

MOBILITY NEWSLETTER

**Research & reporting from California, the U.S.,
and around the world**

May 9, 2023



May 2023

Recent News and Developing Stories



Federal Transit Administration Announces over \$14 Billion for Transit

April 13, 2023



Microsoft 2022

The FTA released details of this investment in April. It marks the largest-ever single year investment made by the administration.

This money will be made available through formula grants, which are already important resources for communities to maintain, operate, and expand transit services. This increased level of investment was made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed in 2021.

The 2023 Formula Grant Updates...

- Place new emphasis on worker safety by requiring safety committees or Public Transportation Safety Plan creation for each funded project
- Reinforce a preference for domestic infrastructure materials through Build America, Buy America
- Maintain flexibility in Coronavirus aid funds for transportation projects
- Incorporate new FTA strategic plan goals with emphases on safety, resiliency, sustainability, equity, and connecting communities

Latest Fare Payment News in the US:

April 18, 2023

A recent article highlighted how three transit agencies in the U.S. are deploying contactless payments to create flexible, personalized rider experiences.

Florida

- A consortium of agencies is creating a seamless experience throughout the Tampa region using open loop
- The system relies on fare capping that works across multiple agencies on the Flamingo Fares system



Rhode Island

- RIPTA is using geofencing to create a limited fare-free zone in Providence
- Riders in the area can tap and not be charged, "riding the wave" for free
- **Ridership rose 40% in the first six months of implementation** (S)
- Pilot data will inform future innovative programs



Washington

- Spokane Transit is supporting rider access on a transit app and soon, credit/debit cards to pay on a contactless system
- The app gives riders access to reloads, rider history, and more
- **In just four months, rider app adoption reached 48%**



Capitol Corridor Launches Tap2Ride with Limited Rider Group (For Now)

April 19, 2023

The Capitol Corridor line is a vital route, connecting communities from Sacramento to the Bay. 200 riders were selected to participate as part of the first phase of the project, making them **the first riders on any Amtrak trains to tap their credit or debit card onboard to pay.**

Tap2Pay riders will be charged \$1 less than the price of the existing 10-ride single-route pass for 10 equivalent Tap2ride trips, and get exclusive access to a 6-ride weekly fare cap for repeat journeys on the same route.

Source: [Mass Transit](#)



California Reaches Over 1.5 Million ZEV Sales, Two Years Ahead of Schedule

April 21, 2023

The goal, originally set in 2012 by then-Governor Jerry Brown, aimed to hit 1.5 million total ZEV sales by 2025.

Governor Gavin Newsom announced that the state had surpassed this number about 2 years ahead of the target, attributing the accelerated ZEV adoption to massive state investment in vehicle purchase incentives and ZEV driver perks. **About \$2 billion in ZEV incentives have been distributed**, especially aimed at lower income buyers, with more funds to come.

So far, 21% of new car sales in California this year have been ZEVs, far above the nationwide average.

Source: CARB

\$690 Million Available for California's Transit Agencies

April 24, 2023

The California State Transportation Agency has made \$690 million available to 28 agencies in disadvantaged communities. This marks the first wave of investment in a larger, multi-billion-dollar program to meet ambitious emissions reduction goals by 2045.



Project Highlights:



Capitol Corridor:

\$42 million for mobility hubs, an open loop contactless payment system, and more.



Transportation Agency for Monterey County:

\$2.2 million to support a multimodal transit station in Pajaro to connect the region, provide first/last mile options, and introduce contactless payments.



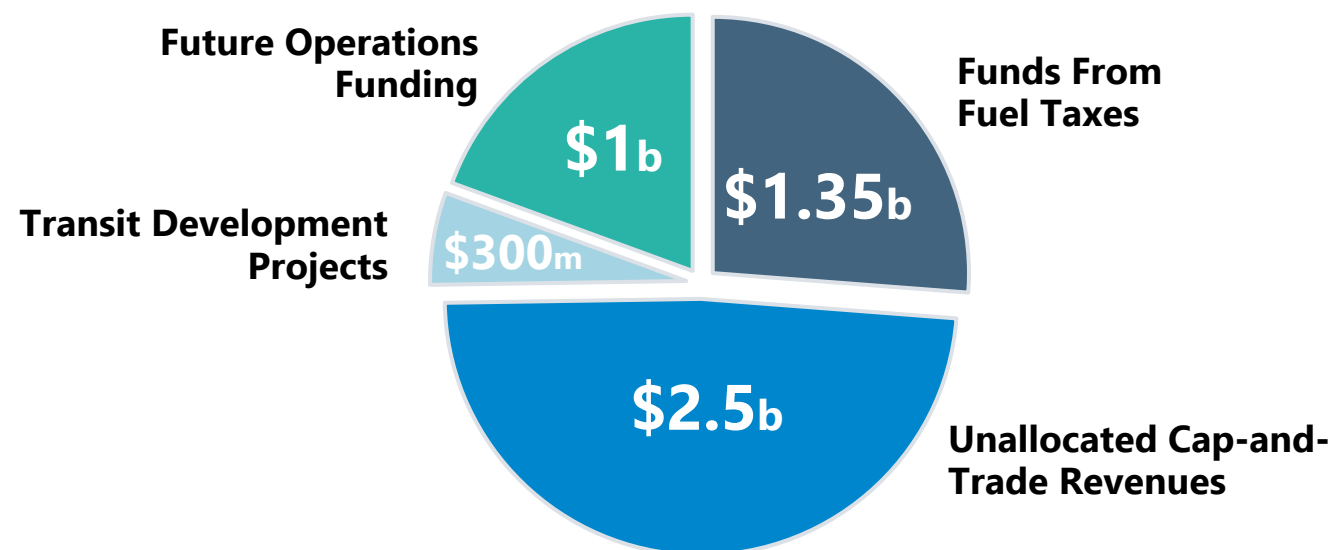
Antelope Valley and Victorville:

\$3.9 million to fill a service gap between the regions with a new 100% electric commuter bus service.

California Transit Agencies are Requesting \$5 Billion in Aid

April 25, 2023

15 California transit agencies made the \$5.15 billion budget proposal to the legislature for “**bridge funding**” to help agencies that are still struggling to recover ridership post-Covid. The proposal asks for funding over the course of 5 years from the following sources:





Alexander Shimmeck on Unsplash



The Federal Transit Administration is Reconsidering Transit Worker Safety

April 26, 2023

According to the National Transit Database, **assaults on transit workers are up 121%**. This surge in violence underscores the urgency of identifying strategies to ensure worker safety. The FTA is rethinking its approach to this issue by proposing new requirements for federally funded programs. The changes are currently available for review and public comment through June 26, 2023.

Proposed Worker Safety-Oriented Updates:

- Establish safety committees for each project and program composed of an equal number of frontline transit workers and management personnel
- Require each project to create a **risk reduction plan**, which must include risk reduction targets, evaluation of incident reports, an implementation strategy, and more

Source: FTA



