



**ITEM ID:** 2026-140-0

**TRANSMITTAL DATE:** February 20, 2026

**MEETING DATE:** February 27, 2026

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Paul Hubler, Chief Strategy Officer

**SUBJECT:** February 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**

#### Update on Session and Bills

January 31, 2026 was the deadline for each house to pass bills introduced in that house last year. February 20 is the last day for bills to be introduced to be considered in this session.

#### *State Rail Safety Bill Creates Wayside Detector Mandate*

SB 667 (Archuleta, D–Pico Rivera) is a railroad safety bill that would require a railroad corporation to install and operate wayside detector systems every 10 miles on or adjacent to track used by Class I freight trains. Noncompliance would result in a 10-mph speed limit. The bill passed by the Senate in January and is now under consideration in the Assembly.

#### *SB 677 - Housing development: transit-oriented development (Wiener)*

SB 79 (Wiener, 2025) was signed into law on October 10, 2025 and will go into effect July 1, 2026. SB 677 is intended to make technical and clarifying changes to SB 79. For background, SB 79 establishes transit-oriented development (TOD) zones for projects near high-frequency transit stops. The zoning standards are tiered depending on proximity to TOD stops and the type of service at these stops. SB 79 requires MPOs to map TOD stops based on the bill's requirements to provide clarity to the public, local governments, and developers regarding geographies upzoned by the legislation. As of January 26, SB 677 passed in the Senate and was ordered to the Assembly.

### **Federal**

#### FY26 Appropriations Update

After a last-minute disagreement over funding for the Department of Homeland Security, the Senate on January 30 passed the FY26 “minibus” bill, which combines multiple regular appropriations bills, including the one that funds the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). The House subsequently approved and the President signed the revised minibus on February 3, keeping USDOT funded through September 30, 2026. The legislation provides \$94 million for transit agencies supporting the Olympics, \$100 million for agencies hosting the World Cup, and three earmarks for Metrolink, each totaling \$250,000.

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### **Attachment(s)**

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