



## 2021 STATE ADVOCACY PROGRAM

### **PROPOSED DISTRICT SPONSORED LEGISLATION**

1. SB 1051 (Hancock): Expand the provisions of SB 1051 to apply to bus stop parking enforcement through the use of forward-facing cameras.
2. AB 2777 (Quirk): Modernize existing Transit District Law to update, streamline and provide additional flexibility to the District.
3. Pursue legislation creating a Hybrid and Zero-Emission Truck & Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP) program specific to public transit, and which secures funding to help public transit operators buy zero emission buses (ZEBs) and meet the state mandate that all public transit agencies operate 100% ZEB fleets by 2040.

### **FUNDING**

1. Secure new emergency and stimulus funding to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the District's budget, operational capacity, and to support local economic recovery.
2. Support/seek additional COVID-19 pandemic relief funding to cover the increased cost of operational expenses, and advocate for the conversion of capital funds to support operating purposes.
3. Support and seek funding for first/last mile solutions, measures or projects that reduce reliance on vehicles and promote increased public transit ridership.
4. Support innovative funding solutions that stabilize and/or generate new revenues for transportation projects including funding for transit capital, operations and facilities.
5. Support efforts that increase the formula allocation of cap-and-trade auction revenue to public transit operations and capital investments, in addition to the development of an expenditure plan for cap-and-trade revenue that provides an equitable investment in mass transit and infill/transit oriented development (TOD).
6. Support legislation and programs that would provide funding to offset the costs of climate change initiatives and any zero emission vehicles and infrastructure.
7. Support efforts for new, sustainable funding for existing transit funding programs, including the State Transit Assistance (STA) program, Transit & Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP), Hybrid and Zero-Emission

Truck & Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP), and Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program to offset the decline in available revenue.

8. Support of electrical grid infrastructure modernization to meet Governor Newsom's executive order declaring the goal of eliminating fossil fuels from transportation by 2035.
9. Support efforts that modernize the administration and maintain the consistent allocation of Transportation Development Account (TDA) funds.
10. Support efforts that would exempt public transit providers from state sales tax.
11. Support local ability to increase fees and gas taxes to be used for local mass transit purposes.
12. Support congestion pricing strategies and legislation that provide an equitable multi-modal distribution of generated revenues.
13. Support legislative or administrative action to remove state barriers so that Medicaid transportation funds can be used for public transit services, including ADA paratransit services.
14. Support funding and coordination between the California Health & Human Services (CHHS) agency, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB), and transportation agencies to provide services to clients.
15. Support additional funding for essential services including, but not limited to, services for access to work, school or medical facilities.
16. Support policy initiatives that relieve the undue burden of mandatory regulations by requiring all mandates be fully funded to protect the fiscal integrity of the District.
17. Support efforts to ensure public transit receives a fair share of any new tax revenue, state or regional, such as online sales tax revenues and vehicle miles traveled tax revenues.
18. Support efforts at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and state legislature to provide discounted rates of electricity for zero emission vehicles.
19. Seek funding for, and support efforts that, increase the production of hydrogen fuel and number of hydrogen fueling stations.
20. Secure funding to support delivery of the District's zero emission bus (ZEB) rollout plan, inclusive of new ZEB bus purchases, workforce training programs, and facility and infrastructure upgrades.
21. Support/seek funding for operation and maintenance of the Salesforce Transit Center, the Tempo bus rapid transit (BRT) system, and the District's on-demand Flex bus service.

22. Seek funding for school transportation operations and student transit pass programs, particularly in light of the passage of SB 328, which requires schools to start later.
23. Support regional transportation funding efforts that provide an equitable allocation of revenue and reflects the capital and operational funding priorities of the District.
24. Seek funding to support the development and deployment of emergency preparedness and cybersecurity strategies for protecting transit related critical infrastructure.
25. Pursue efforts that achieve and/or preserve zero cost rent for public transit operators using state-owned facilities, including the Salesforce Transit Center's bus storage facility, to realize cost savings induced by the COVID-19 pandemic.
26. Pursue legislation that would allow the District to rent, at market rate, state-owned facilities like the Salesforce Transit Center's bus storage facility, and to ensure that these rents are directed to the District to help it realize cost savings brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.
27. Secure funding to continue the District's partnership with community food delivery services to assist area residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **EQUIPMENT AND OPERATIONS**

1. Support legislation or administrative action that directs Caltrans to establish, maintain, and enforce high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) and managed / express lanes on state highway routes that maximize person throughput.
2. Support incentives to provide bus only lanes on bridges and transit priority access to state-owned bridges.
3. Support legislation or administrative action to provide bus only lanes on major transit corridors.
4. Support legislation to exempt public transit and paratransit vehicles from state and local truck route ordinances.
5. Support legislation or administrative action that would direct Caltrans to permit permanent use of freeway shoulders by public transit buses and paratransit vehicles.
6. Support increased resources for security and safety of buses, operators, employees, riders and facilities.
7. Support funding to develop and deploy new transit data management platforms.
8. Support funding to deploy new video security technologies including video analytics and collision avoidance systems.

9. Support efforts that increase the limit of facility repairs to \$100,000 or more under public contract code 20211(c).
10. Support efforts that eliminate a requirement established by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to replace hybrid Medium-Heavy Duty Diesel Engines (MHDDE) every 8 years or 185,000 miles.
11. Support legislation that designates public transit employees as essential workers and prioritizes resources to them, including hazard duty/ premium pay for employees required to serve the community through the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **TRANSIT INCENTIVES**

1. Support legislation to provide incentives for employees and employers to use public transportation to commute to work, including tax credits for purchasing transit passes.
2. Support efforts to offer commuter benefits incentives as an alternative to commuting by personal vehicle, and ensure those benefits continue to be provided to employees required to work remotely.
3. Support clean air initiatives that encourage increased public transit use.
4. Support legislation that provides incentives for local governments and developers to incorporate transit passes into the cost of commercial and residential projects, and which ensures that transit passes are funded post-construction indefinitely.
5. Support legislation to provide funding to subsidize the deployment of means-based and/or fare integration programs.

### **ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE LAND USE**

1. Advocate for transit-supportive laws, regulations, and policies that prioritize environmental justice, provide funding to address climate change, and foster healthy communities and environments.
2. Foster transit-supportive land use initiatives that require coordination with transit providers in the initial stages of local planning or project development that impacts transit, including density level decisions. Additionally, advocate for the required use of transit elements in “complete streets” plans to support all transportation modes.
3. Advocate for changes to the California Environmental Protection Agency’s (CalEPA) screening process to better account for the disadvantaged communities of the East Bay.

### **OTHER TRANSPORTATION RELATED ADVOCACY**

1. Advocate for the inclusion of direct input from Bay Area operators in any proposals to streamline public transit operations in the Bay Area.
2. Monitor and support efforts to advance racial justice and transportation equity through state transportation policy.
3. Support efforts to reduce the 2/3 approval threshold for local transportation tax initiatives.
4. Support legislation allowing the District to ban persons from entering District property, including buses, for committing specified offenses relating to aggressive, threatening or criminal behavior against District property, assets or personnel, including biohazard assault (e.g., spitting).
5. Support efforts that levy fees or taxes on shared mobility providers and transportation network companies (TNCs) to fund local public transportation.
6. Monitor legislation or regulations related to emerging mobility services, autonomous vehicles, connected vehicles and shared data that can be used for transportation and operational purposes.
7. Support legislation that requires shared mobility providers and TNCs to provide anonymous trip-level data to public transit providers, which can be used for transportation planning and operational purposes.
8. Support funding that invests in general apprenticeship, workforce development and workforce training programs.
9. Seek revisions to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) statutes to include direct representation of transit properties on its governing board.
10. Monitor efforts that study or implement a mileage-based road user fee program.
11. Monitor efforts that study congestion pricing programs.
12. Support legislation that requires jurisdictions to install Transit Signal Priority (TSP) equipment in order to receive money for traffic signal upgrades.
13. Support efforts to authorize AC Transit to enforce parking in bus stops and bus only lanes through the use of forward-facing cameras.
14. Support alternative traffic enforcement legislation that gives municipalities the flexibility to adopt potentially more effective methods for speeding enforcement.
15. Support new mobility policies that support public transit system and environmental sustainability, promote convenient non-auto modes, reduce vehicle miles traveled, and prioritize collision avoidance systems to ensure safety.

**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 regulation.
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 eliminates liability for common carriers.