BART Anticipates $1.17B Full Funding Grant Agreement for Core Capacity Project in 2020

In 2019, BART made great strides toward securing a $1.17 billion federal grant for its Transbay Corridor Core Capacity Project (TCCCP). After several months of project review and discussions with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the TCCCP was approved to advance into the engineering phase of the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program and allocated $300 million in Fiscal Year 2018 CIG funding.

This significant step forward would not have been possible without the unwavering support of BART’s congressional delegation led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senator Dianne Feinstein, who have fought to keep the TCCCP a high priority within the FTA. BART also thanks the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Senate Banking Committee, and both the Senate and House THUD Committee on Appropriations for their ongoing oversight of the CIG program.

The TCCCP is one of the highest rated CIG projects in the country and BART remains hopeful a full funding grant agreement can be finalized by mid-year. FTA Headquarters and Region 9 staff have been extraordinary partners throughout the various program stages, but it will take collective action by all partners to reach our goal. Let's get there together and deliver on a successful project for the Bay Area.

BART is Rebuilding

BART is experiencing a revitalization thanks to rebuilding work that is having a direct impact on the travel experience of riders. Now in its third year, the Measure RR program is allowing BART to replace decades-old infrastructure and equipment to create a system that is safer, quieter, and more reliable.

Recent Measure RR Milestones

- Completion of an interlocking project between Concord and Pleasant Hill stations to decrease noise and improve reliability of high-use interlocking on BART’s busiest line.
- Replacement of 32 miles of track to improve overall service reliability.
- Awarding of a $96.5 million contract to replace more than 40 aging escalators in downtown San Francisco.
- Power cable upgrades to replace 100 miles of 34.5 kV electrical cable to improve the reliability of electricity delivery to the trains and passenger stations.
- Committed $169.8 million in funding to small businesses through December 2019.

For more project updates visit bart.gov/better-bart.
Making BART a World-Class Transit System

It is with great pride and excitement that I step into the role of BART General Manager. Having spent the last nine years at BART, I am proud of the work we have accomplished to rebuild the system, but I also understand the immense challenges impacting our riders and employees.

My number one commitment as General Manager will be to put the riders first and improve the customer experience. Working alongside BART’s dedicated and talented workforce, I will focus on providing riders a safe, reliable, and quality service. In this report, you will read about BART’s many initiatives aimed at improving system safety and cleanliness, addressing the regional homelessness crisis, and preventing fare evasion.

As General Manager, I also look forward to engaging our federal partners on projects that will support the region’s growing transportation needs. Beyond the improvements provided by BART’s Core Capacity Project, the region will need a transformational project—a new transbay rail crossing to create a fully integrated transit network in Northern California.

2020 is a critical year for transportation. I urge Congress to act on an infrastructure and reauthorization plan and make the bold decisions necessary for long-term funding. We must prioritize our nation’s infrastructure and transform our public transit systems to meet the demands of today and the future.

A New Transbay Rail Crossing—One Project, Two Solutions

Every day, more than three-quarters of a million people travel the existing transbay corridor between San Francisco and the East Bay on BART, cars, buses, trucks, and ferries. The new crossing will connect transit hubs and transit systems throughout the Bay Area. This modern, fully integrated transit network will:

CREATE fast, frequent, reliable, and comfortable service that reduces wait times

MEET growing travel demand as the Bay Area’s population continues to increase

IMPROVE air quality by creating an integrated transit network that provides an attractive and viable alternative to driving

UNLOCK the Bay Area’s future economic growth by improving people’s connections between high-quality jobs, affordable housing, and destination centers

BART and the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) are partnering to advance a new transbay rail crossing, a once-in-a-lifetime project that will create transportation benefits for generations to come. The project will transform Northern California’s transportation network by increasing the number of BART trains across the Bay and creating a direct regional rail link from the East Bay, Central Valley, and Sacramento to the San Francisco Peninsula.
New Chief of Police—Ed Alvarez

BART has a new Chief of Police in Ed Alvarez, a 22-year veteran of the BART Police Department. Alvarez previously served as Interim Chief of Police and the Deputy Chief over the Support Services Bureau. As Interim Chief, he oversaw the acceleration of officer hiring; BART’s accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA); and the roll out and deployment of life-saving Narcan. Chief Alvarez's top priorities include increasing officer presence on board trains, launching a newly approved Ambassador program, and improving engagement between BART police and the public.

Department Highlights

Record Breaking Police Hiring
- Total of 63 new officers hired in 2019, resulting in 30 new net officers
- 19 additional officers planned in FY21 budget

Federal Grant for Police Patrols
- BART received a FY19 $1.7 million transit security grant to sustain deployment of its Critical Asset Patrol (CAP) Team that provides high visibility patrol on trains, platforms, and in stations primarily within the core San Francisco stations

Ambassador Pilot Program
- 6-month pilot launched February
- 10 Ambassadors work in teams of two to provide additional BART presence primarily during nights and weekends

Quality of Life Initiatives Underway

Between FY14–FY20, BART has added approximately $60 million in new and ongoing programs focused on quality of life issues.

Addressing Homelessness
- County partnerships in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, and San Mateo provide full-time homeless outreach teams at select stations
- “Partners for Change” campaign launched with The Salvation Army to help fund homeless supportive services

Commitment to Cleanliness
- Rapid Response Car Cleaning teams positioned mid-line to respond to urgent cleaning needs on trains
- Elevator attendants in four downtown San Francisco stations prevent incidents of human waste, needles, vandalism and assaults

Increasing Officer Visibility & Train Presence
- 12 sworn police officers are now dedicated to riding trains and walking platforms on nights and weekends
- The Train Team supplements the Ambassador Program, which utilizes unarmed non-sworn police staff to prevent and de-escalate problems on board trains

Deterring Fare Evasion
- BART’s fare inspectors systematically check for valid fare within the paid area of the BART system
- Continuous roll out of station hardening efforts including raised railings, alarmed swing gates, and fare gate modifications

San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District
2019 Highlights and a Look Ahead

Better Calls and Better Data
In partnership with the SFMTA, BART is developing four new projects to deliver seamless connectivity for riders. Together, the projects will construct new WiFi and Bluetooth infrastructure, enhance cellular coverage to drastically reduce dropped calls, provide reliable connectivity for video and audio stream, and allow for improved app functionality.

Public Transit to the Airport Incentive
BART is looking to give transit riders priority access to the lines leading to passenger screening check points at San Francisco International Airport. Using trip verification technology, airport staff would scan Clipper cards or QR codes on BART apps to verify a customer used public transit to the airport. Once a trip is verified, the customer would proceed to a priority line for security screening.

Police Department Gains Prestigious Accreditation
The BART Police Department is now the 17th agency in California to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The department underwent an extensive review and either met or exceeded best practices for law enforcement set forth by the commission. Fewer than 6% of law enforcement agencies in the nation are accredited through CALEA.

Clipper START Discount Program
Expected to begin in spring 2020, the Clipper START Discount Program is a 12–18 month pilot that will offer a 20% BART discount per trip to adult riders earning up to 200% of the federal poverty level. Participating transit agencies in the pilot include BART, Caltrain, Golden Gate Transit and Ferry, and SFMTA. Discounts vary by agency.

Oscar Grant III Mural and Street Naming
On June 8, 2019, the family of Oscar Grant III and BART unveiled a mural honoring the late East Bay man’s life as well as a street sign, naming a previously unnamed street “Oscar Grant III Way.” The mural is the first long-term project to be completed under BART’s Art in Transit Program.

2020 Federal Advocacy Goals

- Ensure timely execution of a Full Funding Grant Agreement for BART’s Transbay Corridor Core Capacity Project within the Federal Transit Administration’s Capital Investment Grants Program.
- Advocate for robust transit funding within a federal surface transportation reauthorization bill and infrastructure package.
- Pursue available grant funding to enhance BART’s quality of life initiatives; support increased funding for all transit security and safety grant programs.
- Monitor the United States Department of Labor actions related to the certification of California transit grants.
- Respond to federal legislation and proposed rule-making that may impact BART programs or operations.

The official BART app updated
The official BART app offers riders end-to-end trip planning, real-time departures with data straight from BART, service advisories, and the ability to save your favorite trips and stations. In 2020, BART plans its most significant parking payment modernization effort to date, offering daily fee parking payment through the official BART app.