]



SEP 2025 NET GAIN: -8