

MOBILITY NEWSLETTER

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

December 5, 2023



December News Update:

Mobility headlines from across North America

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Emergency closure of I-10 in L.A. disrupts travel, prompting swift repairs and efforts to reduce car dependency

November 11th 2023

Following a **devastating fire** under the section of the I-10 highway near downtown Los Angeles between Alameda Street and the East L.A. interchange, the **freeway was closed to traffic** in both directions. The damage, which appeared to be the result of arson, forced Caltrans to call an “indefinite” closure of the roadway for repairs, resulting in major travel disruptions across the City for over 300,000 drivers.¹

In response to the crisis, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency to speed reconstruction efforts, and the United States Department of Transportation released \$3 million in “quick release” emergency funding on November 15th.² Because of the swift response, repairs were completed after just 8 days, **weeks ahead of schedule**.³

Despite the success of the repairs, the crisis sparked renewed conversation about Angeleno’s famed car dependency, prompting calls to **bolster alternative transportation modes** throughout the city. Mayor Bass announced that the Commuter Express bus service would be made free for the remainder of the year, and Metro added additional bus service along routes adjacent to the I-10.⁴



Source: [Office of Governor Newsom](#)

Governor Newsom, Vice President Harris, Senator Padilla, Mayor Bass, and other federal, state, and local officials with Caltrans workers at the I-10

Sources:

1: [The Washington Post](#)

2: [USDOT Newsroom](#)

3: [Office of Governor Newsom](#)

4: [Los Angeles Times](#)

WSJ finds 40% of DC-Fast EV chargers in L.A. are not operating properly, underscoring need for better reliability nationwide

November 15th 2023

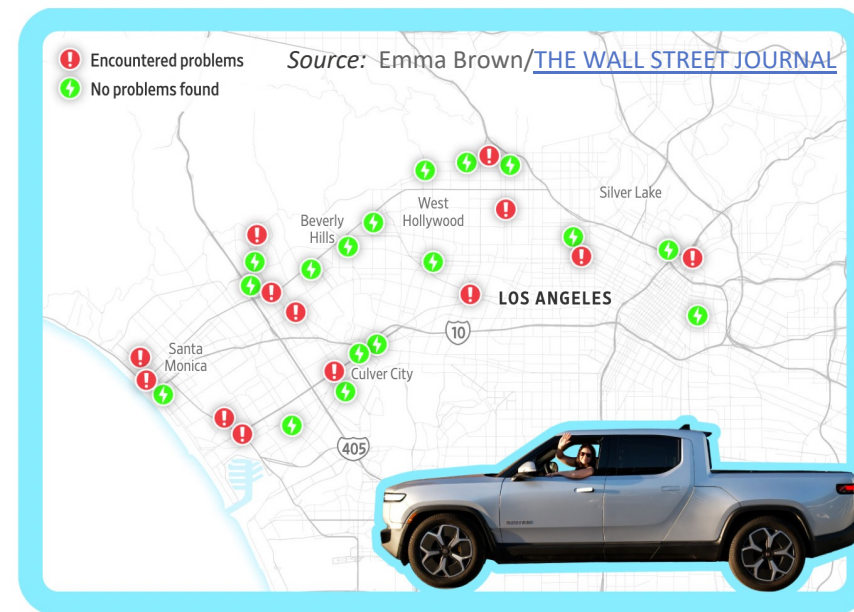
In a recent study conducted by the Wall Street Journal, reporters visited over 30 fast charging stations across the Los Angeles area, accounting for 126 charging ports.

Reporters found that **27% of all the chargers visited were out of order**, while an additional **10% had issues accepting payment** and many of the chargers struggled to successfully connect with the Rivian test vehicle on the first try.¹

The study highlights the challenges the U.S. faces in electrifying our cars and their support infrastructure. **Charger reliability is a key focus of funding efforts** like The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) grant program, which represents over \$5 billion in funding, and the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI), providing an additional \$2.5 billion for EV chargers across the country.²

Both programs set high goals for charger “uptime,” the percentage of time that chargers are operating properly and available for use, but as the Journal’s recent study shows, we still have a long way to go to ensure that drivers can successfully plug in at chargers nationwide.

Sources: 1: [Wall Street Journal](#) 2: [U.S. Joint Office for Energy and Transportation](#)



Reporter Joana Samuels in her Rivian test vehicle, overlaid on the map of chargers visited across Los Angeles.



TTC will join Ontario's integrated fare program in 2024, a big step forward for regional connectivity

November 22nd 2023

Currently, nearly 9% of the TTC's ridership starts or ends their trips with other transit agencies, meaning they **pay double fares** where regional transfers are not available.

This will change in 2024, as the TTC Board of Directors passed a resolution to **join the regional integrated fare program** in partnership with Metrolinx and the Province of Ontario. Under the agreement, the Province will reimburse the TTC for the fare revenue they will no longer collect from transferring riders, making the shift revenue neutral for the TTC. The changes will help riders using PRESTO fare cards or paying via debit or credit cards save money on **over 30 million trips each year**.¹

Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow spoke of the resolution, noting the **equity impacts** of integrated fares:

*"For so many people who are struggling to make ends meet, paying a second fare for one trip is a barrier against taking transit to work, medical appointments or visiting family and friends outside the city. Eliminating the double fare would go a long way to making life more affordable for many Torontonians."*²

Sources:

1: [TTC Board Memo](#)

2: [Mass Transit Mag](#)



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency clarifies California's rights to regulate rail emissions, giving other States a green light

November 8, 2023



Train passing through the Mojave Dessert in California.

In April of this year, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) released new regulations intended to **curb emissions from trains** across the state, mainly from high-emitting diesel locomotives.¹

This month, the EPA released a final rule "**preserving the ability of California and other States to adopt and enforce certain State standards** regulating non-new locomotives and engines." This ruling, which comes into effect on December 8th, reversed restrictions originally put into place in 1998 that kept states from passing additional regulations on operating locomotive emissions beyond the EPA's own standards.²

Environmental advocates celebrated, emphasizing the opportunity for other states to follow in California's footsteps to **mitigate harm for marginalized communities** currently bearing the brunt of rail-source pollution.³

Sources: 1: [CARB](#) 2: [USEPA](#) 3: [Earth Justice](#)

Federal Transit Administration announces \$4.7 in new funding to support access to mobility in marginalized communities

November 15th 2023

As part of the [Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility Grants](#), the FTA has announced **\$4.7 million in competitive grant funding**. The money is intended to support partnerships between transit operators and other industries, such as the healthcare and technology sectors, aimed at expanding access for older adults, people with disabilities, and people of low-income.

Eligible Applicants must be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) database and include:

- designated or direct recipients of FTA's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disability Formula Program,
- governmental entities that operate a public transportation service, or eligible subrecipients.

Applications are due on **February 13th, 2024**. A webinar will be held at 3pm Eastern, December 14th to provide additional detail on the application process for interested parties.



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

Sources: 1: [FTA](#)

