

# **South Bay Cities Council of Governments**

## **South Bay Transit Operators Working Group**

### **AGENDA**

**Thursday, April 2, 2026**

**2:00 p. m. - 3:00 p. m.**

- 2:00 p.m.**      **Self-Introductions & Approval of March 5, 2026 Meeting Notes (Attachment A)**
- 2:05 p.m.**      **Transit Operator Updates**
- 2:20 p.m.**      **Updates on Metro Issues, Initiatives & Studies**
- 2:35 p.m.**      **SBCCOG Updates**
- **FY26-27 Measure R South Bay Transit Investment Program Funding Recommendation (Attachment B)**
- 2:50 p.m.**      **Transportation Report Covering March 2026 (Attachment C)**
- 2:55 p.m.**      **Three Month Look-Ahead (Attachment D)**
- 3:00 p.m.**      **Announcements / Adjournment**

*Next Transit Operators Working Group meeting date – next meeting Thursday, May 7th at 2pm*

*To propose agenda items, please contact [DavidL@southbaycities.org](mailto:DavidL@southbaycities.org).*

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**Transit Operators Working Group**

**March 5, 2026 Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Dana Pynn (GTrans, Chair); Andy Sywak, Matthew Lazo (Metro); Paige Meyer, Tyron Gunn (Beach Cities Transit); James Lee, Ryan Plumb (Torrance Transit); Jacki Bacharach, Anne Tsai, Aaron Ruiz (SBCCOG)

**1. Self-Introductions & Acceptance of the January 8, 2026 Meeting Notes**

The virtual meeting was called to order by Ms. Pynn at 2:03 p.m. Meeting notes were accepted as presented.

**2. Transit Operator Updates –**

- Ms. Pynn shared that GTrans will be going to council to purchase two electric double-decker buses through Measure R administered by the SBCCOG, aiming to complete delivery before the 2028 Olympics. Ms. Pynn reported that they will also begin planning routes and alternate routes if necessary for the buses.
- Mr. Lee reported that the Connect Torrance program has been selected for an American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Award.
- Ms. Meyer shared that BCT is meeting with the council to focus on youth ridership and how to adjust routes accordingly. BCT will also be swapping some routes to allow for more efficient operations. Ms. Pynn advised it is crucial to adhere to their public participation plan.
- Mr. Gunn shared that BCT met with the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant team about applying for APC counters along with match funding for CPI projects, digital bus stop signage, and wayfinding signage. Mr. Lee noted that extensive reporting is necessary.

**3. Updates on Metro Issues, Initiatives, Studies –** Mr. Sywak shared the following Metro updates:

- The first phase of the D Line Extension will open May 8, 2026, with stops going westbound from Wilshire/Western to new stops at Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax, and Wilshire/La Cienega.
- The Metro Board has formed an ad hoc committee to consider a reconfiguration of the Board.
- The Metro Board will not meet in June as Metro will be focusing on public outreach during the World Cup.
- The C line schedule will experience adjustments in March due to overhead wire replacement construction.
- The March presentation to the Metro Service Council can be viewed here: [Regional Updates: South Bay Service Council](#)

**5. SBCCOG Updates**

- **Measure R Transit Investment Program Updates:** Ms. Tsai reminded the group that any cash-flow adjustments for projects are due by March 27 to the SBCCOG.
- **2026 General Assembly:** The 2026 General Assembly will have 3 panels. Ms. Bacharach also shared that attendees must register to receive lunch. The SBCCOG invites municipal transit operators to exhibit in the exhibit hall.

**6. Transportation Report Covering February 2026:** Item was received and filed.

**7. Three Month Look-Ahead:** The Metro Board will not be meeting in June. The Transportation Committee will receive a presentation on the Olympic Games Mobility Plan and Vincent Thomas Bridge Deck Replacement project in March.

**8. Announcements / Adjournment:** Mr. Lazo shared Metro's shuttle program for the World Cup, functioning as a park-and-ride system, which will allow Metro to find any errors and refine the program ahead of the Olympics: [Go Metro to the World Cup](#)

Ms. Pynn adjourned the meeting at 2:41 p.m. to April 2, 2026.

*Prepared by Aaron Ruiz, CivicSpark Fellow and Anne Tsai, Project Coordinator*



# MONTHLY SBCCOG TRANSPORTATION REPORT

A summary of recent federal, state, regional and local  
developments and trends in transportation

**COVERING MARCH 2026**

Edited by Aaron Ruiz, CivicSpark Fellow

## Federal

### **U.S. Department of Transportation & Department of Justice Sue to Stop California's Electric Vehicle (EV) Mandate**

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced that the U.S. Department of Justice, on behalf of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), has filed a lawsuit challenging California's vehicle emissions policies, arguing that the state's regulations effectively function as an electric vehicle mandate that conflicts with federal authority. The lawsuit, announced by Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy, centers on whether states can impose standards that influence vehicle fuel economy, which the federal government says is regulated at the national level.

Federal officials contend that California's requirements could force automakers to adjust production nationwide to meet stricter state-level standards, raising concerns about costs and regulatory consistency. The case is part of a broader federal effort to align vehicle standards under national policy and limit what it views as conflicting state regulations.

California has set stricter emissions standards under environmental policies, setting the stage for legal disputes between state and federal governments over transportation and climate regulation. The outcome of the case could have implications for vehicle standards across multiple states that have their own state laws and approach.

Source: [President Trump's Transportation Department & Justice Department Sue to Stop California's Illegal EV Mandate | US Department of Transportation](#)

## State

### **Regional Transportation Initiatives Recognized for Innovation Across California**

The California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) recently recognized nine regional projects across the state through its Eureka! Awards, highlighting innovative approaches to transportation and sustainability. The awards, presented at the organization's Regional Leadership Forum, emphasize programs that can serve as models for other regions addressing mobility and infrastructure challenges.

Among the recognized efforts are transportation-related initiatives that focus on improving regional mobility through coordination, planning, and expanded multimodal options. Projects highlighted by CALCOG include efforts to advance micromobility and integrated transportation systems, reflecting a broader statewide emphasis on reducing emissions while improving accessibility and connectivity.

Regional agencies such as the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) with the Local Travel Network (LTN) and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) with CV Link were among those recognized, highlighting the role of local and subregional partnerships in delivering transportation solutions. In the South Bay, initiatives tied to active transportation networks highlight ongoing efforts to expand travel options and improve safety for micromobility users.

The recognition reflects California's continued reliance on regional collaboration to advance transportation goals, particularly as agencies work to implement new forms of mobility, enhancing first and last mile connections, and addressing climate-related challenges. These types of multijurisdictional efforts are increasingly critical to delivering effective transportation systems across diverse communities.

Source: [Eureka! Nine Regional Projects Recognized for Innovation Across California - California Association of Councils of Governments](#)

## Region

### **LA Metro Plans Direct Bus Service for 2026 World Cup**

LA Metro announced a series of transit enhancements to support travel to the 2026 FIFA World Cup 2026, including direct bus service from multiple locations across the region to matches at SoFi Stadium. With eight matches scheduled in Los Angeles and limited parking availability, Metro is positioning transit as a primary travel option for both residents and visitors.

Metro plans to operate direct bus routes from key rail stations, transit centers, and park-and-ride locations throughout Los Angeles County such as Downtown Long Beach, Harbor Gateway Transit Center, LA Union Station, and the LAX/Metro Transit Center Station. Service is expected to begin several hours before matches begin and continue after games conclude. The agency is coordinating with more than 10 regional transit providers to expand capacity and improve access to the stadium. Fares for the service will remain consistent with standard Metro pricing, helping maintain affordability during the event. Parking reservations at the stations are now available, and pricing differs by location, ranging from \$55 to \$95, plus a service fee.

In addition to direct service, Metro is rolling out a broader set of enhancements, including increased service levels, designated parking options, and improved customer experience efforts tied to the event. These measures are intended to reduce congestion, provide reliable alternatives to driving, and support large-scale travel demand during the tournament.

The initiative is part of broader regional efforts to prepare for large-scale international events by strengthening transit options and reducing reliance on private vehicles. Officials say the

service is intended to improve mobility, reduce congestion, and support a more seamless travel experience for both residents and visitors during the tournament.

Source(s): [Metro to run direct bus service to FIFA World Cup™ matches from multiple locations in the Los Angeles area | The Source](#)

[Metro Announces Hat Trick for FIFA World Cup 2026™ By Offering Enhanced Service, Affordable Parking, Celebratory Customer Experience - LA Metro](#)

## Trends

### **Bay Area Considers New Tax Measures to Address Transit Funding Deficit**

As transit agencies across the country face ridership declines following the COVID-19 pandemic, officials in the San Francisco Bay Area are exploring new funding strategies to address ongoing transit budget deficits, currently at \$376 million. San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie is supporting a proposed parcel tax that could generate an estimated \$150 to \$200 million annually to help stabilize operations for Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART). The tax would apply to properties based on square footage and is considered a crucial part of a broader effort to prevent significant service reductions.

At the same time, regional leaders are advancing discussions around a potential multi-county ballot measure that would provide additional funding for BART and other transit agencies across the Bay Area. The proposal reflects growing concern about funding challenges, as fare revenues for transportation agencies throughout the nation have not fully recovered, and face rising operating costs.

These efforts highlight a broader issue facing transit systems nationwide, as remote and hybrid work continue to impact ridership, agencies may increasingly turn to local tax measures and regional funding strategies to maintain service levels and avoid deeper cuts.

Source: [BART: The worst-case scenarios are actually worse than you've heard](#)

**Updated 3/30/26**

April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026
2. Transit Operators Working Group	4. Metro South Bay Service Council	1. Metro South Bay Service Council	2. Transit Operators Working Group
6. Metro South Bay Service Council	7. Transit Operators Working Group	4. Transit Operators Working Group	6. Metro South Bay Service Council
8. Infrastructure Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FY26-27 Measure M MSP and Measure R Transit Annual Program Funding Recommendation</li> </ul>	11. SBCCOG Transportation Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metro Annual Budget</li> <li>• Metro Board Composition Ad Hoc Committee Update (Tentative)</li> </ul>	8. SBCCOG Transportation Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I-105 ExpressLanes Update</li> </ul> 8. SBCCOG Steering Committee	8. Infrastructure Working Group 13. SBCCOG Transportation Committee 13. SBCCOG Steering Committee
13. SBCCOG Transportation Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FY26-27 Measure M MSP and Measure R Transit Annual Program Funding Recommendation</li> <li>• SCAG Local Data Exchange (LDX)</li> </ul>	11. SBCCOG Steering Committee 13. Infrastructure Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metro Measure R MyGrants Portal</li> </ul>	10. Infrastructure Working Group 25. SBCCOG Board Metro Board - DARK	23. Metro Board 23. SBCCOG Board
13. SBCCOG Steering Committee	28. Metro Board		
23. Metro Board	28. SBCCOG Board		
23. SBCCOG Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LA Air Force Base Update (Tentative)</li> <li>• Classification and Compensation Study Results</li> <li>• FY26-27 Measure M MSP and Measure R Transit Annual Funding Recommendation</li> <li>• Metro Board Composition Ad Hoc Committee Update</li> </ul>			

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