

San Francisco County Transportation Authority
Agenda Item 4

State Legislation – March 2023

(Updated March 9, 2023)

To view documents associated with the bill, click the bill number link.

Staff is not recommending adoption of any new positions this month, but we have added Assembly Bill (AB) 645 (Friedman) and AB 761 (Friedman) to the watch list.

Table 2 shows the status of active bills on which the Board has already taken a position, or that staff has been monitoring on the watch list.

Table 1. Recommended Additions to Watch List

Recommended Positions	Bill # Author	Title and Summary
Watch	AB 645 Friedman D	<p>Vehicles: speed safety system pilot program.</p> <p>This is a spot bill to authorize a speed safety system pilot program. While no substantive language has been introduced, we understand that it would include authorization of automated speed safety cameras, with a number of provisions around eligible locations, equity considerations, privacy protections, and more.</p> <p>We typically do not recommend taking positions on spot bills (waiting for substantive language to be introduced) but have supported similar speed safety system pilot program bills in the past, since speed safety cameras are one of San Francisco’s key Vision Zero strategies. We understand that the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) has been working with the author and has no concerns so far. We have heard that the author anticipates similar opponents as prior years, including law enforcement, privacy protection groups, and social justice organizations.</p>

San Francisco County Transportation Authority
Agenda Item 4

Recommended Positions	Bill # Author	Title and Summary
Watch	AB 761 Friedman D	<p>Transit Transformation Task Force.</p> <p>This bill would require, on or before July 1, 2024, the establishment and convening of a new Transit Transformation Task Force to include representatives from Caltrans, transit operators, local agencies, academic institutions, transportation advocacy organizations, and other stakeholders. The bill would require the task force to develop policies to grow transit ridership and improve the transit experience for all users of those services. The bill would require the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the task force, to prepare and submit a report of findings based on the task force’s efforts to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature on or before January 1, 2025.</p> <p>The bill would require the report to include a detailed analysis of issues such as what transit services are available across the state; the cost of operating, maintaining, and providing for the necessary future growth of transit; the use of state transit funding; the fund sources available for expenditure on transit; policies that impact service efficiency and transit ridership; and workforce challenges. The bill would also require the report to make recommendations, including but not limited to coordination around transit service, fares, mapping, and wayfinding; ensuring a safe and clean ride for users; increasing frequency and reliability; changes to land use, housing, and policies to improve public transit use; changes to fund distribution formulas; options for new state revenue sources for both operations and capital projects; and workforce recruitment, retention, and development challenges.</p> <p>We are recommending watching the bill at this time as it would be charged with producing recommendations on a number of topics that the Bay Area and transit operators throughout the state have actively been working on, including trying to identify funding to support and sustain the state’s transit systems. Given the amount of coordination already happening in these areas, we have heard there is concern among transit operators that restarting the work with a new task force, especially one with such broad and diverse membership, could result in recommendations that are not feasible to implement or would be recommended too late to address the pending transit fiscal cliff.</p>

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Agenda Item 4

Table 2. Bill Status for Positions Taken in the 2023-24 Session

Below are updates for the two-year bills for which the Transportation Authority have taken a position or identified as a bill to watch. Updates to bills since the Board’s last state legislative update are italicized.

Adopted Positions / Monitoring Status	Bill # Author	Bill Title	Update to Bill Status ¹ (as of 03/09/2023)
Support	ACA 1 Aguiar-Curry D Haney D Principal Coauthor: Wiener D	Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval. Reduces the voter threshold from two-thirds to 55% for a city, county, or special district to approve a bond measure that funds the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure, affordable housing, or permanent supportive housing.	Assembly Desk
Watch	AB 6 Friedman D	Transportation planning. Spot bill to require regions to fund transportation projects that significantly contribute toward their sustainable communities strategy goals and the state’s climate goals.	Assembly Desk
	AB 7 Friedman D	Transportation: funding: capacity projects. Spot bill to eliminate single occupancy vehicle freeway capacity projects.	Assembly Desk
	AB 251 Ward D Principal Co-author: Wiener D	California Transportation Commission: vehicle weight safety study. Requires the formation of a task force to study the relationship between vehicle weight and injuries to vulnerable road users and the costs and benefits of a passenger vehicle weight fee.	Assembly Transportation

¹Under this column, “Chaptered” means the bill is now law, “Dead” means the bill is no longer viable this session, and “Enrolled” means it has passed both Houses of the Legislature. Bill status at a House’s “Desk” means it is pending referral to a Committee.