

SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – NOTICE AND AGENDA  
10:00 A.M. ON FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

The Board of Directors of the San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) will hold a regular meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 17, 2026, in the Boardroom of RTD's Downtown Transit Center, 421 East Weber Avenue, Stockton, California. Please visit <https://sanjoaquinrtd.com/board-of-directors/board-meeting-agendas-and-minutes/> for an electronic copy of this document. Materials related to an item on this agenda packet are available for public inspection at the above address.

ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC MEETINGS: RTD is committed to ensuring that all meetings are accessible regardless of an individual's ability or access method. RTD will make all reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities to participate in this meeting. Upon request to the Chief Executive Office, RTD will provide agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats or disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in public meetings. Please send a written request, including your name, mailing address, phone number, and a brief description of the requested materials, preferred alternative format, auxiliary aid, or service, at least three workdays before the meeting. Requests should be sent to RTD by mail at 421 East Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202, by phone at (209) 467-6613, by fax at (209) 948-8516, or by email to [BoardSupport@sjRTD.com](mailto:BoardSupport@sjRTD.com).

The RTD Board of Directors may take action on each item on the agenda. The action may consist of the recommended action, a related action, or no action. Staff recommendations are subject to action and/or change by the Board of Directors.

*For language assistance, interpreter services, please contact (209) 943-1111. Para información en Español, por favor llame al (209) 943-1111.*

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. MOMENT OF SILENCE/REFLECTION
3. SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT
4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
5. ROLL CALL
6. INFORMATION ON PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public is encouraged to comment on each Agenda Item as it is presented to the RTD Board of Directors. All public comments on items not on the agenda will occur under Agenda Item 9.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING THE FILING AND EXECUTION OF THE FY2025–26 LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM (LCTOP) APPLICATION FOR THE STUDENT TRANSIT ACCESS PROGRAM  
Board authorization of submitting an allocation request.

8. CLOSED SESSION

- A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT/PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT (Gov. Code Section 54957)  
Title: Interim CEO
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Gov. Code Section 54957.6)  
Agency Designated Representative for purposes of potential negotiations with Interim CEO: Chair Graves  
Title: Interim CEO
- C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT (Gov. Code Section 54957)  
Title: Board Counsel

9. OPEN SESSION

- A. POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR THE INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION  
Possible Board approval of Interim CEO contract.
- B. POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR BOARD COUNSEL AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXECUTION  
Possible Board approval of legal counsel contract.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

All public comments shall be limited to no more than THREE MINUTES. In addition, applause, loud noises, or any other outbursts or disruptions from the audience are not allowed during or after public comment. Those who violate this protocol may be removed from the meeting at the presiding officer's discretion.

11. ADJOURNMENT

**NOTE: THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING WILL BE ON FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026, AT 10:00 A.M.**

DATE POSTED: APRIL 10, 2026



**LEAD STAFF: MERAB TALAMANTES, DIRECTOR OF GRANTS AND CAPITAL PROJECTS**

**REPORT: AUTHORIZE THE FILING AND EXECUTION OF THE FY2025–26 LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM (LCTOP) APPLICATION FOR THE STUDENT TRANSIT ACCESS PROGRAM**

**I. SUMMARY:**

- The Student Transit Access Program is being submitted for the FY2025–26 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) cycle.
- The program will provide fare-free transit on RTD fixed-route services for high school and college students.
- This program directly supports LCTOP goals by increasing transit ridership, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving mobility for disadvantaged communities.
- The program advances RTD’s strategic priority of increasing ridership by removing cost as a barrier and expanding access to education, employment, and essential services.
- The total estimated operating budget for the Student Transit Access Program will be \$1,104,253 fully funded by LCTOP.

**II. DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND**

The Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) was established to fund transit projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase transit ridership, with a required focus on benefiting disadvantaged communities. The proposed Student Transit Access Program is strongly aligned with these objectives.

This project requests one year of operating funding in FY2025–26 to implement the Student Transit Access Program on RTD fixed-route services. The program will provide fare-free transit access for high school and college students, reducing transportation barriers during a critical stage in life and supporting access to education, job training, and employment opportunities.

Students are among the most transit-dependent populations and are highly sensitive to transportation costs. By eliminating fares, RTD can significantly increase ridership while encouraging a shift from private vehicle use to public transit. This directly supports LCTOP’s goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through increased transit utilization.

The program advances RTD’s strategic priority of increasing ridership by:

- Removing financial barriers that limit transit use among students
- Introducing young riders to transit early, helping build lifelong ridership habits
- Increasing utilization of existing transit services without requiring significant additional capital investment

In addition to ridership growth, the program will deliver meaningful community benefits by improving access to education, workforce opportunities, healthcare, and essential services. Students attending local high schools and institutions such as San Joaquin Delta College will have improved access to reliable transportation, supporting academic success and economic mobility.

The Student Transit Access Program also advances equity by prioritizing a population that disproportionately relies on public transportation. Consistent with LCTOP requirements, the program will benefit disadvantaged and low-income communities throughout RTD’s service area.

RTD has historically utilized LCTOP funding to support capital improvements, primarily through the BRT Expansion – Midtown Corridor Project. The FY2025–26 program represents a strategic evolution in the use of these funds by focusing on maximizing ridership and delivering direct, measurable benefits to transit users.

**LCTOP FUNDING HISTORY**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Total LCTOP Funding</b>
2017-18	BRT Expansion – Midtown Corridor	\$566,109
2018-19	BRT Expansion – Midtown Corridor	\$1,055,070
2019-20	BRT Expansion – Midtown Corridor	\$1,173,520
2020-21	BRT Expansion – Midtown Corridor	\$650,737
2021-22	BRT Expansion – Midtown Corridor	\$1,556,856
2022-23	BRT Expansion – Midtown Corridor	\$1,602,176
2023-24	BRT Expansion – Midtown Corridor	\$1,766,265
2024-25	BRT Expansion – Midtown Corridor	\$1,683,223

This history reflects RTD’s consistent and effective use of LCTOP funding to deliver infrastructure improvements. The proposed FY2025–26 Student Transit Access Program builds on that success by advancing LCTOP’s core objectives through a direct investment in ridership growth and community access.

**III. STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES ALIGNMENT**

This recommendation aligns with the Board's Strategic Priorities 2, 3 and 4. Strategic Priorities:

1. Employees
2. Customers
3. Financial Health
4. Operations Excellence

5. Community Relations
6. Innovation

**IV. CUSTOMER IMPACT**

The Student Transit Access Program will provide immediate and meaningful benefits by eliminating fares for high school and college students. The program will expand access to education, employment, healthcare, and essential services, while reducing transportation cost burdens for students and their families.

By removing financial barriers, the program is expected to increase ridership, improve mobility, and support long-term transit use among younger populations. This investment not only enhances access in the near term but also contributes to building a sustainable and growing rider base for the future.

**V. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS/IMPACT**

The total estimated operating cost of the Student Transit Access Program is \$1,104,253, which will be fully funded through LCTOP.

**VI. CHANGES FROM COMMITTEE**

N/A

**VII. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

No alternative is recommended. This action is necessary to secure available LCTOP funding and implement a program that directly advances both LCTOP objectives and RTD's strategic goal of increasing ridership. Staff evaluated various project scenarios and determined this project to be the best option for RTD.

**VIII. ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment A:** Resolution

Prepared by: Merab Talamantes, Director of Grants and Capital Projects



Attachment A  
Cover Page

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
DATED: APRIL 17, 2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING AND EXECUTION OF THE FY2025–26 LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATIONS PROGRAM (LCTOP) APPLICATION FOR THE STUDENT TRANSIT ACCESS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the California Legislature enacted the Transit, Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (SB 862) in 2014 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, SB 862 established the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) to receive revenue from the sale of emission allowances in California's Cap-and-Trade program and distribute these funds to transit operators and regional transportation planning agencies for projects which increase transit ridership; and

WHEREAS, SB 862 named the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as the administrative agency for the LCTOP; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans has developed guidelines for the purpose of administering and distributing LCTOP funds to eligible project sponsors (local agencies); and

WHEREAS, San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) is an eligible project sponsor and may receive state funding from the LCTOP for transit projects; and

WHEREAS, RTD staff recommends the Board authorize submittal of an allocation request for implementation of the following LCTOP project(s):

Project Name: Student Transit Access Program

LCTOP Funds Requested: \$1,104,253

Short Description: This project is for one year of additional operating funds in FY 2025–26 for the Free-Fare Transit Program. The project will benefit disadvantaged and low-income communities by eliminating fares on RTD fixed-route services and improving access to a variety of destinations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the Board of Directors of San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) as follows:

- 1) That RTD agrees to comply with all conditions and requirements set forth in the Certification and Assurances and the Authorized Agent documents and applicable statutes, regulations, and guidelines for all LCTOP-funded transit projects.

- 2) That the Chair of the Board and the CEO be, and they are, hereby authorized and directed to finalize and execute the FY2025–26 LCTOP application and all required documents of the LCTOP program and any Amendments thereto with the California Department of Transportation.
- 3) That the Chair of the Board and the CEO, acting separately, are hereby authorized to submit the application for FY 2025–26 LCTOP funds for the Free-Fare Transit Program in the amount of \$1,104,253. This project is for one year of operating funds in FY 2025–26 for the Free-Fare Transit Program. The project will benefit an entirely disadvantaged and low-income community by eliminating fares on RTD fixed -route services and improving access to various destinations.