

State Legislative Platform 2025- 2026



local control



funding



goods movement



multi-modal



council of governments



cta

San Bernardino County
Transportation Authority



cog

San Bernardino
Council of Governments

SBCTA/SBCOG 2025-2026 State 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, freeway service patrol, ridesharing, congestion management, active transportation 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 state legislative, regulatory, and administrative matters that are anticipated to be addressed in the legislative session.

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



Local Control

The San Bernardino County Transportation Authority will advocate for local control over transportation projects within San Bernardino County to ensure that innovative financing and project delivery methods remain available for county transportation commissions to leverage local dollars, accelerate construction and job creation, as well as provide increased mobility options for local residents.





Support Efforts To:

- Ensure SBCTA's decision-making authority over transportation projects that are planned, constructed and operated in San Bernardino County.
- Preserve local flexibility in the administration of programs and services.
- Promote strong collaborative partnerships with State agencies.
- Allow for innovative project delivery methods (e.g. design-build, construction manager/general contractor), for a broad variety of projects including highways, transit, and local streets and roads.
- Ensure projects are based on locally driven alternatives and do not require state approval when primarily funded and managed by local agencies.
- Revise the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to streamline the environmental review process, to improve timelines for project approvals and avoid costly duplicative steps while maintaining critical environmental protections.
- Protect toll operating agencies from lawsuits associated with the use of personal information for collecting toll fees and citations.
- Develop greater consistency for environmental mitigation requirements.

Oppose Efforts To:

- Threaten the timely delivery of the Measure I Expenditure Plan or administration of any Measure I programs and services.
- Change the Board composition, organization or decision-making authority of any agency without the express permission of the agency.
- Impose additional mandates beyond those already in existence on lead agencies using alternative project delivery mechanisms.
- Require additional CEQA review and process requirements that delay projects and increase costs.
- Allow specific vehicle classes to have unrestricted access to carpool or toll facilities.
- Place transit investments in San Bernardino County without direct involvement by SBCTA and/or appropriate local jurisdictions.
- Establish legislation that allow redirection of toll revenue from the operating agency to the State or any other agency.
- Impose a *de facto* prohibition of highway projects through infeasible state environmental mitigation requirements.
- Impose unfunded mandates on local governments.
- Divert local revenues for state purposes.

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Funding

State funding for projects supported by local voter-approved transportation sales tax measures is critical to implementing innovative, intelligent/advanced transportation, goods movement, demand management, active transportation, and air quality programs which relieve congestion and improve air quality. SBCTA will advocate for state funding to support transportation projects in San Bernardino County.



Support Efforts To:

- Ensure that planning and project selection for state formula funds is done at the local level, based on local priorities, and San Bernardino County receives its full share of funding allocations.
- Enact state policies that assure timely allocation of transportation revenue and allow for regions to advance projects with local funds as needed.
- Prioritize funding for projects supported by voter-approved transportation local sales tax measures.
- Recognize/reward the investment in the state's transportation system made by self-help counties and incentivize counties without a voter-approved tax measure for transportation to become "self-help" counties.
- Incentivize public-private partnerships (P3s) in the development of transportation improvements.
- Protect Assembly Bill 2766 funding and continue to encourage funding of programs and projects that reduce motor vehicle emissions.
- Ensure that legislation and regulations on Green House Gas (GHG) reduction and other environmental mandates are designed to be feasible and achievable for lower density environments like San Bernardino County and that funding is provided for assistance in achieving those goals.



Oppose Efforts To:

- Develop guidelines for funding programs and project scoring criteria related to transportation and air quality/ GHG reduction that recognize the importance of geographic equity and are tailored to account for the characteristics and limitations of lower density environments like San Bernardino County.
- Protect funding sources for congestion relief and pollution reduction related to the transportation sector.
- Continue practice of review and comment opportunities for criteria on competitive transportation grant programs by local jurisdictions and transportation agencies.
- Work with administration and legislative representatives to ensure that SBCTA projects and programs meet the spirit of Executive Order N-19-19 while maintaining local priorities and protecting local transportation funds and addressing the growing mobility demands of an increasing population and freight moving through our communities.
- Meet the challenges of confronting climate change while ensuring that reductions in programs such as SB 1 will be replaced with new equitable revenue streams.
- Promote transparency in all state agency directives by providing local agencies with comment periods and responses prior to the publication of such directives.
- Adversely alter distribution percentages of state transportation formula funds or shift funds away from local agencies.
- Reduce SBCTA's ability to efficiently and effectively contract for goods and services.
- Impose state requirements for the expenditure of locally raised revenues without the consent of the local agency.
- Divert transportation revenues for non-transportation purposes.
- Link existing transportation funding sources to the achievement of GHG reduction, Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) or Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) goals.
- Unreasonably increase the administrative fees levied by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration for the collection and administration of county transportation sales tax measures.
- Pass any legislation to authorize a multi-county revenue measure for environmental programs.
- Require contributions from local agencies for state highway maintenance, with the possible exception of new toll facilities.
- Change the Bradley-Burns uniform local tax law or distribution of online sales tax revenue in any way that would adversely affect San Bernardino County jurisdictions or Measure I revenue.

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Goods Movement

SBCTA will continue to raise awareness of 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 key goods movement gateway to the United States.

Support Efforts To:

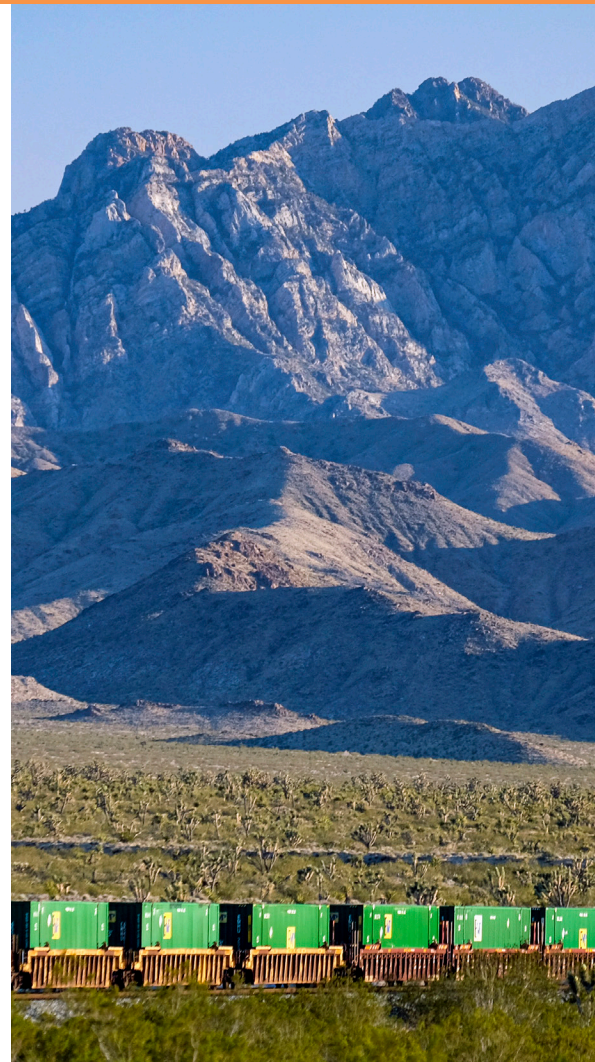
- Recognize the important role goods movement plays within San Bernardino County and transportation projects that help to move goods more efficiently, while also favoring development projects that do not exacerbate existing air quality, traffic or socioeconomic issues within disadvantaged communities.
- Advocate for equitable funding for trade corridors, gateways, intermodal connectors and freight facilities in San Bernardino County.
- Reduce freight-related impacts to San Bernardino County and ensure newly funded projects include necessary mitigation measures to protect impacted communities.
- Generate additional revenue streams to assist with freight movement investment so as to provide funding support commensurate with the local and regional impacts of national freight flows.





Oppose Efforts To:

- Locate any new intermodal freight facility that would have any negative environmental or socioeconomic impacts on existing disadvantaged communities in San Bernardino County without sufficient mitigation and economic benefit to the community.
- Include VMT reduction or mitigation requirements that restrict the ability to deliver goods movement enhancements, recognizing the important role San Bernardino County plays in goods movement to the rest of the nation.
- 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.



Plan. Build. Move.

SBCTA/SBCOG 2025-2026 State Legislative Platform



Multi-Modal

SBCTA's growing transit, rail, shared-ride 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:

- Protect the significant resources SBCTA and its Southern California Regional Rail Authority Partners have invested in the Metrolink system.
- Promote increased state transit operations and maintenance funding.
- Ensure appropriate funding for a growing rail and bus system in San Bernardino County.
- 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.
- Promote transit-oriented development near rail and bus rapid transit stations.
- Ensure that SBCTA has a role in the planning of all transportation modes and routes serving San Bernardino County.
- Incentivize ridesharing and transit use through reimbursable employer-sponsored initiatives such as transit passes.
- 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.



- Create state incentives that promote Diesel-Electric or Near-Zero/Zero Emission Low-Floor Multiple Unit railcars.
- Encourage use of and incentivize innovative emerging technologies to provide increased regional connectivity and clean transit options.
- Increase investment in hydrogen and other zero-emission technologies to meet the growing need of new technologies in the transit and freight network.
- Establish a technology-neutral position when promoting different fuel and vehicle types while considering local conditions and engaging with stakeholders to determine technology needs.
- Maintain or increase flexibility of State Transit Assistance (STA), State of Good Repair (SGR) and Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funding for local public transit agencies.
- Expand number of programs funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) that support local public transit agencies and/or increase share of GGRF that supports local transit agencies.
- Increase the number of California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) locations that can provide certifications for public transit agency bus drivers and maintenance workers.

- Expand criteria for Transportation Development Act (TDA) funding beyond farebox recovery as sole metric.
- Pass legislation that increases operator and rider safety within public transit agencies.
- Ensure that regulations regarding labor issues are compatible with public transit labor agreements negotiated in good faith.
- Ensure that funding mandates for public transit agencies are supported by a consistent growth of state investment.
- Fund Freeway Service Patrol and ride-sharing programs, consistent with the level of growth and usage of the programs.

Oppose Efforts To:

- Require increased service levels unless they are agreed to by the transit operator and have appropriate funding.
- Mandate that SBCTA build, fund or operate specific transportation projects or programs in San Bernardino County.
- Increase zero emission transit mandates that would impose undue financial or operational burden on transit systems without corresponding increases in state funding.

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Council of Governments

SBCOG's member agencies include all 24 cities and the County of San Bernardino; SBCOG leads efforts to address a number of regional matters important to the future of the residents of San Bernardino County by working with our State Legislative 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 funding levels for housing trusts and other local housing implementation programs, like the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP), Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF), and Permanent Local Housing Allocation program (PLHA).
- Preserve the flexibility and control of a local jurisdiction's authority over housing developments, housing production, affordability and homelessness challenges.
- Develop solutions to address Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) distribution and allocation methodologies, including process to trade RHNA allocation between jurisdictions.
- Develop housing near transportation and transit corridors in San Bernardino County.
- Provide equitable distribution of housing supply through the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) requirements.
- Preserve local authority to address housing production, affordability, and homelessness challenges.
- Provide local jurisdictions with necessary tools and funding to implement state mandates.



Communications/Technology

SBCOG Supports Efforts to:

- Provide more options for emergency, transitional and permanent supportive housing options to address the homelessness crisis and oppose efforts to withhold these funds from local jurisdictions.
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reform to expedite and streamline both project development and delivery for residential projects, especially those located in a transit-rich area, jobs-rich area, or urban infill site.
- Efforts to stabilize the homeowners insurance industry in the State of California.
- Revise the Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC) guidelines to provide the opportunity for San Bernardino County to better compete for Cap and Trade funding.
- Ensure decision-making authority of local jurisdictions and agencies over land use and regional planning.
- Provide resources 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.
- Establish 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.



Council of Governments

Environment/Resiliency/Energy

SBCOG Supports Efforts to:

- Preserve and maintain energy efficiency programs and projects.
- Increase the region's resiliency against climate-related hazards.
- Promote the innovation of clean energy alternatives.
- Increase/ensure appropriate resources for jurisdictions to implement climate action plans.
- Ensure appropriate levels of 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 California Public Utilities Commission to support legislation related to Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), motorized scooters, and bike-share systems that ensure new regulations adequately protect users of all modes and support the ability of local jurisdictions to secure access to public interest data, including ridership data, for local and regional planning purposes, while maintaining anonymity and privacy of the individual user.
- Provide local jurisdictions with the resources needed for refueling/recharging infrastructure for alternative fuel or electric vehicles.

Jobs/Economy

SBCOG Supports Efforts to:

- Train and educate the workforce for high-demand jobs within the County.
- Incentivize, attract, retain, and grow businesses as well as 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.

Public Safety

SBCOG Supports Efforts to:

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