

Federal Legislative Platform 2025- 2026



funding



goods movement



multi-modal



council of governments

cta

San Bernardino County
Transportation Authority



cog

San Bernardino
Council of Governments

SBCTA/SBCOG 2025-2026 Federal Legislative Platform

The San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) serves as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for the largest geographical county in the nation. Covering more than 20,000 sq. miles and serving approximately 2.2 million residents, the Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from San Bernardino County's 24 cities and towns and five supervisorial districts. In addition to the cooperative regional planning and expansion of an efficient multi-modal transportation system countywide, SBCTA supports freeway construction projects, regional and local road improvements, train and bus transportation, railroad crossings, ridesharing, congestion management, and long-term planning studies. SBCTA administers Measure I funding for transportation planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance in San Bernardino County. The voter-approved measure distinguishes SBCTA as one of 25 self-help counties, contributing to the improvement of the regional and statewide transportation system.

This legislative platform serves as the basis to proactively engage in policy and legislative initiatives that will enable SBCTA and the San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG) to deliver projects and programs that meet the needs of our region. This document also guides staff recommendations to the Legislative Policy Committee and Board of Directors on federal legislative, regulatory, and administrative matters that are anticipated to be addressed in the upcoming congressional session.

SBCTA and SBCOG will continue to partner with public and private sector entities to support common objectives in Washington, DC and foster unity within San Bernardino County.



Funding

Seek the highest level of federal transportation dollars to San Bernardino County for SBCTA projects and programs.

Support Efforts To:

- Ensure that local agencies and jurisdictions, particularly communities that have been historically underserved and disadvantaged, have equal access to federal investment and that San Bernardino County receives our fair share of the urbanized area formula funding allocations.
- Ensure that authorized funding levels and advanced appropriations provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) are maintained in order to meet critical infrastructure needs throughout San Bernardino County.
- Encourage federal funding programs to include incentives that reward self-help counties.
- Ensure that planning and project selection for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds is done at the local level, based on local priorities.
- Restore formula funding of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds to counties that are a part of large multi-county Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO).
- Increase overall funding of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) and increase the percentage of sub-allocation to urbanized areas.
- Increase funding for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) opportunities.
- Increase funding for operations and maintenance at public transit agencies.





- Provide for more predictable federal funding streams through greater emphasis on formula programs rather than competitive discretionary programs.
- Simplify the existing competitive grant programs, with consideration of multi-year programming and less complex and expensive application requirements.
- Maintain SBCTA's input on the development of any Surface Transportation Authorization legislation that would impact transportation programs and funding in San Bernardino County.
- Protect funding sources for congestion relief and pollution reduction related to the transportation sector.
- Ensure that legislation and regulations do not impose unfunded mandates on local transportation agencies and control of project implementation remains at the local level.
- Increase investment in hydrogen and other zero-emission technologies to meet the growing need of new technologies in the transit and freight network.

Maximize federal funding for interstate highways and transit capital/operations in order to help meet federal environmental goals and support intercity commuter rail; buses and bus facilities; goods movement; intelligent transportation systems and new technologies and fuel sources that maximize existing infrastructure; safety, maintenance, and operations funding for all modes; and regional airport ground access and development needs.

Support Efforts To:

- Increase Congressional oversight of discretionary grant programs such as Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grants (RAISE), Advanced Transportation Technologies and Innovative Mobility Deployment (ATTIMD), Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (INFRA/Mega), Capital Investment Grants (CIG), Positive Train Control (PTC) and Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) to provide more transparency in the decision-making process.

Oppose Efforts To:

- Withhold federal transportation funding due to enforcement of federal air quality standards beyond the control of local jurisdictions and air quality management districts.

Plan. Build. Move.

SBCTA/SBCOG 2025-2026 Federal Legislative Platform



Goods Movement

SBCTA will continue to bring awareness to the relationship between the County's logistics sector and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, as well as the importance of San Bernardino County as a goods movement gateway to and from the United States.

Support Efforts To:

- Increase federal investment in trade corridors, gateways, intermodal connectors and freight facilities in San Bernardino County.
- Effectively and strategically use goods movement investments to address the more critical freight bottlenecks that have profound impacts on the nation's economy.
- Increase the proportion of freight funds that are allocated by formula and base the formula on relative impact to regions from national freight flows.
- Increase national dialogue on freight policy and its focus on improving the performance of the freight network and advocate for implementing Southern California's freight strategy.
- Develop policies that allow for the improvement of strategic freight bottlenecks to accommodate the growing logistics industry in our region.
- Recognize the importance of inland ports to overall goods movement systems as part of any investment plan.
- Create federal incentives that promote the utilization of the cleanest commercially available and cost-effective truck technologies and charging infrastructure.

Oppose Efforts To:

- Increase the capacity or intensity of freight movement in San Bernardino County without appropriate mitigation of impacts or projects to ensure the continued efficient movement of goods.
- Reduce or redirect revenues generated by any fee that is levied on freight and specifically designated to fund projects that mitigate congestion, air quality, and community impacts directly associated with the movement of freight.





Multi-Modal

SBCTA's expanding transit, rail, and active transportation programs strive to enhance sustainability for San Bernardino County communities and stakeholders. These mobility options focus on implementing a dynamic regional growth vision based on the principles of livability, prosperity, and sustainability.

Support Efforts To:

- Develop reforms that accelerate project procurement, promote flexibility and innovation, and respect local control.
- Streamline federal reporting/monitoring requirements to reduce project delivery times without eliminating critical oversight mechanisms.
- Encourage the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) to promote the use of hydrogen fuel cells and similar emerging technologies to power intercity and commuter rail vehicles.
- Develop policies that keep our rail systems safe and increase federal investment in intercity and commuter rail services.
- Increase incentives for transit agencies that utilize alternative fuels.
- Establish a technology-neutral position when promoting different fuel and vehicle types while considering local conditions and engaging with stakeholders to determine technology needs.
- Expand eligible uses for federal transit funds to provide maximum flexibility to local agencies for funding capital and operations needs.
- Advocate for investment in San Bernardino County, supported by SBCTA and local stakeholders, for a subsurface connection between the San Bernardino Metrolink commuter rail line and Ontario International Airport.
- Allow the acquisition of land for public transit operations and maintenance facilities prior to the approval of a National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) document.
- Allow states to waive the “under the hood” requirement on the Commercial Driver's License test for public transit agency bus drivers.
- Secure funds to facilitate the conversion of public sector fleets to alternative fuels to meet local, state, and federal fleet conversion mandates.
- Provide for the replacement of aging alternative fuel fleets and the necessary energy infrastructure to support the conversion mandates.
- Ensure flexibility in the application of the “spare ratio” requirement to zero-emission transit buses to address temporary reductions in transit service.

SBCTA/SBCOG 2025-2026 Federal Legislative Platform



Council of Governments

SBCOG's member agencies include all 24 cities and the County of San Bernardino and leads a number of regional matters important to the future of the residents of San Bernardino County, by working with our Congressional Delegation to strengthen the region's advocacy on housing, homelessness, communications and technology, resiliency, energy, economic development, workforce development, and public safety.

Housing and Homelessness

SBCOG Supports Efforts to:

- Increase the supply of housing at all affordability levels and expand housing choices.
- Plan for the growth of our communities.
- Increase programs and resources to implement housing near transportation and transit corridors in San Bernardino County.
- Increase programs and resources that provide more options for emergency, transitional and permanent supportive housing options to address the homelessness crisis.
- Stabilize the homeowner insurance industry.

Communications/Technology

SBCOG Supports Efforts to:

- Increase resources to coordinate efforts that would prioritize additional funding and resources for broadband infrastructure, particularly in low-income and rural communities, tribal lands, and community anchor institutions to bridge the digital divide.
- Expedite access to broadband infrastructure funding, streamline project permitting, and achieve economies of scale.
- Fund studies to determine broadband opportunity zones within San Bernardino County.
- Establish measures to protect our technology and communications systems against cyber threats.
- Increase funding for technology/communications projects and programs.
- Fund Smart Cities plans and initiatives.
- Support policies and plans that consider life-cycle analysis and prioritize proper battery reuse, recycling, and disposal with respect to alternative fuel technologies.
- Provide funding for electric and alternative fuel vehicle planning, permit streamlining, purchases, and charging/refueling infrastructure, with a focus on public investment in areas that would otherwise be neglected, such as multi-unit dwellings, rural areas, and low to middle-income neighborhoods.



Environment/Resiliency/Energy

SBCOG Supports Efforts to:

- Increase the region's resiliency against climate related hazards.
- Promote the innovation of clean energy alternatives.
- Provide funding for Microgrid planning and implementation.
- Promote energy resilience policies that minimize the impact that electric vehicles have on the power grid, such as encouraging bi-directional charging, making on-site energy storage available, and using smart metering to maximize the use of renewable energy sources.
- Encourage the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to continue to work with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) regarding enforcement of federal air quality standards and emission sources outside SCAQMD's authority.
- Implement an ultra-low nitrogen oxide (NOx) standard to reduce NOx emissions from heavy trucks and simplify air quality regulations and requirements.

Jobs/Economy

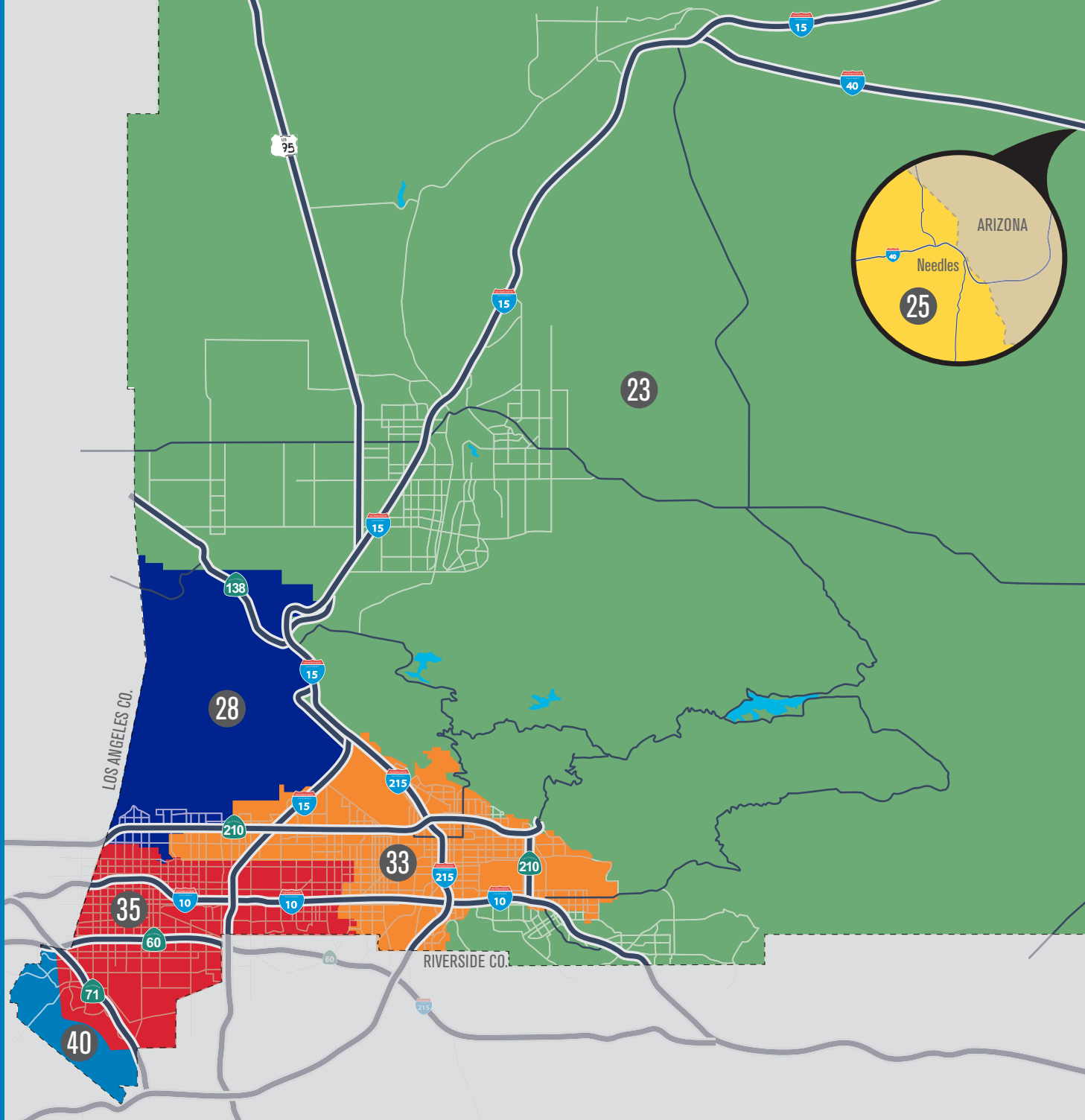
SBCOG Supports Efforts to:

- Incentivize programs to attract, retain, and grow businesses and employment opportunities in San Bernardino County.
- Support programs in the alternative energy sector that create jobs and boost economic productivity.
- Collaborate with public and private sector stakeholders on policy and funding matters that enhance economic development and quality of life in the Inland Empire region.
- Support the expansion of federal Opportunity Zones to incentivize private investment in disadvantaged communities throughout San Bernardino County.

Public Safety

SBCOG Supports Efforts to:

- Create resources for information sharing and education.
- Provide resources for local jurisdictions to update critical safety plans.
- Share information between federal and local public safety agencies, allowing local agencies to be appraised of possible threats that can impact County residents.



County Profile

San Bernardino County is the largest county in the contiguous United States:

- The county covers more than 20,000 square miles of land.
- There are 24 cities and towns in the county and multiple unincorporated areas.
- The county has a population of more than 2 million people. It is the fifth largest population in California, and exceeds the population of 15 states.
- Since 2000, San Bernardino County's population has grown by approximately 22% and it is expected to reach 2.66 million by 2035.



Federal Delegation

Senate

Alex Padilla
Adam Schiff

House

Jay Obernolte – CA 23
Raul Ruiz – CA 25
Judy Chu – CA 28
Pete Aguilar – CA 33
Norma Torres – CA 35
Young Kim – CA 40