

MOBILITY NEWSLETTER

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

June 6, 2023



June 2023

Recent News and Developing Stories





Source: Microsoft Stock Images



Germany's Newest Transit Product Shows Appetite for Interoperability

May 1, 2023

Similar to Californians, German transit riders face a myriad of independent transit service providers, each with their own fare rules and operations. On May 1st, the country introduced a single ticket, allowing unlimited rides across all local and regional lines for 49 euros per month. The tickets can be purchased online where Deutsche Bahn tickets are sold or in-app with any participating transit provider. **Nearly 3 million people have already purchased this new country-wide interoperable ticket.**

Although some advocates have noted that more work is necessary to include discounts for seniors, low-income people, and individuals with disabilities, it is an interesting case study in the importance of interoperability for other regions with highly fractured transit providers.

Source: [AP News](#)



High-Speed Rail in California to Break Ground by Year's End

May 24, 2023

Reininger, a Miami-based company, advanced the shovel-ready project connecting Los Angeles and Las Vegas (and a few cities in between) via a high-speed rail line. The project now is only waiting on permit finalization from the Federal Railroad Administration to break ground. Once built, the rail line will cover 218 miles in just over 2 hours.

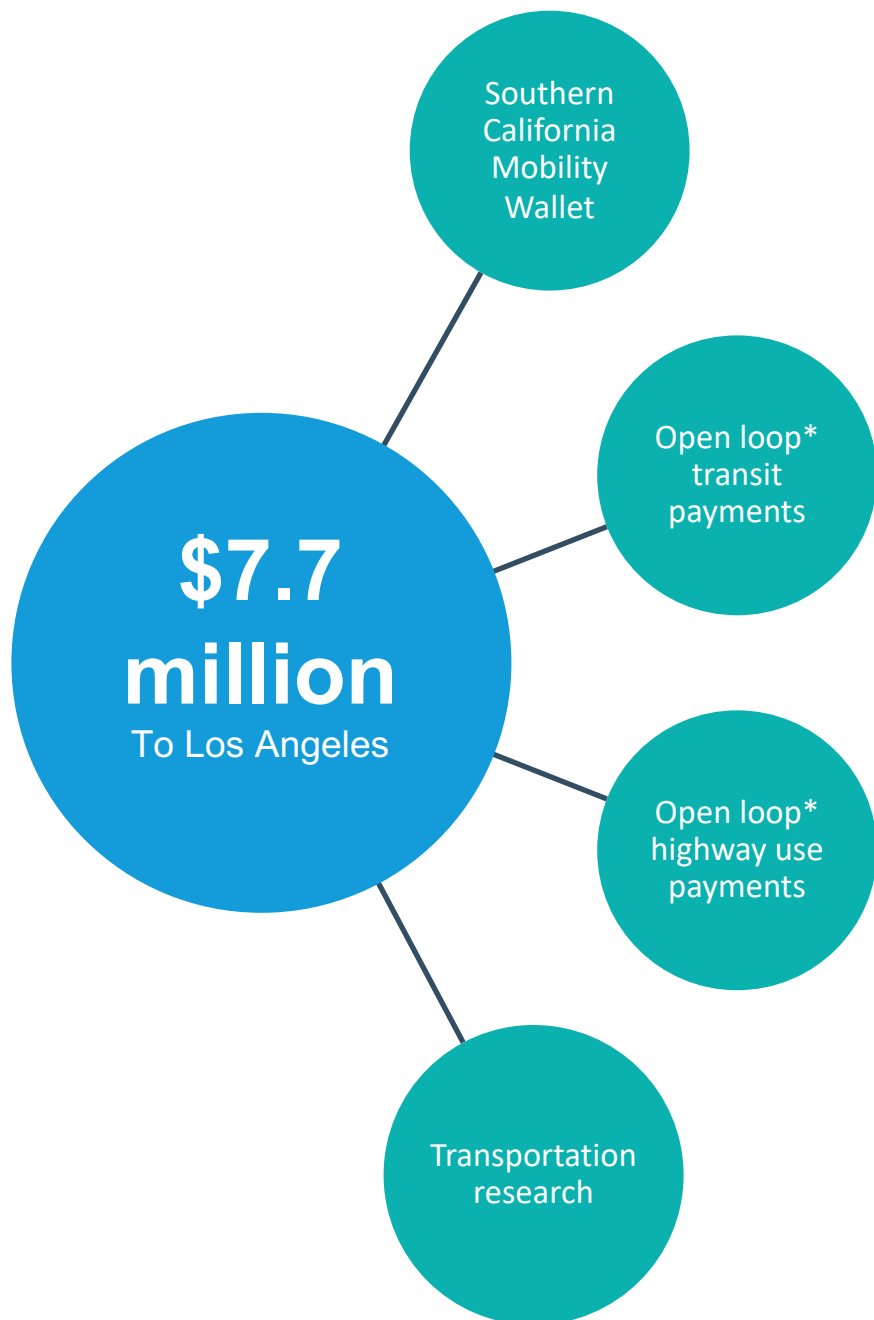
The project is estimated to cost about \$12 billion, over 70% of which will come from private investment. Importantly, the goal is to have the rail line ready to launch in time for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles with official ground-breaking scheduled later in 2023.

In their letter of support, California and Nevada law-makers urged the approval of over \$3 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds for the project, highlighting it as “demonstrating the potential for public-private partnerships...”

Source: [USA Today](#)



Source: Microsoft Stock Images



\$7.7 million in ATTAIN Grant Funding is on the Way to Los Angeles

May 25, 2023

Transportation technology receives new attention as the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration awards over **\$52 million** to eight states to pursue innovative transportation technology.

About \$7.7 million has been allocated to bring open loop payments and more in Los Angeles through the Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation program. Project work will pay particular attention to ensuring that disadvantaged communities stand to benefit from the projects.

**open loop payment refers to contactless debit, credit and prepaid cards and their digital version on mobile or on wearables*

Source: FHWA

A Sunshade Prototype in Los Angeles Causes Controversy

May 25, 2023



On May 17, 2023, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation unveiled a new shade and lighting structure for bus stops called La Sombrita. **The small shade was designed to be cheap and quickly deployable, working with existing infrastructure (and its gaps) and permitting limitations to improve existing bus stops.** Controversy erupted, especially across social media, as many felt the prototype failed to address bus shelter infrastructure gaps. But the roots of the prototype are based in addressing concerns uncovered by LADOT's 2021 *Changing Lanes: A Gender Equity Study*.

Findings from the 2021 study...

- Women have unique needs within a transit system historically designed for men
- Shade and lighting were noted as important transit concerns
- Bus shelters can cost upwards of \$50,000 and require permits and coordination across agencies, greatly delaying installation if they are even approved



La Sombrita is...

- Sunshade and lighting infrastructure only
- A quick remedy that doesn't require permits
- A grant-funded **pilot** project implementing and testing the gender equity study's recommendations



Tesla Extends its Supercharger Stations to Ford EV Drivers

May 26, 2023

Tesla will make over 12,000 supercharger stations in the US and Canada available to all Ford electric vehicles (EV) by Spring 2024.

This is the first time Tesla infrastructure, which has previously been exclusively available to Tesla owners, will be available to owners of other EV brand vehicles in North America.

Although charger adapters will initially be required for current Ford EV owners to plug into the Tesla charging system, we can expect future Ford EV models to include Tesla's standard connector. While it's expected that the charging access will come at a cost to non-Tesla drivers, the exact cost to Ford owners for supercharger use has yet to be announced.

Source: [AP News](#)





Non-Traditional Grants

Upcoming Deadlines and Webinars

Looking for more information? Stay up-to-date with nontraditional grant deadlines and opportunities using the PSG newsletter. Public agencies – including transit – can register for free. If you have questions, need help with registering for the PSG newsletter, or would like free grants assistance, please reach out to kamala@ps-grants.org.



Upcoming Deadlines:

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

Application Deadline: July 10th, 2023, 5:00pm ET

The purpose of SS4A is to improve roadway safety for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, **public transportation users**, motorists, personal conveyance, **micromobility users**, and commercial vehicle operators.

The program funds tools and helps strengthen approaches to improving roadway safety and saving lives. It is designed to meet the needs of diverse local, Tribal, and regional communities that differ dramatically in size, location, and experience administering Federal funding.

Cost Share: 20% Match

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026

ARPA is the latest relief package for COVID-19, providing \$1.9 trillion in mandatory funding, program changes, and tax policies. It includes funding for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Supporting Resources:

- The *Revenue Loss* calculation explanation and formula, as well as the explanation of “Government Services” can be found on pages 4400-4408 of the Final Rule.
- State allocations can be found here, county allocations here, while Metropolitan City allocations here.
- Non-Entitled Units of Government allocations can be found here, and Tribal Government allocations here.

Upcoming Webinars:

PS Grants hosts a webinar series which provide information to support entities in applying for public safety grants, which are a nontraditional funding source for transit. These webinars are **free** and available to all.

June 7 th , 2023 9:30am PT	Things to Know Before Writing a Grant Application
June 21 st , 2023 9:30am PT	Funding Your Public Safety Projects with Federal Grants
August 23 rd , 2023	Understanding how Programs in the Infrastructure Bill Can Fund Public Safety
September 13 th , 2023	Funding Your Public Safety Projects for Small & Rural Jurisdictions
October 18 th , 2023	Funding Your Public Safety Projects for Tribal Nations
November 1 st , 2023	How to Effectively Plan for the Upcoming Grant Cycle

To register, visit www.ps-grants.org.

