



MONTHLY SBCCOG TRANSPORTATION REPORT

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

COVERING JANUARY 2026

Edited by Aaron Ruiz, CivicSpark Fellow

Federal

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Announces \$118 Million Investment in Strengthening Safety Standards for Commercial Drivers' License (CDL) Holders

The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced a \$118 million investment aimed at the safety standards in the commercial trucking sector and reducing crashes on America's roadways. The funding will be granted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to state and local partners.

A significant portion of the funding, \$71.6 million, is dedicated to High Priority (HP) grants designed to support state and local efforts to reduce commercial motor vehicle related crashes, enhance safety data, and deploy new technologies for improved compliance and enforcement. Another \$43.8 million is dedicated to Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation (CDLPI) grants, which help states strengthen CDL issuance systems, improve oversight, and prevent fraud.

Department officials emphasized that the initiative is intended to ensure only qualified drivers operate commercial vehicles and to give state and local agencies the critical tools needed to enforce safety standards. The investments also include efforts to implement technologies that identify unsafe vehicles and enhance the timeliness and accuracy of licensing and conviction processing in CDL systems.

This funding reflects ongoing federal attention to commercial vehicle safety, to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses. By combining enforcement, improved systems, and targeted training, the program seeks to strengthen safety on both highways and local roads nationwide.

Source: [Trump's Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Invests \\$118M to Strengthen Safety Standards for CDL Holders, Make Trucking Industry Safer | US Department of Transportation](#)

State

California Invests \$202 Million to Expand Clean Transportation in Disadvantaged Communities

Caltrans has announced a \$202 million investment in clean and equitable transportation projects across California in communities most affected by planet-warming pollution. The funding, awarded by California Climate Investment (CCI) through the Low Carbon Transit

Operations Program (LCTOP), will support 143 local projects that prioritize expanding public transit services, zero-emission infrastructure, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions while making public transportation more affordable.

Examples of supported projects include providing \$48.7 million to expand the LA Metro's A-Line operations for 44 stations, 7 days a week, and \$8.5 million for the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System to purchase up to 23 electric buses, replacing existing natural gas buses. It also supports \$18 million for the City of San Francisco to eliminate or reduce fares on the Muni for seniors, people with disabilities, and the youth.

The investment reflects California's continued emphasis on transitioning toward cleaner, shared mobility options and encourages fewer private vehicle trips. The CCI program aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve public health, and drive innovation in clean energy, particularly benefiting disadvantaged and pollution-burdened communities. This advances California's efforts to meet the growing demand for cleaner transportation alternatives and improve air quality while enhancing transit systems for residents across regions of California.

Source: [California investing \\$202 million to expand cleaner transportation options in communities most affected by pollution | Caltrans](#)

Region

LA Metro Advances Major Rail Projects - Sepulveda Transit Corridor and K Line Extension to Torrance

The LA Metro Board has taken significant steps on two major rail projects that would expand transit service and improve regional connectivity across Los Angeles County, making progress on long-planned investments in both the Sepulveda Transit Corridor and the South Bay.

For the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project, the Metro Board selected a heavy rail subway as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), advancing plans for a high-capacity, fully underground rail line connecting the San Fernando Valley and the West Los Angeles. The proposed alignment, Modified Alternative 5, consists of elements of a single-bore tunnel that reduce the areas of surface construction. This would allow trains to run every 2.5 minutes at peak times between the Van Nuys Metrolink Station and the E-Line's Expo/Sepulveda Station. This is intended to provide faster and more reliable service through the congested Sepulveda Pass while linking riders to multiple Metro lines, including existing bus and rail services. The approval allows the project to move into more detailed design, environmental refinement, and future funding phases.

The Metro Board also approved a key action for the K Line extension to Torrance, a project that will extend light rail service deeper into the South Bay to the Torrance Transit Center. The board voted to pursue an alignment along Hawthorne Boulevard, rather than the previously studied right-of-way (ROW) option. The proposed extension is expected to reduce air pollution and improve regional access between Torrance, the South Bay, and the broader LA Metro network.

Together, this highlights the ongoing efforts to expand rail infrastructure across the region while addressing congestion and community input. The actions reflect both continued progress and the steps involved in delivering large-scale transit projects in Southern California.

Source(s): [In major step forward for Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project, Metro Board selects a route and heavy rail as Locally Preferred Alternative | The Source](#); [LA Metro board approves K Line extension to Torrance along Hawthorne Boulevard | Daily Breeze](#)

Trends

The U.S.'s Largest Truck Stop Operator Partners with Tesla to Expand Heavy-Duty EV Charging

Pilot, the nation's largest operator of travel centers, or truck stops, has announced a partnership with Tesla to install heavy-duty, truck charging stations at locations along major highway corridors. Expected to open in Summer 2026, initial locations will be along key routes such as I-5 and I-10, chosen for their high demand in heavy-duty charging.

Pilot emphasized that the partnership reflects the company's broader focus on shaping the future of energy for the transportation industry. By providing charging solutions for heavy-duty electric trucks, Pilot aims to support the adoption of long-haul electric vehicles while expanding its portfolio of alternative fuel offerings across its more than 900 travel centers. The collaboration is also a step forward in Tesla's efforts to develop a charging network needed to support long-distance electric trucking as it is currently one of the main barriers to EV adoption in freight transportation.

Pilot has prior experience in EV charging partnerships, having collaborated with Volvo Group, GM, and EVgo to deploy over 200 passenger EV charging sites across 40 states. This latest partnership with Tesla signals continued momentum in the expansion of heavy-duty electric vehicle infrastructure, a critical component in supporting decarbonization efforts, and the transition toward sustainable freight operations.

Source: [Tesla lands major Semi charging deal with nation's largest truck stop operator | Electrek](#)