



INFORMATION ITEM

Calendar Year 2023 Legislative Program

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

Marisol Barajas, Manager, Government Relations

BACKGROUND

Long Beach Transit's (LBT) staff works at the local, state and federal levels to protect and enhance funding and advance goals that are important to LBT's provision of daily service for its customers. In addition to its own advocacy efforts, LBT works closely with both the California Transit Association (CTA) and the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) – LBT's industry trade associations – to help advance common goals at the state and federal levels.

Annually, staff develops a legislative work program to help guide advocacy efforts for the calendar year. The program is meant to serve as a strategic document, providing general direction for staff activities and allowing the flexibility to unanticipated legislative and administrative opportunities that may present themselves during the course of the year.

2023 Legislative Program Highlights:

The Calendar Year 2023 Legislative Program was created in conjunction with the CTA and APTA's Legislative Programs. The Program was also designed in support of LBT's Strategic Priorities:

- Improve Safety and Service Quality
- Exercise Financial Accountability
- Foster Employee Engagement
- Enhance Customer Experience
- Promote Community and Industry Focus

Local

LBT continues to serve as a regional partner and stakeholder in its overall effort to support stabilizing transit ridership as the agency advances services for LBT's customers and those who travel throughout LBT's service area, as well as the greater region.

LBT is committed to protecting and enhancing local and regional transportation funding by continuing to work collaboratively with the City of Long Beach and surrounding cities, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to ensure transportation funding is maximized and



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continues to flow on a consistent and reliable basis. LBT will also continue to implement the recommendations of LBT's Systemwide Transit Analysis and Reassessment (STAR) Initiative within the City of Long Beach and surrounding communities in a systematic and phased approach.

State

LBT will work with CTA to ensure that public transit agencies can continue to enhance customers experience, and improve mobility options, grow our services, further the state's environmental objectives, and support good paying jobs.

LBT along with CTA, will partner with local government, the environmental community, and other interested transportation stakeholders and form coalitions advocating for protection of transit funding. This includes supporting efforts to protect SB 1 funding and opposing any effort(s) to repeal, divert, or place conditions on SB 1 funding. LBT will work to preserve the Cap & Trade revenues for public transit established in 2014 legislation and explore flexibility regarding the use of existing Cap & Trade revenues.

Support of transit operations funding is imperative for LBT to continue to deliver vital service, to those vulnerable communities and essential workers that have historically comprised the core of our ridership. With increased operating costs stemming from increased inflation and supply-chain issues, as well as increased costs for vehicles, buses, and vessels to bring zero-emission technology online, LBT along with CTA are working to request the Administration and the Legislature extend the statutory relief provided to California's transit agencies through fiscal year 2024-25.

As LBT works towards sustaining investments in zero-emission transit fleets and continues to transition the bus fleet to zero emission, LBT continues to support investments to help facilitate early compliance with California Air Resources Board (CARB) innovative clean transit (bus) regulation, commercial harbor craft (ferry) regulation. LBT along with CTA will advocate for California to invest in these technologies and continue to dedicate funds for the benefit of Long Beach Transit and California's public transportation systems.

Other legislation, coordinated with CTA, will also pursue land-use, fare reimbursements, and electricity prioritization.

LBT will seek opportunities to leverage its partnerships and resources to support local and regional efforts that maximize its capital improvements and operating programs.

Federal

At the federal level, LBT along with APTA will continue to support a minimum appropriation level for federal surface transportation programs equal to, or at least currently, authorized



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spending levels, and advocate for the highest possible levels of funding for project finance, innovation, safety, and transit programs.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) created various new funding programs and established new requirements on transit agencies including the transition to zero-emission technologies, Build America/Buy America, and transit safety and security. With the support of APTA, LBT will continue to monitor and respond to federal rulemakings and notices to ensure that new programs and new requirements are implementable by California's transit agencies and ensure that California's transit agencies are well-positioned to receive discretionary grant awards.

LBT will also continue to monitor the disbursement of federal COVID-19 relief funds and engage Congress and the Administration, as necessary, to address any barriers related to access and use of these funds. LBT and APTA will also be in discussion with California's congressional delegation in pursuing and securing additional federal relief to address near-term expected operational funding shortfalls.

Throughout calendar year 2023, staff will work closely with CTA, APTA and other transit industry associations to continue to monitor, support and initiate local, state and federal legislation that will positively impact LBT's operations and service delivery.

Staff will coordinate with legislative representatives to ensure continued communication of LBT's vision, mission and strategic priorities and their alignment with local, state and federal legislative policies and funding programs that support LBT's services as well as its current and future programs and initiatives.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION – N/A

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'K. McDonald'.

Kenneth A. McDonald
President and Chief Executive Officer