

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: 2026 Legislative Program

FROM: Jennifer Yeamans, Senior Grants & Management Specialist

DATE: February 2, 2026

Action Requested

The Finance & Administration Committee recommends the Board of Directors approve Resolution 03-2026, affirming LAVTA's 2026 Legislative Program.

Background

Each year the LAVTA Board of Directors approves a Legislative Program to guide staff and the Board for legislative issues at the federal, state, and regional/local level to support, watch and monitor, stay neutral, or oppose. In November 2025, the Board adopted the updated Strategic Plan, including an updated mission statement from which the agency's legislative principles derive.

Discussion

The proposed Legislative Program in Attachment 2 continues and refines the following four principles from previous years, in alignment with LAVTA's newly updated mission "*to enhance mobility through access to safe, customer oriented, reliable, and affordable public transportation*":

1. Protect existing and enhance future transit funding sources.
2. Enhance operating conditions to support safety and performance goals.
3. Enhance public transit's role in addressing climate change and air quality issues by providing access to affordable and reliable service.
4. Leverage support from and with partners to promote mobility, improve customer experience, and enhance regional leadership.

The proposed 2026 Legislative Program continues several priorities identified in previous years while highlighting new potential legislative initiatives emerging at the federal, state, and regional/local level. Within a sufficiently broad horizon to anticipate a range of potential uncertainties ahead, this year's proposed program aims to:

- Maximize available operating funding sources for public transit by safeguarding existing revenues and supporting efforts to secure new funding through a regional transportation revenue measure to be put to voters in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties in November 2026.
- Engage proactively with state and regional agencies and other public transit partners to analyze, address, and minimize impacts on LAVTA's capital and operating resources associated with implementation of CARB's Innovative Clean Transit rule.

- Participate actively in the development of reauthorization legislation for federal surface transportation programs, which typically spans a five-year horizon. The current authorization, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) was enacted in November 2021 and authorizes existing surface transportation programs through September 30, 2026.
- Identify near-term capital priorities that may be suitable for federal Community Project Funding requests sponsored by LAVTA's federal delegation.
- Monitor and comment as appropriate on proposed new or revised state and federal regulations impacting LAVTA's programs, projects, and services.

A draft of the State legislative calendar for 2026 is included as Attachment 3. Early State legislative deadlines for 2026 include:

- January 23: Last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel
- February 20: Last day for bills to be introduced
- May 1: Last day for policy committees to report fiscal bills introduced in their house to fiscal committees
- May 15: Last day for fiscal committees to report to the floor bills introduced in their house; last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house

In developing this year's proposed Legislative program, staff participated in meetings with regional partners and reviewed other draft legislative programs and principles adopted or in development among our agency and advocacy partners, including other public transit agencies in the region the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Alameda County Transportation Commission, the California Transit Association, and the American Public Transit Association.

Fiscal Impact

None

Next Steps

If the Board approves the 2026 Legislative Program, staff and the agency's state and federal advocates will bring updates on proposed bills to future Finance & Administration Committee meetings and/or the Board of Directors for information and/or potential action as may be appropriate.

Recommendation

The Finance & Administration Committee recommends the Board of Directors approve Resolution 03-2026, affirming LAVTA's 2026 Legislative Program.

Strategic Plan Goal:

Advocacy and Partnerships: Maintain and expand partnerships with local and regional transit providers, local businesses, funding agencies, and all City partners.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 03-2026
2. Proposed 2026 Legislative Program
3. 2026 State Legislative Calendar

RESOLUTION NO. 03-2026

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LIVERMORE
AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY ADOPTING THE
2026 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS the California Legislature and the U.S. Congress have convened their current legislative sessions in late 2024 and early 2025, respectively; and

WHEREAS to promote the interests of the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, the Board of Directors finds it desirable to adopt a Legislative Program; and

WHEREAS the purpose of the Legislative Program is to guide the Board and staff's strategy and actions as it relates to various levels of government whose actions affect LAVTA; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the 2026 Legislative Program of the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, included as Attachment 2, is hereby adopted and shall guide the Board and staff's actions; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Executive Director shall operate within these guidelines in interactions with other levels of government in order to promote LAVTA's interests, employing strategies including participation in advocacy activities and taking positions on state and federal legislation as may be desirable; and be it further

RESOLVED that should issues arise that are not covered by this 2026 Legislative Program, that the Executive Director shall confer with the Chair of the Board to seek direction on a course of action.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the governing body of the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) this 2nd day of February 2026.

Julie Testa
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST

Christy Wegener,
Executive Director

| FEDERAL | |
|---|--|
| Goal or Principle | Strategy |
| 1) Protect existing and enhance future transit funding sources | Advocate that Congress appropriate full amounts authorized by law for FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27 federal transit programs, and that these vital funds are provided expeditiously to transit agencies for use on transit capital projects and operations. Support maximizing funding levels for discretionary programs and advocate for program policies and funding eligibilities that support LAVTA's key capital funding needs and priorities. |
| | Collaborate with local, regional, state, and national partners in development of a reauthorization platform for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that prioritizes maintaining and where possible increasing funding for existing transit and flexible highway formulas (that can fund transit) at levels approved under the IIJA, including ensuring California operators do not see cuts in programs that were funded through advance appropriations. Support advocacy partners' efforts to refine priorities related to funding for transit modernization and expansion and policy revisions needed to ensure operators are able to expend federal funds efficiently and effectively. Advocate for restoration of Highway Trust Fund (HTF) solvency while ensuring federal transit program funded from the Mass Transit Account continue to receive at least 20% of the HTF's surface transportation funding, and oppose efforts to reduce or eliminate federal funding for transit from the General Fund or HTF. |
| | Identify and advance as appropriate near-term capital priorities that may be suitable for federal Community Project Funding requests sponsored by LAVTA's federal delegation. |
| 3) Enhance public transit's role in addressing climate change and air quality issues by providing access to affordable and reliable service | Advocate for federal legislation and program implementation that prioritizes public transit's role in addressing climate change, supports transit agencies transitioning to zero-emission fleets, and advances research into lowering costs for alternative-fuel technology deployments such as clean/renewable hydrogen. |
| | Advocate for federal policies and funding to advance efforts to improve air quality and health outcomes. |
| | Work with the Federal Transit Administration or, if necessary, Congress to ensure continued flexibility in the application of FTA's spare ratio requirements to zero-emission transit buses and to address temporary reductions in transit service. |
| 4) Leverage support from and with partners to promote mobility, improve service productivity, and enhance regional leadership | Expand legislative and policy partnerships in Washington, D.C., in particular coordinating on advocacy activities as appropriate with other East Bay Small Operators and other public transit agencies operating in LAVTA's service area, including Valley Link. |
| | Support federal policies that enable technological innovations to improve safety, access, and mobility. |

| STATE | |
|---|---|
| Goal or Principle | Strategy |
| 1) Protect existing and enhance future transit funding sources | Advocate for a FY 2026-27 state budget that avoids, minimizes, or offsets cuts in State investment in public transportation, including honoring prior-year budget agreements, and sustaining and, where possible, increasing funding to operate and maintain the transportation network, improve the transit rider experience, support transit modernization and expansion, and improve multimodal access to transit.. |
| | Monitor, support, oppose, or seek amendments as may be necessary and desirable measures concerning transit governance and/or administration including consolidation. |
| | Engage with statewide partners to identify sustainable, stable, and long-term state investment in public transit consistent with the SB 125 State Transit Transformation Task Force’s recommendations, and monitor development of any new legislation to update the Transportation Development Act (TDA) and related statutes concerning public transportation revenues and associated requirements. |
| | Ensure any new legislation and regulations do not create new unfunded mandates on transit agencies. |
| 2) Enhance operating conditions to support safety and performance goals | Support efforts to enhance transit industry workforce recruitment and training efforts. |
| 3) Enhance public transit’s role in addressing climate change and air quality issues by providing access to affordable and reliable service | Support and engage with as appropriate with the California Transit Association’s efforts to monitor implementation of the Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) regulation, the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard, the Clean Truck Check, and the Advanced Clean Fleets regulation, and work to address the impacts associated with deploying zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs), including pursuing dedicated funding for zero-emission transit vehicle deployment and supportive infrastructure, engaging CARB through various forums, and potentially pursuing relief from the regulations. |
| 4) Leverage support from and with partners to promote mobility, improve service productivity, and enhance regional leadership | Oppose efforts to mandate consolidation of East Bay Small Operators, or LAVTA with any other entity, and oppose development of any consolidation plans that do not meaningfully involve and account for all potentially impacted stakeholders, including transit workers represented by existing collective bargaining arrangements. |

| REGIONAL/LOCAL | |
|---|--|
| Goal or Principle | Strategy |
| 1) Protect existing and enhance future transit funding sources | Maximize available operating funding sources by safeguarding existing revenues and supporting efforts to secure new funding through a regional transportation revenue measure to be put to voters in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties in November 2026. |
| 2) Enhance operating conditions to support safety and performance goals | Advocate for improvements to the local and regional street networks that enhance transit operating speed, safety, and reliability. |
| | Support roadway safety improvements for all users and support proposals to increase enforcement of traffic laws protecting pedestrians and bicyclists. |
| 4) Leverage support from and with partners to promote mobility, improve service productivity, and enhance regional leadership | Monitor and support as appropriate continued implementation of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force recommendations, including new initiatives aimed at promoting a more "seamless" regional transit system and enhancing its resiliency through initiatives such as fare coordination/integration and transit network management, and innovative service delivery mechanisms such as the One Seat Ride paratransit program. |
| | Continue to develop and maintain innovative partnerships with private transportation providers including taxi and transportation network companies to connect more people in the Tri-Valley to public transit. |
| | Support other local East Bay transit operators and work together on regional programs and initiatives of mutual interest as appropriate. |

2026 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK

Revised September 29, 2025

DEADLINES

| JANUARY | | | | | | |
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| FEBRUARY | | | | | | |
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| MARCH | | | | | | |
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| APRIL | | | | | | |
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| MAY | | | | | | |
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- Jan. 1

Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- Jan. 5

Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
- Jan. 10

Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12 (a)).
- Jan. 16

Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(1)).
- Jan. 19

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- Jan. 23

Last day for any committee to hear and report to the **Floor** bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(2)). Last day to **submit bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- Jan. 31

Last day for each house to **pass bills introduced** in that house in the odd-numbered year (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c)), (J.R. 61(b)(3)).

- Feb. 16

Presidents’ Day.
- Feb. 20

Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(b)(4)), (J.R. 54(a)).

- Mar. 26

Spring Recess begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Mar. 30

Cesar Chavez Day observed.

- Apr. 6

Legislature reconvenes from **Spring Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- Apr. 24

Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to fiscal committees **fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(5)).

- May 1

Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the Floor **non-fiscal bills** introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(6)).
- May 8

Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61(b)(7)).
- May 15

Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the Floor bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61 (b)(8)). Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to June 1 (J.R. 61 (b)(9)).
- May 25

Memorial Day.
- May 26 – 29

Floor Session only. No committees, other than conference or Rules committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(b)(10)).
- May 29

Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(b)(11)).

*Holiday schedule subject to Senate Rules committee approval.

2026 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK
Revised September 29, 2025

| JUNE | | | | | | |
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| JULY | | | | | | |
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| AUGUST | | | | | | |
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| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

- June 1** Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(b)(12)).
- June 15** Budget Bill must be passed by **midnight** (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)(3)).
- June 25** Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 3 General Election ballot (Elections Code Sec. 9040).
- July 2** Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(13)). **Summer Recess** begins upon adjournment of session, provided Budget Bill has passed (J.R. 51(b)(2)).
- July 3** Independence Day observed.
- Aug. 3** Legislature reconvenes from **Summer Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(2)).
- Aug. 14** Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills to the Floor (J.R. 61(b)(14)).
- Aug. 17 – 31** **Floor Session only.** No committee, other than conference and Rules committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(b)(15)).
- Aug. 21** Last day to **amend** on the Floor (J.R. 61(b)(16)).
- Aug. 31** Last day for **each house to pass bills** (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c)), (J.R. 61(b)(17)). **Final recess** begins upon adjournment. (J.R. 51(b)(3)).

*Holiday schedule subject to Senate Rules committee approval.

IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING FINAL RECESS

- 2026**
Sept. 30 Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1 and in the Governor’s possession on or after Sept. 1 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(2)).
- Nov. 3 General Election.
- Nov. 30 Adjournment *sine die* at midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- Dec. 7 12 Noon convening of the 2027-28 Regular Session (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).
- 2027**
Jan. 1 Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).