



MONTHLY SBCCOG TRANSPORTATION REPORT

A summary of recent federal, state, regional and local
developments and trends in transportation

COVERING OCTOBER 2025

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Federal

Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Announces Consequences for California's Failure to Enforce English Language Requirements for Truckers

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy announced that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will withhold over \$40 million from California following an investigation that found the state has failed to comply with the Department's English Language Proficiency (ELP) standards.

In total, \$40,685,225 from Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) funding awarded to California will be impacted. MCSAP provides grant funding for states to conduct roadside inspections, traffic enforcement, safety audits of trucking companies, and public education campaigns.

For FMCSA to restore funding, California must adopt and actively enforce a law, regulation, standard, or order that is compatible with the federal ELP requirement for commercial drivers. This means state inspectors need to begin conducting ELP assessments during roadside inspections, and those who fail must be placed out-of-service.

On August 26, 2025, the Department announced California was among states in danger of losing federal funds if they failed to adopt and enforce ELP requirements for commercial motor vehicle drivers. In July, California Highway Patrol has also publicly stated it had no intention of following this federal regulation.

The Department is currently performing a nationwide audit of non-domiciled commercial driver's license (CDL) issuance.

Source (edited to remove political statements): <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/trumps-transportation-secretary-sean-p-duffy-announces-consequences-californias>

State

California Invests Nearly \$5 billion for Local Projects, Bridge Repairs, Alternative Transport Options and Freight Movement

On October 17, the California Transportation Commission approved \$4.9 billion to improve safety and mobility on local streets and state highways as well as fund new alternative transportation options and zero emissions projects.

More than half of the allocation will provide 600 local governments and regional transportation agencies with their annual funding to fix roads, bridges and other transportation needs statewide.

Among the projects approved is \$700 million for repairs and critical upgrades needed for the Vincent Thomas Bridge, a 60-year-old span in the Port of Los Angeles that will soon undergo a

major deck refurbishment. Another \$140 million will fund truck climbing lanes among other improvements to Interstate 80 in the Sierra foothills between Applegate and Emigrant Gap, a major west coast freight thoroughfare.

Pedestrian facilities also received support from the allocations, including an award of \$97 million to replace a pedestrian bridge that connects neighborhoods south of the City College of San Francisco campus and other improvements to Interstate 280 between San Francisco and San Mateo counties. And \$6.3 million will be spent on new sidewalks, bike lanes and traffic controls in the cities of Santa Barbara and Santa Rosa and in Santa Clara County.

Source: <https://dot.ca.gov/news-releases/news-release-2025-016>

California Launches Data-Driven Road Safety Initiative to Save Lives

Key state partners joined together as California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Secretary Toks Omishakin, California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) Secretary Kim Johnson and other state and local leaders unveiled a new statewide initiative to reduce severe traffic crashes in California's highest-risk areas. The program launches with a new statewide policy on road safety and two designated safety corridors: Avalon Boulevard in Los Angeles and State Route 91 in southeast Los Angeles County.

Secretaries Omishakin and Johnson signed the new Secretary's Policy on Road Safety, committing California to a prevention-first, Safe System Approach to eliminate fatal and serious traffic injuries on October 15. Grounded in public health principles, the policy aligns agency decisions and investments to reduce exposure, crash likelihood and injury severity. It sets an interim goal to cut deadly and serious injury crashes by 30% by 2035 and reconvenes a cross-sector task force to develop a prioritized action plan. The policy embeds safety across departments—through design, operations, policy and investment—with a focus on equity and measurable, population-level impact.

In 2023 alone, there were approximately 3,600 fatalities and more than 14,000 serious injuries in California on all public roadways.

The state has allocated \$7 million to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation for safety upgrades along Avalon Boulevard. Crash data from 2019 to 2023 shows Avalon Boulevard, between E Jefferson Boulevard and San Pedro Street, experienced 122 fatal and serious injury crashes. These crashes resulted in a total of 21 fatalities and 115 serious injuries.

More than \$191 million is also being invested in operational and safety improvements along State Route 91, spanning from Vermont Avenue to the Orange County line. Additional safety corridor locations are under review.

The initiative's comprehensive approach combines infrastructure, engagement and policy innovation to create safer, more connected corridors. Planned improvements may include:

- **Safe Crossings and Intersections:** High-visibility markings, upgraded signal timing and redesigned intersections to reduce conflict points and improve pedestrian safety

- Connected Mobility Options: Infrastructure to support safe walking, biking and transit access for all users
- Education and Engagement: A new SLOWCAL social media campaign will promote awareness and community involvement.
- Law Enforcement Partnerships: Where welcomed by communities, law enforcement will support safety efforts based on local priorities.
- Speed Management: Tools such as automated speed safety cameras will help promote safe driving speeds.

California analyzed crash data across all public roads, including state highways, city streets and county roads. Corridor selection was guided by UC Berkeley’s SafeTREC using a High Injury Network methodology applied to crash data over five years (2019–2023). Sites were prioritized based on crash severity, context and the readiness of project partners.

Progress will be measured by reductions in fatal and serious injury crashes. Leading indicators such as vehicle speeds, conflict points and telematics data (including braking and acceleration patterns) will help identify risks early and guide proactive adjustments.

Source: <https://calsta.ca.gov/press-releases/2025-10-15-data-driven-road-safety-initiative-launch>

Region

LA Metro Releases Industry Playbook to Help Transit Agencies Deliver World-Class Service for Major Sports, Entertainment Events

Drawing on lessons from mega sporting events, political conventions, mega concerts and other large-scale events from around the world, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) announced the release of the Special Event Transportation – Guidance and Opportunities (SetGo) Playbook, a comprehensive resource of best practices for transit agencies of all sizes to deliver transportation for major sports, entertainment and cultural events.

The Playbook was developed through Metro’s SetGo Program, a national workshop series conducted with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). It draws on lessons from international and domestic events, including the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Atlanta 1996, Salt Lake 2002, London 2012), the Las Vegas Formula One Grand Prix, major concert tours, conventions and more.

Beyond its primary emphasis on major sporting events, the Playbook also draws on lessons from a wider spectrum of special events, recognizing that many of the same principles of planning, delivery and after-action evaluation apply across these event types and sizes.

[A Resource for Mega-Events](#)

The Playbook identifies transit service strategies for upcoming international-scale events in the U.S., including the FIFA World Cup 2026™, the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Utah 2034 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Designed as a living document, it will evolve as agencies continue to test and refine approaches through future events. It also will serve as a guide for elected officials and host committees to help them understand the critical transportation practices that will need to be deployed to make their event world class.

Key Focus Areas

The Playbook organizes best practices across five subject areas:

- Purpose & Need – mission alignment, advocacy and coordination inside and outside the agency.
- Service Plan – demand forecasting, supplemental service, first/last mile strategies, and speed and reliability.
- Safety & Emergency Management – crowd management, security and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) planning.
- Customer Experience – accessibility, signage and wayfinding, integrated ticketing, ambassadors and “surprise and delight” activations.
- Agency-Wide Success Strategies – budgeting, workforce readiness, training, technology, contingency planning and after-action processes

For each of these focus areas, the Playbook provides guiding questions that agencies can use to evaluate readiness during planning, adjust strategies in real time during delivery and capture lessons learned in after-action reviews.

This approach not only helps agencies implement best practices and align service with mission and long-term goals, but also promotes consistency across the country, ensuring riders experience the same reliable, high-quality service no matter where they travel.

Source: <https://www.metro.net/about/la-metro-releases-industry-playbook-to-help-transit-agencies-deliver-world-class-service-for-major-sports-entertainment-events/>

Trends

Rivian spinoff ALSO reveals modular TM-B e-bike

Rivian’s new micromobility spinoff, ALSO, has unveiled its first lineup of small electric vehicles aimed at reshaping short-distance travel. The company introduced the TM-B, a modular electric bike, alongside two four-wheel electric quads called TM-Q, designed for both consumer and commercial use. ALSO’s mission is to address the “last-mile” mobility challenge by providing efficient, software-defined vehicles that offer practical and exciting alternatives to cars for trips under 15 miles.

The TM-B e-bike features a modular top frame adaptable to different rider sizes and uses — from commuting to recreation — and runs on ALSO’s proprietary DreamRide system, which digitally controls pedaling feel and regenerative braking. The bike integrates vehicle-grade

battery technology with USB-C fast charging, a touchscreen “Portal” display for navigation and apps, and smart security that automatically locks when the rider walks away. ALSO’s TM-Q quads extend this modular, connected approach to small four-wheel EVs, with a consumer version for families and a commercial variant targeting urban delivery fleets.

The company has also announced a partnership with Amazon to deploy custom e-cargo quads in the U.S. and Europe, signaling a strong entry into the logistics sector. Backed by Rivian and other partners, ALSO’s launch represents a broader trend of automakers expanding into connected micromobility — blending the sophistication of electric vehicles with the accessibility and efficiency of e-bikes and compact EVs.

Source: <https://electriccarsreport.com/2025/10/rivian-spinoff-also-reveals-modular-tm-b-e-bike/>