



ITEM ID: 2025-369-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: December 5, 2025

MEETING DATE: December 12, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

SUBJECT: December Legislative Update

Issue

Staff provides a regular monthly update on current legislative affairs.

Recommendation

Receive and file.

Strategic Commitment

This report aligns with the Strategic Business Plan commitments of:

- **Connecting and Leveraging Partnerships:** We will forge new and enhanced relationships with our public and private partners to integrate and coordinate connecting services, providing residents throughout Southern California with better, seamless, sustainable alternatives to driving. This commitment is met by sharing news, information and the Authority’s legislative priorities with elected officials.
- **Advancing Key Regional Goals:** We will grow the role of regional rail in addressing climate change, air quality, and other pressing issues by advancing toward zero emissions, making rail a compelling alternative to single-occupant automobiles and advancing equity-focused opportunities for all communities throughout Southern California. This commitment is met by encouraging federal, state and local support for Authority priorities.

Background

Staff continues to engage with community, local, state, and federal stakeholders concerning Metrolink service and relevant policy initiatives.

Discussion

State

On November 17, 2025, Senator Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara) began her role as the 50th President Pro Tempore of the California State Senate. A formal swearing-in ceremony will take place on January 5, 2026, in Sacramento. The state legislature is currently in recess and will convene for the second year of the session on January 5, 2026.

Federal

Federal Government Reopens & Work Continues on FY26 Appropriations

Congress reached an agreement to reopen the federal government 38 days after spending authority lapsed on September 30. On November 10, the Senate voted 60 to 40 to support a deal struck between Republicans and moderate Democrats that would reopen the federal government through January 30 and provide backpay for federal workers. Notably, the agreement did not include Obamacare health care tax credits Democrats had previously been asking for. The House subsequently ratified the deal on November 12th, and the President quickly signed the legislation into law.

The new January 30 expiration date allows Members of Congress more time to develop and pass full-year spending bills. As a reminder, the Senate FY26 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD), which passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee in July, includes \$68 million in capital and operating assistance for public transportation systems supporting Olympic Games-related mobility needs. At the time of this writing, Senate leadership was considering a strategy for moving FY26 THUD and several other appropriations bills together in a single package for voting and approval by the full Senate, at which point the legislation would need to be conferenced with the House.

The House THUD package was also passed out of committee in July and is awaiting a vote by the full chamber. While the House bill does not include funding for Olympics-related mobility needs, it does provide \$750,000 in Community Project Funding – also known as earmarks – for Metrolink requests with \$250,000 available for each of the following projects:

- Arroyo Simi Bridge Scour Mitigation Project (requested by Representative Brownley)
- Updating and replacing Customer Information Systems (CIS) and Glendale and Burbank Stations (requested by Representative Friedman)
- Modernizing CIS systems and installing innovative track and signal technology along the Antelope Valley Line (requested by Representative Whitesides)

USDOT FIFA World Cup Planning Session

Chief Strategy Officer Paul Hubler and Special Projects Director Michael Litschi are scheduled to attend a December 4 meeting at USDOT in Washington, DC of 2026 FIFA World Cup host city transit agencies to discuss transportation planning. Agency advocacy regarding Metrolink's needs for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games and involving Board Ad Hoc Committee members is planned for early 2026.

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Approved by: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

Attachment(s)

[Appendix A - December 2025 Bill Matrix](#)
[Presentation - December Legislative Update](#)