

Caltrain State and Federal Legislative Update

JPB Board Meeting
January 9, 2024



Federal

- **Congress and Appropriations**

- Congress returned to session Dec 2
- Passed a Continuing Resolution to avert a government shutdown through March 14, 2025.
- House Republicans chose Speaker Mike Johnson as Speaker candidate and elected Rep. Steve Scalise as the next Majority Leader

- **Transportation-Related Updates**

- Rep. Sam Graves to be chair of House T&I Committee and Former Congressman Sean Duffy named as choice for Secretary of Transportation
- T&I Committee is expected to prepare for the Surface Transportation Reauthorization in 2026
- President-elect named David Frink to lead the FRA

- **Additional Updates**

- President-elect intends for 25% tariff on Canadian and Mexican imports

- **Legislative Update**

- Legislature returned Dec 2 and new and returning legislators who stood for election this November were sworn-in
- Democrats maintain a supermajority (75%) in both houses and there was no change in Senate or Assembly leadership
- The Legislature reconvened for first day of 2025-26 Legislative Session on Jan 6

- **Transit Task Force**

- CalSTA's Transit Transformation Task Force met Dec 10 to continue ongoing efforts to develop a report of recommendations as mandated by SB 125 which will be submitted to the CA State Legislature no later than October 31, 2025
- Meeting topics: fleet and asset management, new options for revenue sources for the next 10 years; and state departments and agencies for oversight and reporting

Regional Measure Update

- MTC held a special meeting on Dec 9
- Decision was made to poll 2 primary options:
 - **Scenario 1A:** Transit-only measure in A, CC, SF and SMC (with SCC given the option to participate). 10 years. ½ cent sales tax. Distributed based on fare loss. \$560M/year. (SCC may run own measure but commit to Caltrain portion)
 - **Hybrid:** Same 4-counties with opt in option for other 5 if SCC opts in. 30-year measure. Funding infrastructure and transit operations. ½-cent sales tax plus a 9-cent per building square foot parcel tax. \$1.3-\$1.5B/year
- MTC polling expected in January and results expected in February. Will include polling variable rate tax requested by SFMTA
- Caltrain polling on Caltrain-specific "Plan B" measure expected in January

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