

# Transit NewsWatch

May 7, 2009

## Save the Buses: Why Are We Cutting Transportation Funding?

The State of California's recent woeful budget eliminated all state funding for public transit for the next few years. While California transit agencies were bracing for a hit, this funding termination was seen as an unlikely "Armageddon Scenario" by the California Transit Association (CTA). Is a 100-percent cut anyone's idea of a "fair share"? Considering its benefits to society, we should be expanding our transit service right now, not cutting back. It saves immense amounts of fossil fuels and drastically reduces greenhouse gas emissions...transit agencies all over the state are now paring back routes, raising fares, and taking emergency measures to shore up their budgets. Thousands of employees are out of jobs and forced into a rough economic climate. For the MTD, this cut means almost a \$1.3 million hole in a \$22 million budget.

<http://www.independent.com/news/2009/may/07/save-buses/>

## Caltrain plans fiscal emergency, service reductions, fare hikes

Caltrain announced Friday it will run out of money by this time next year if it does not declare a fiscal emergency in June — a move that would allow it to raise fares and possibly run fewer trains or make fewer stops. Caltrain's board of directors Thursday will consider calling for a June 4 public hearing to formally declare a fiscal emergency and consider fare hikes, service reductions or both...Compounding the problem is a move by the state to cut Caltrain's Transit Assistance Funds, which in previous years totaled about \$6 million.

[http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_12279159](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_12279159)

## Muni plans to raise fares 50 cents in July

The San Francisco Municipal Railway on Thursday became the latest Bay Area transit agency to use fare increases and service cuts to plug a ballooning budget deficit. In the Bay Area, Caltrain raised fares Jan. 1. AC Transit and Golden Gate ferry fares increase July 1. BART and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority are still debating higher fares, but the question isn't so much if the fares should go up but rather by how much. In California, the governor and lawmakers eliminated all funding for local transit operations to help solve the state's budget crisis.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/05/01/MN7O17C8CC.DTL>

## Public transit investment would create 'green' jobs, APTA report states

Prepared for APTA by the Economic Development Research Group, "Job Impacts of Spending on Public Transportation: An Update" states that two-thirds of the jobs created by capital investment in the public transit industry would replace lost blue-collar jobs with "green jobs" in the public transit sector, in areas such as manufacturing, service, repair, operations and construction.

<http://www.progressiverailroading.com/news/article.asp?id=20290>



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