

San Francisco County Transportation Authority
Agenda Item 5

State Legislation - June 2023

(Updated June 6, 2023)

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

Staff is recommending a new oppose unless amended position on Assembly Bill (AB) 825 (Bryan) as shown in **Table 1**.

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

Table 1. Recommended New Positions

Recommended Positions	Bill # Author	Title and Summary
Oppose Unless Amended	AB 825 Bryan D	<p>Vehicles: bicycles on sidewalks.</p> <p>Existing law authorizes a local authority to adopt rules and regulations regarding the operation of bicycles on public sidewalks. San Francisco has chosen to implement a prohibition of bicycles on sidewalks except for riders under 13 years of age, primarily due to safety concerns given the city's narrow sidewalks and high concentration of pedestrians. AB 825 would authorize the operation of bicycles on sidewalks statewide, unless the adjacent street has a striped or otherwise separated bicycle lane or trail. It would also require cyclists to yield to pedestrians and not exceed 10 miles per hour. It would remove the existing option for local jurisdictions to adopt alternate rules and regulations about bicycle use on sidewalks that are reflective of local conditions.</p> <p>We are recommending an oppose unless amended position, as the bill would introduce significant new dangers for pedestrians, in particular seniors, people with disabilities. Further, the proposed 10 miles per hour speed limit is too high and would be, in practicality, unenforceable.</p> <p>SFMTA has submitted a letter to the author detailing their concerns and hopes to work with him on amendments that would retain discretion for San Francisco and other jurisdictions to determine whether and where to authorize sidewalk riding. We understand that one of the author's major objectives for introducing the legislation is to address the social harms created by policing public spaces, which disproportionately impact Black, Latin American, and low income people. We will support SFMTA in advancing an alternative way to accomplish this, such as the approach of Assemblymember Ting's bill last year (AB 2147) which prohibited enforcement of jaywalking laws statewide.</p>

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Table 3. 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 06/08/2023)
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.	<i>Assembly Local Government</i>
	AB 251 Ward 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.	<i>Senate Transportation</i>
	AB 361 Ward D	Vehicles: video imaging of bicycle lane parking violations. Authorizes the use of automated forward-facing cameras on parking enforcement vehicles for the purpose of citing parking violations in bicycle lanes.	<i>Senate Transportation</i>
	AB 645 Friedman D	Vehicles: speed safety system pilot program. Establish a pilot safety program, including limited authorization of speed safety cameras.	<i>Senate Desk</i>
Watch	AB 6 Friedman D	Transportation planning: regional transportation plans: Solutions for Congested Corridors Program: reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Increases state involvement in regional Sustainable Communities Strategy development and requires projects nominated to receive SCCP funds to demonstrate how it would contribute to achieving the state's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.	<i>Senate Desk</i>

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	AB 7 Friedman D	<p>Transportation: planning: project selection processes.</p> <p>Requires state transportation agencies to incorporate a wide range of principles into their project identification processes (including vision zero, resiliency, ZEV infrastructure, not increasing passenger VMT) and requires the next update to the California Transportation Plan include a financial element.</p>	<i>Senate Desk</i>
	AB 761 Friedman D	<p>Transit Transformation Task Force.</p> <p>Establishes a task force to develop policies to grow transit ridership and improve the transit experience, requiring a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2025.</p>	<i>Senate Transportation</i>

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.



RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED POSITION ON
ASSEMBLY BILL 825 (BRYAN)

WHEREAS, The Transportation Authority approves a set of legislative principles to guide transportation policy advocacy in the sessions of the Federal and State Legislatures; and

WHEREAS, With the assistance of the Transportation Authority's legislative advocate in Sacramento, staff has reviewed pending legislation for the current Legislative Session and analyzed it for consistency with the Transportation Authority's adopted legislative principles and for impacts on transportation funding and program implementation in San Francisco and recommended adopting a new oppose unless amended position on Assembly Bill (AB) 825 (Bryan) as shown in Attachment 1; and

WHEREAS, At its June 13, 2023 meeting, the Board reviewed and discussed AB 825 (Bryan); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Transportation Authority hereby adopts a new oppose unless amended position on AB 825 (Bryan); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Director is directed to communicate this position to all relevant parties.

Attachment:

1. State Legislation - June 2023