



SamTrans Board of Directors

Meeting April 1, 2026

Correspondence as of March 20, 2026

# Subject

1. Amtrak completes accessibility renovations at two South Carolina stations; Updates from the Government of Ontario
2. Mass Transit Rail Update
3. Infrastructure Technology Podcast launches season three; Updates from BC Transit
4. Strong support for Reimagine Dumbarton - please advance a bold, rider-first alternative

**From:** Mass Transit <mass@news.southcommmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2026 8:01 AM  
**To:** Board (@samtrans.com)  
**Subject:** Amtrak completes accessibility renovations at two South Carolina stations; Updates from the Government of Ontario

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Amtrak completes accessibility renovations at two South Carolina stations; Updates from the Government of Ontario  
Mass Transit Daily ENL | [View online](#)

# MASS TRANSIT DAILY



MARCH 16, 2026



**Amtrak completes accessibility renovations at two South Carolina stations**

The renovations are part of Amtrak's goal to make every station ADA compliant by 2029.

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## Register Today for SWTA + New Mexico 2026

From SWTA - Southwest Transit Association

Join transit leaders from across the country at the 2026 SWTA + New Mexico Joint Annual Conference & EXPO presented by Model 1 Commercial Vehicles, March 30–April 2 in Albuquerque, NM. Join conversations on funding, operations, workforce, safety, and innovation while building connections that move public transit forward. Explore a dynamic EXPO featuring the latest vehicles, technology, and solutions.

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## Government of Ontario acquires more than 120 miles of track for Northlander rail service

The new track will allow passengers and freight to traverse between Timmins and Toronto

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## **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority awards \$4.5 million in Clean Mobility Program funding**

The funding will allow the MTA and Westchester County, N.Y., to launch affordable, on-demand electric micro mobility options and rideshare services to improve first- and last-mile connections.

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## **Alstom delivers first of new automated people movers to Tampa International Airport**

The new people mover system is also coming with a new automatic train control system to improve frequency and reliability.

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**MN: Transit plan could upend Twin Cities' decades-old suburban system**

**PA: Remember SEPTA's plan to redo bus routes? It's back and it's happening (for real this time).**

**CA: Construction to disrupt Sacramento light rail service this month. Which stations?**

**MN: Twin Cities transit ridership down last year despite rise in rapid bus use**

**FEATURED**



## A New Look and a New Direction for MeVa

By Brandon Lewis

In 2022, the former Merrimack Valley Transit Authority in northeastern Massachusetts underwent a transformation to better fit the needs of its riders.

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## CAREER CENTER



**Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project Planner**  
From Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA)



**Sr. Manager of Transit Planning & Mobility on Demand**

From Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority (SORTA)



**Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)**

From Valley Metro



**Engineer-Conductor**

From Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District



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30 Burton Hills Blvd., Suite 185  
Nashville, TN 37215

**From:** Mass Transit <mass@mail.southcommmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026 6:03 AM  
**To:** Board (@samtrans.com)  
**Subject:** Mass Transit Rail Update

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Mass Transit Rail Update  
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# MASS TRANSIT Rail Update



MARCH 17, 2026



**Government of Ontario acquires more than 120 miles of track for Northlander rail service**

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The new people mover system is also coming with a new automatic train control system to improve frequency and reliability.

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### **Gateway Development Commission resumes work on Hudson Tunnel Project**

The GDC says construction will have to pause again in two to three months if federal funding disbursements do not continue.

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### **NJ Transit, Amtrak host inaugural ride on new Portal North bridge ahead of launch**

The new bridge is set to have one track enter passenger service on March 16.

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## City of Toronto rolls out TSP for TTC Line 5, 6

The changes allow for TTC LRT vehicles to proceed through intersections before left-turning traffic.

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## MBTA completes commissioning of modernized signaling system on Orange Line

The connected signaling system will allow the agency to more easily maintain schedules and respond to service disruptions more quickly.

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## TTC to extend LRT service on Line 6 Finch West March 15

Service will now be extended until 1:00 a.m. after the line opened in December 2025 under temporary soft opening conditions.

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## Massachusetts Gov. Healey signs project labor agreement to support North Station Draw One Bridge Replacement Project construction

Once complete, the project will modernize a critical rail connection between Boston and Cambridge, Mass., that serves the MBTA Commuter Rail and Amtrak's Downeaster Service.

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**From:** Mass Transit <mass@news.southcommmail.com>  
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**To:** Board (@samtrans.com)  
**Subject:** Infrastructure Technology Podcast launches season three; Updates from BC Transit

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Infrastructure Technology Podcast launches season three; Updates from BC Transit  
Mass Transit Daily ENL | [View online](#)



## Infrastructure Technology Podcast: Technology trends in the industry in 2026

By Brandon Lewis

On the season three premiere, Mass Transit Associate Editor Brandon Lewis interviews Joanna M. Pinkerton from HNTB and former DART Leader Dee Leggett.

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## Victoria Regional Transit System to add 39 double decker buses to fleet

The first two of the new buses is entering passenger service now and will serve the region's busiest routes.

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## Multi-Layer Protection Designed to Stop Graffiti

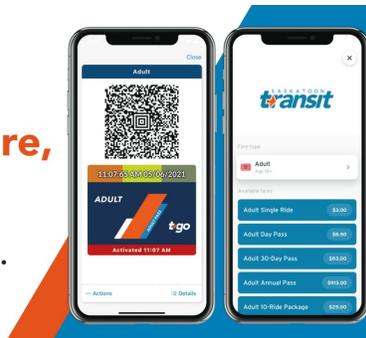
From Graffiti Shield, Inc.

Glass Shield's Multi-Layer Film protects glass surfaces from vandalism, scratching, and etching. Its customizable layering system allows damaged layers to be removed and replaced quickly, restoring a clean surface without costly glass replacement. Designed for high-traffic environments, Glass Shield delivers durable protection with long-term cost savings.

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Pay your fare, anywhere.



## Saskatoon Transit to launch reloadable smart cards March 20

The cards will integrate with the current Masabi mobile ticketing platform to reduce boarding confusion and eliminate the need for multiple validators.

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## MTC links with California Department of Technology to use CalFresh data for discount program verification

The partnership will eliminate the need for manual review, speeding up determination to as soon as the same day.

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## Exo selects Transdev Canada to take over rail operations in 2027

The contract runs through 2040 with a launch period to sunset the existing provider and options to extend beyond.

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## **Decatur Public Transit System launches new contactless fare collection system across fixed-bus network**

In partnership with Modeshift, riders can now plan, purchase and validate trips through a smartphone app or ride with a reloadable smart card.

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**CA: Caltrain may ban bikes with child seats. Parents say it could upend their commutes**

**MA: 2 new bus routes coming to Methuen in April**

**WA: Walla Walla Valley residents can comment on public transit access, improvement**

**WA: Redmond launches on-demand electric ride service to light rail stations**

**FEATURED**



## How Transit Agencies are Rebuilding Facilities for Zero-Emission Buses

By Noah Kolenda

Transit agencies across North America are planning, funding and building the next generation of bus facilities for zero-emission fleets.

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## CAREER CENTER



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Nashville, TN 37215

**From:** [Prodan Statev](#)  
**To:** [Dumbarton](#)  
**Cc:** [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Strong support for Reimagine Dumbarton - please advance a bold, rider-first alternative  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026 8:58:30 AM

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**ATTENTION:** This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders.

Dear Reimagine Dumbarton team,

I'm writing to express strong support for Reimagine Dumbarton and to urge you to advance the most ambitious, rider-centered alternative this fall.

This is one of the most exciting transit opportunities on the Peninsula. You have a 5-mile dedicated corridor, a travel market that has grown more than 30% since 2019, communities that are desperate for better connections, and a funding path through Connect Bay Area's return-to-source allocation. The question isn't whether to build - it's whether you build something transformative or something timid.

Please build the transformative version. Specifically, I urge the project team to advance alternatives that include:

1. Real, all-day transit service from day one. A busway that runs peak-hours-only or shuts down at 7 PM is infrastructure without mobility.
2. A credible plan for cross-Bay connectivity. Your own materials show that regional trip patterns flow to and from BART and the East Bay. Riders experience a complete journey, not a study boundary. Even if the near-term project is Peninsula-only, the fall alternatives should show exactly how a rider gets from the Dumbarton Corridor to Union City BART
3. The multimodal corridor your presentation promised. Your February community meeting presentation shows park spaces, picnic tables, community retail, walking and biking connections. These should be requirements in the preferred alternative, not amenities that get value-engineered out.
4. Future-proofing that means something. Your FAQ says the busway "does not prevent train service from being explored in the future." That's good, but passive compatibility is not a plan. Follow the SURF! Monterey model from your own presentation: preserve the rail alignment, design station platforms and geometry to accommodate future rail vehicles, and say so publicly.
- 5.. Evaluation by rider-facing metrics. When you present alternatives this fall, please evaluate them on door-to-door travel time (including first/last mile), frequency, service span (hours per day, days per week), transfer penalty at Caltrain and BART, and walk/bike access quality - not only capital cost and ridership projections.

The lesson of the past 20 years on this corridor is not "think smaller." It's "build the useful thing now, and build it so it grows." A dedicated busway with frequent all-day service, real

pedestrian and bike infrastructure, a concrete plan for East Bay connectivity, and explicit rail-readiness IS the pragmatic option. It's faster and cheaper than the \$3B rail project while delivering genuine mobility that the current circuitous bus network cannot.

This is exactly the kind of project that Connect Bay Area return-to-source funds should support. I urge you to be bold in the alternatives you develop and present - the community is ready for something worth building.

Thank you for the outreach you've done so far and for taking community input seriously. I look forward to the Phase II alternatives this summer.

Sincerely,  
Prodan Statev  
698 Third Ave, Redwood City  
94063