

# CONNECT BAY AREA

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Connect Bay Area Campaign Raises Nearly \$3 Million to Support Signature-Gathering Effort for Regional Transit Measure**

*Businesses, labor organizations, and civic foundations rally to support November 2026 ballot measure to prevent catastrophic transit service cuts and promote reliable public transit across the region*

**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, CA** — The Connect Bay Area Transit committee today announced that it has already raised nearly \$3 million to support a region-wide effort to qualify Connect Bay Area, a voter-proposed regional transportation funding measure, for the November 2026 ballot. With strong early financial backing secured, the campaign will now begin signature gathering while continuing to fundraise to qualify and pass a five county sales tax to save public transit.

The campaign's initial fundraising success reflects broad alignment across business, labor, philanthropy, and community leaders that a reliable, safe, and efficient public transportation system is vital to the future of the Bay Area. Major early donors include Chris Larsen, Herzog Contracting Corporation, Genentech, HNTB Corporation, Meta, and SEIU 1021. For a full list of donors, see below.

"Public transportation connects everyone. We are proud of the broad coalition uniting to prevent catastrophic service cuts and to build an affordable, safe, and efficient public transportation system," said Jeff Cretan, a spokesperson for the Connect Bay Area Transit Committee. "The commitments we are seeing from business, labor, and civic leaders shows that everyone is ready to get this measure across the finish line in November."

Connect Bay Area is a five-county regional tax measure designed to prevent catastrophic transit service cuts and provide reliable operating funding for major transit systems and local bus operators throughout the region. The measure also funds improvements to transit systems, capital projects within counties, and targeted road improvements. The measure is critical to supporting the Bay Area's economy, promoting an affordable region, reducing traffic congestion, and ensuring access to jobs, schools, and healthcare.

Early financial support for the campaign includes commitments from:

- Chris Larsen
- Herzog Contracting Corporation
- Genentech
- HNTB Corporation
- Meta
- SEIU 1021
- Jacobs
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- ATU Local 1555
- PG&E
- WSP
- Golden State Warriors
- AFSCME Local 3993
- Boston Properties
- Visa
- AFSCME Council 57
- T.Y. Lin
- GILLIG
- HDR, Inc.
- Fehr & Peers
- AFSCME 3916
- Arup North America
- Olson Remcho

Additional major employers, labor organizations, and philanthropic partners have indicated commitments that are expected to be finalized as the campaign continues to build momentum.

With signature gathering starting, the Connect Bay Area campaign will focus on qualifying the measure for the ballot while continuing to expand its coalition across the region. The Campaign must secure over 186,000 signatures from the five counties by June 6, 2026 to qualify for the November ballot.

The campaign's early momentum comes as Bay Area transit agencies face an unprecedented funding crisis. Without a sustainable solution, public transportation in the the region could see devastating impacts, including:

- **BART** could eliminate 2 full lines, stop service at 9pm on weekdays, and eliminate all weekend service.
- **Muni** could eliminate entire routes, make 50% cuts to major bus and metro lines, gut historic train and cable car service.
- **Caltrain** could cut weekday service to once an hour, stop service at 9pm on weekdays, and eliminate all weekend service.
- **AC Transit** could cut up to 37% of overall service.

Recent polling on the proposed Connect Bay Area measure shows a clear path to passage, with strong support across counties and voter demographics. A [survey conducted by EMC Research](#) for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission found that 59% of Bay Area voters would support a proposed regional sales tax measure for public transportation. The threshold for passage for a signature-gathering initiative is 50%+1.

For more information about Connect Bay Area, visit [ConnectBayArea.com](https://ConnectBayArea.com).

### **About the Connect Bay Area Transit Committee**

The Connect Bay Area Transit Committee is led by labor, business, and transit supporters, including the Bay Area Council, SEIU 1021, ATU 1555, SPUR, SAMCEDA, among others, as well as a broad advocacy council. The advocacy council includes more than 20 organizations including transit advocates, housing advocates, safe streets advocates, senior and disability advocates, and environmentalists. The Committee is focused on delivering a successful 2026 ballot measure that will strengthen public transportation to keep the Bay Area affordable for residents and support critical economic growth and climate resilience.