We can’t afford to lose transit

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 are facing large operating deficits

FY 23-24: ......................................... $0
(because of federal aid)
FY 24-25: ......................................... $92M
(last bit of federal aid)
FY 25-26: ......................................... $313M
FY 26-27: ......................................... $297M
FY 27-28: ......................................... $342M
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)
• 44% do not have a vehicle
• 67% identify as non-white
• 20% age 55 and older
• 2% age 13–17
• 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.

Consequences of a fiscal cliff
• 60-minute train frequency
• 9pm closure
• Stations closed
• Line shutdowns
• No weekend service
• Mass layoffs
• Increased traffic congestion
• Negative impact on state climate goals
• Priority populations disproportionately impacted

* NO BART SERVICE

BART’s Transbay Tube riders vs. Bay Bridge drivers

14,200 people in cars* per hour move over the Bay at rush hour

27,000 people per hour move under the Bay at rush hour

*Assumes average of 1.7 persons per vehicle (Caltrans)