

MOBILITY NEWSLETTER

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

June 4th, 2024



Mobility Headlines:

Transportation news from around the world

Oakland gets a new fleet of EV school buses, becoming the first city in the USA to offer zero-emission public school transit.

May 15th

A partnership between Oakland Unified School District and electric bus supplier Zum has brought 74 electric buses and bidirectional chargers to support the first-of-its kind fleet. It's estimated that chargers will additionally provide up to 2.1 gigawatt hours back to the grid annually.

Communities in Oakland are disproportionately affected by poor air quality, and the all-electric fleet will improve conditions by keeping 25,000 tons of greenhouse gases out of the community.

Nonetheless, Oakland may not remain alone for long as Zum has plans for other large California school districts to join in electrifying their fleets. The State of California also continues to provide grants and incentives to support such rollouts.



A row of new buses in Oakland ([ZUM](#))

Sources: [The Los Angeles Times](#)

[Electrek](#)

[Ride ZUM](#)



Following strikes, SNCF, French rail operator, offers staff bonuses up to €1,900 to work during the Olympic Games this summer

May 28th

As the French capital has prepared for the Olympic and Paralympic Games this summer, the city's transportation providers have faced intense scrutiny regarding their readiness to accommodate 2-3 million additional visitors over the course of the Games.

As tensions have grown, workers from the four major unions representing staff at rail operator SNCF called a strike to demand additional compensation, citing their integral role in ensuring a smooth games experience. RATP, another major operator in the city, had already won significant bonuses of up to €2500 (~\$2700) per worker, though they represented a smaller portion of the city's transit staff.

Following the well-attended strike, SNCF agreed to offer a compensation package for staff working from July 22nd to September 8th including €95 per day in addition to €50 per day per household to cover childcare costs, up to a total of €1,900 (~\$2060) per worker.

Sources: [Le Monde](#)

[Olympics](#)



Ridership on Amsterdam's public transit system exceeded expectations last year, thanks in part to contactless payments

May 27th

Although the number of commuters has not recovered since the COVID-19 pandemic, leisure and off-peak riders are contributing to the unexpected high ridership; with tourists and "day trippers" on the rise, GVB has asked themselves, why now?

One reason could be the ease of paying for transit with newly-introduced contactless payments. In fact, 15% of riders are now tapping their bank card to pay for trips. Additionally, the use of the GVB app Gappie is being used up to one million times per month.

As open payments have helped bump Amsterdam's ridership, other agencies around the world can look to leveraging contactless payments and identifying new rider segments to increase and recover ridership.



A tram operated by GVB in Amsterdam

Sources: [GVB Amsterdam](https://www.gvb.nl/)

Rollout of Clipper II, the Bay Area's new fare payment card scheme, has been delayed indefinitely

May 20th

Jason Weinstein, director of electronic payments at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, announced that the open contactless payments promised by Clipper II has now been paused indefinitely. Weinstein noted issues in the pilot phase as a key barrier in need of resolution before a full rollout can be completed.

The unfortunate news comes with two major impacts:

- Clipper agencies and their riders will have to wait even longer to experience fare integration with free transfers.
- Riders will not be able to experience seamless payments as other large cities like London and New York already enjoy with their contactless systems. Such simplification could have been especially attractive for tourists and infrequent riders who may struggle to navigate payments on the current Clipper system.

Sources: [The San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[Streetsblog San Francisco](#)

France national government launches new office at the Department of Transportation to analyze micromobility

May 23rd

Following the passage of a national regulatory plan to address the explosion of micromobility across France in March 2023, the French Ministry of Transportation has launched a new arm specifically focused on monitoring the use of e-scooters and other electric micromobility within the country.

As of January 2024, the ministry reports that France is home to 59 public electric micromobility systems, and about 2.5 million French residents own an electric mobility device, nearly triple the number from 2020.

With continuing growth projected, the new “Micromobility Observatory” is responsible for analyzing the usage trends, safety, and environmental impact of micromobility across France, aggregating data to provide holistic insights for policymakers and the public alike.



The Micromobility Observatory is an initiative of the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, co-piloted with Cerema, ADEME and the National Interministerial Road Safety Observatory (ONISR).



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