



November 6, 2020 | An APTA Publication

PASSENGER Transport

THE SOURCE FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION NEWS AND ANALYSIS

express

[Visit APTA's Coronavirus Resources Page](#)

Record Numbers of Voters Voice Support for Public Transportation

Voters voiced their overwhelming support for public transit Nov. 3 by approving 13 out of 15 transit-related ballot measures. One measure is still awaiting final tabulation. These results add to the 32 public transit measures already passed by voters this year, bringing the total to 45 out of 49 wins for public transit, a 92 percent win rate for 2020. The measures represent more than \$38 billion in new funding.

“Voters throughout the country once again overwhelmingly said ‘yes’ to public transit ballot measures that will expand and improve public transit, spur economic development and job creation, and connect communities and the people who live in them,” said APTA President and CEO Paul P. Skoutelas. “Even during this pandemic and economic downturn, voters have spoken and pledged their vote where they know it’s needed: public transportation investment. These ballots once again underscore the importance of local, state and federal partnerships in transportation investment.”

“Voters showed that they’re willing to think big about our future. Americans voted to invest in transit and in their communities,” said Josh Cohen, executive director of [APTA's Center for Transportation Excellence](#), which tracks the measures. “The big measures this year were innovative and collaborative and represent an approach to development that extends beyond mobility alone. The measures, and the campaigns themselves, talked to voters about equity, cleaner air and water, economic growth and support for frontline and essential workers—a message and approach that was met with applause.”

The successful measures include:

- Prop A in Austin, TX, which would provide large investments in bus and rail to manage the city's urban growth while providing hundreds of millions of dollars for community-led anti-displacement measures;
- Prop A in San Antonio, TX, which would allow VIA Metropolitan Transit to continue to operate at its best capacity during the pandemic;
- Measure RR in the Bay Area, CA, which would provide the first dedicated source of funding for Caltrain;
- Prop 1 in Seattle, WA, which would renew a tax that funds bus service and subsidized pass programs for students and other groups;
- The Mountain Line mill levy increase in Missoula, MT, which would, among other improvements, fund Missoula's innovative Zero Fare program; and
- A measure in Monroe County, MI, to renew a 1-mill levy for Lake Erie Transit for three years.

The following measures fell short:

- Measure 26-218 in Portland, OR, which would fund a large slate of transportation, transit and safety improvements throughout the region to address historically inequitable transportation planning;
- A measure in Newton County, GA, to institute a one percent transportation special-purpose local-option sales tax that would benefit transit.

Still undetermined is the outcome of a transit referendum in Gwinnett County, GA, which would bring Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transportation Authority service, including light rail, BRT and expanded bus service, to the county.

FTA, HUD/PIH Partner for COVID-19 Recovery Listening Session

To educate communities about how public transit agencies can coordinate with municipalities, public housing authorities and school districts to provide essential services, FTA and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) have partnered to encourage these activities and highlight the federal funding available to support them.

FTA Deputy Administrator K. Jane Williams and HUD PIH Assistant Secretary R. Hunter Kurtz will co-host a 90-minute listening session, **Nov. 13, 3:00 p.m. Eastern**, to share information on value-added services and partnerships that provide targeted populations with access to transportation, education support services (such as WiFi), food, medical appointments and other essential services as communities recover from COVID-19.

The listening session will include speakers from public transit agencies, a public housing authority and the National Center for Mobility Management. Questions to

panelists can be submitted when registering, until Nov. 9, 8:00 p.m. Eastern.
[Register here.](#)

Classifieds

See the latest industry employment opportunities, proposals and notices.

[Go To Classifieds](#)

New CEO Named

Adelee Marie Le Grand, HART

The Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART), Tampa, FL, has selected Adelee Marie Le Grand as its new CEO.

Le Grand has more than two decades of experience, with a specialty in developing and communicating strategies into the implementation of business solutions and innovations, including serving as chief mobility officer for the Atlanta-region Transit Link Authority (ATL) and as chief strategy officer for the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority.



“It was evident to the entire board of directors that Ms. Le Grand will rebuild and re- envision HART by building trust through transparency and respect with employees, customers and the community,” said Commissioner Mariella Smith, HART board chair.

For APTA, Le Grand is a member of the Board of Directors; Executive Committee; Diversity and Inclusion Council; Public Transportation CEOs Coordinating Council; and Workforce Development and Mobility Management committees, among others.



BYD BUSES | MADE IN USA
SAFE. RELIABLE. EMISSION FREE.



[REGISTER FOR THESE APTA EVENTS](#)

Upcoming APTA Virtual Events

UITP International Rail Forum for North America

November 10-12

APTA is partnering with UITP (International Association of Public Transport) and CUTA (Canadian Urban Transit Association) to hold a virtual edition of the annual UITP International Rail Forum for North America. The event is being hosted by the Chicago Transit Authority and the Regional Transportation Authority and features speakers from around the world. APTA members receive a 50 percent discount on the registration fee. [Learn more and register](#). Contact Petra Mollet at pmollet@apta.com for more information.

APTA Mid-Year Safety and Security Seminar / TRB National Transit Safety and Security Conference

November 17-18

APTA's Mid-Year Safety and Security Seminar will be held with TRB's National Transit Safety and Security Conference. The event will include presentations on successful outcomes and lessons learned from safety and security policy and procedure modifications and technology pilots and deployments. It will also include presentations on actionable one-world transit and passenger rail safety and security research findings. [Learn more and register](#).

2020 Legal Affairs Virtual Mini Seminar

December 8

This virtual event is a new offering to transit legal professionals to obtain valuable CLE on current topics to include transit enforcement practices, impacts of COVID-19 on contracts, return-to-office policies and force majeure, as well as an update from FTA's Office of Chief Counsel, a legislative update and a roundtable for sharing best practices. [Learn more and register](#).

Upcoming Webinars

APTAU CEU Academy Sustainable Ecosystems and Electric Buses

November 17, 2:00–3:30 pm Eastern

California's ambitious climate plan sets a goal of transitioning to 100 percent electric transit by 2040. Several cities, including Los Angeles, have established even more aggressive deadlines. This APTAU CEU Academy workshop explores the role of electric buses in achieving a sustainable transit ecosystem. Panelists will present approaches to planning charging infrastructure, working with utilities and more. Time will be reserved for a Q&A on the future of sustainable public transit. Participants will receive 1.5 CEU planner credits. [Learn more and register](#).

In Case You Missed It

REWIND

Missed APTA's 2020 TRANScend: Critical Conversations for the Year Ahead virtual event? You can now purchase and rewind the conference and view more than 10 hours of content, featuring industry thought-leaders and a discussion of the long-term impacts of COVID-19, bringing riders back, putting equity at the forefront, the changing landscape of cities, policing in a new era and much more. [Learn more.](#)

Purchase access to on-demand content from APTA's 2020 Mobility & Rail NOW! virtual event and gain the inside track on the latest insights, trends and best practices impacting mobility and rail. This two-day event delivered 24 sessions; nine of which are approved for planning, procurement or engineering continuing education credits. The event also featured sessions on the "Future of Transit," including what public transit will look like in the post-pandemic world. [Learn more.](#)

APTA's 2020 Sustainability & Multimodal Planning Workshop delivered techniques that increase efficiency, resiliency and integration. Purchase on-demand content and hear from industry thought-leaders on topics related to service planning and scheduling in response to COVID-19, sustainable capital programming, equity in transit service planning and delivery, facilities planning, clean bus technologies, and route design and service planning for enhanced mobility. [Learn more.](#)

APTA's webinars are archived and available to the public transit industry. Please [click here to access APTA's library of recordings and videos](#) to keep informed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ELSEWHERE IN THE MEDIA

The [2020 election was good for public transit](#), even as the pandemic continues to drive down ridership, fares and tax revenues that support the systems.

Public transportation in cities across the U.S. faces an [uncertain future in a post-pandemic world](#).

The New York MTA is testing a [new app that will allow visually impaired bus riders](#) to find stops and learn arrival times.

Chicago Transit Authority and Pace riders with iPhones and Apple Watches can now [avoid touching card readers or vending machines](#).

[Better access to public transportation is important for equity](#), says a recent report from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

Passenger information and advertisements at [Port Authority of New York and New Jersey stations](#) are going digital.

Richard Nixon resigned, but the [1972 BART car](#) he made famous still serves.



[Subscribe](#) [Calendar](#) [APTA Home](#) [Advertise](#)



American Public Transportation Association | 1300 I St. NW, Suite 1200 East | Washington, DC 20005