



ITEM ID: 2026-210-0

TRANSMITTAL DATE: May 15, 2026

MEETING DATE: May 22, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

SUBJECT: May 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

State Budget Funding Request and Advocacy

CEO Kettle met with legislative and executive branch staff in Sacramento on April 30 to advocate for Metrolink's state budget request for operations funding, which is needed to prevent substantial service reductions this fall. Meetings were held with staff from legislative offices including Assemblymember Steve Bennett, Senator Laura Richardson, and Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón, as well as staff from the Governor's Administration and California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA). Meetings focused on the need for state support to preserve service levels and ensure Metrolink can continue to meet the region's transportation needs. Advocacy will continue throughout May. The Governor's May Revise, which reflects updated revenue forecasts, is expected by May 14 and the Legislature has until June 15 to pass the final budget bill.

California Air Resources Board Proposed Cap-and-Invest Program Amendments

On April 14, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) opened a comment period for proposed amendments to the Regulation for the California Cap on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Market-Based Compliance Mechanisms. The proposed amendments would implement technical changes to the Cap-and-Invest Program, primarily by increasing the number of free and dedicated allowances provided to oil, gas, utility, and other heavy industry sectors. These changes would significantly reduce revenue flowing into the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), with CARB's own estimates projecting a nearly 50% funding cut, or approximately \$2 billion, through 2030. If adopted, the amendments would severely impact Tier 3 GGRF-funded programs, including the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program, and the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program. Metrolink utilizes operations and capital funding made available by these programs, including funding the Mobility-4-All program and student fare discounts. In response, Metrolink joined more than 40 transit agencies, in coordination with the California Transit Association, by signing a letter opposing the proposed amendments. The public comment period closed on May 4, and the item is expected to be discussed at CARB's May 28 Board meeting.

Federal

FY27 Community Project Funding Requests

Congress will shortly begin consideration of FY27 appropriations bills. As part of that process, members of Congress have been submitting Community Project Funding requests, commonly known as earmarks, to the relevant appropriations committees. To date, two Metrolink projects have been submitted by members of the delegation. Congresswoman Luz Rivas submitted an \$840,000 request for rail station improvements and a crossing modernization project in CA-29, and Congressman Pete Aguilar submitted a \$679,200 request for operational and safety improvements in CA-33. Next, the House Appropriations Committee will review all submitted project requests and determine funding levels.

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Approved by: Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

Attachment(s)

[Appendix A - May 2026 Bill Matrix](#)
[Presentation - May Legislative Update](#)