Don’t let BART go broke

The COVID-19 pandemic changed how Bay Area residents live, work, and travel. It hit BART and all other public transit systems hard, decimating transit ridership and, along with it, the transit fare revenue we rely on to keep trains running.

We are in an unprecedented moment, with the survival of BART at risk. While many workers, students, and our neighbors who depend on BART continue to ride, others have returned to transit more slowly and less frequently. The Bay Area has the highest work-from-home rates in the nation, and slowest downtown recovery, resulting in fewer commute trips.

Financial support from the state for transit operations, in the form of a multiyear funding commitment beginning with the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget, is needed to make sure BART survives and thrives.

New funds will help:

- Bridge the gap until we can secure more sustainable sources of money through a regional transportation measure.
- Improve the current system so it is safer, cleaner, more accessible, more affordable, and more reliable.

Even with belt-tightening, we can’t cut our way out of the crisis

Rail has high fixed cost and low marginal cost.

Financial stability strategies:

- Increase revenue and decrease expenses
- Maximize efficiencies, reduce overtime; improve long term financial planning
- Improve service to keep our riders coming back and gain new riders
- Provide frequent, reliable, safe, and clean service; reduce cancelled trips
- Promote taking BART for non-work trips

BART was self-reliant before the pandemic

BART depended on fares to run service, more than almost any other transit agency in the world.

BART’s operating ratio*

- FY22 ............................................. 21%
- FY21 ............................................. 12%
- Pre-COVID ..................................... 71%

*Percentage of costs paid by passenger fares, parking revenue, advertising, and other sources

BART is now running service using one-time federal emergency funds that will run out in 2025

We can’t afford to lose transit

We are facing large operating deficits*

- FY 23-24: ......................................... $0 (because of federal aid)
- FY 24-25: ......................................... $140M (last bit of federal aid)
- FY 25-26: ......................................... $290M
- FY 26-27: ......................................... $255M
- FY 27-28: ......................................... $300M
- FY 28-29: ......................................... $260M

*As of January 30, 2023. Forecast will be updated during the FY 24-25 budget process.
Ridership trends
Ridership peaked to 40% of pre-pandemic in fall 2022.

Average FY22 ridership
Weekday......................... 111,311
Saturday......................... 68,253
Sunday........................... 48,373
FY22 ridership was 29% of FY19 ridership.

BART is the backbone of the Bay Area
- BART runs 220,000 trains in a year
- Serves 5 counties with 6 million people

Total annual ridership
FY19 ......................... 118,102,114
FY22 ......................... 34,549,913

Ridership profile
- 31% are low income (household income under $50K)
- 43% do not have a vehicle
- 67% identify as non-white
- 20% age 55 and older
- 2% age 17 and younger
- 7% have a disability

Transit is the solution for California’s climate goals
Taking BART somewhere every day for one month emits less CO2 than driving just once.

Power supply
100% greenhouse gas free (“GHG-free”) power supply with 50% eligible renewable energy.

BART’s electric supply portfolio is comprised of wholesale wind, solar, and hydroelectric sources, as well as five onsite solar projects.