

MOBILITY NEWSLETTER

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

September 5, 2023



September News Update:

Mobility headlines from the past month



Electric vehicle drivers in the European Union to get improved infrastructure and payments at public chargers by 2025

July 25th, 2023

New regulations passed by the Council of the European Union will improve the experience of traveling by electric vehicles (EV) along the Trans-European Transport Network with the following changes:



Transparent Pricing

- Providers must clearly list the following by “electronic means” at charging points or online **before payment is collected**: Price, Availability and Wait time



Expanded Fast Charger Coverage

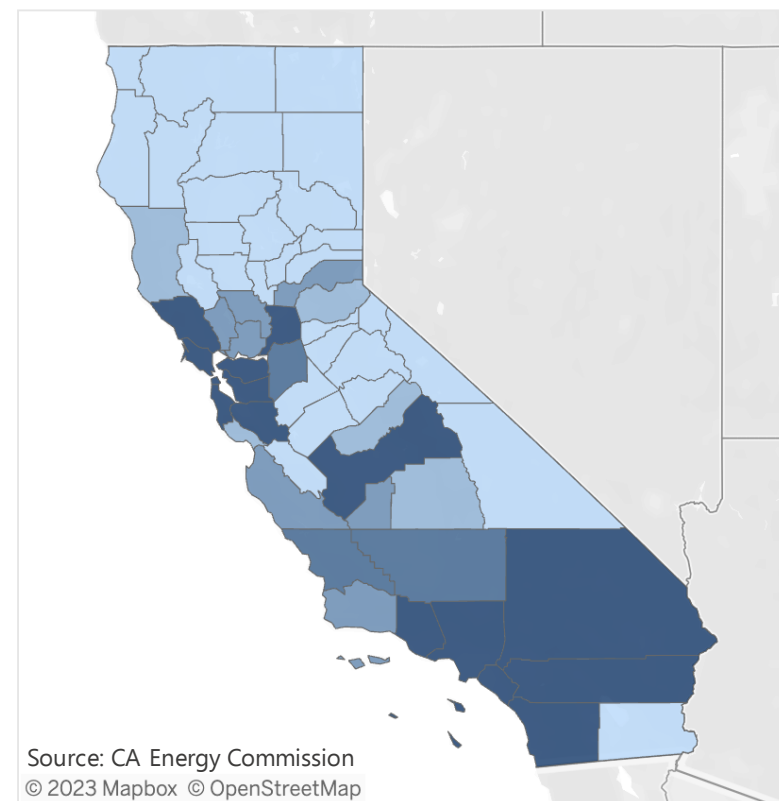
- Starting in 2025, fast chargers of at least 150kW must be available every 37 miles on core highway networks. Connecting roads will have until 2030 to comply.
- Core highway networks will need to be 400kW or above in power.



Easier Payments

- Regulation will require that drivers can pay with a contactless debit/credit card or mobile wallet and will not need a subscription.
- Although how pricing should be set across payment media is not specified, providers may not favor some companies over others through price differentiation.

In contrast, California's over 91,000 publicly accessible DC fast chargers and Level 2 chargers remain geographically concentrated.



Source: CA Energy Commission
© 2023 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Number of Chargers

1 1,000

Special events crowds are gaining more attention from transit agencies

July 27th, 2023

This summer, high-profile concerts and other special events have induced increased ridership on local transit options. Transit agencies are adjusting service to take advantage of increase ridership due to special events.

Efforts to get event-goers onto transit have included everything from marketing to expanded service during off-peak hours.

Here is a look at the impact of concerts on ridership and how agencies cope from only two concert series this summer alone:

Bay Area – BART

- Additional trains and special service trains with limited stops
- Extended late-night hours
- Caltrain and Capitol Corridor also ran special service trains
- Encouraged riders to pay with a mobile wallet-based Clipper card

Los Angeles – LA Metro

- **180,000 additional trips** over 6 nights. Over **30,000 shuttle boardings**
- Additional trains provided
- Extra staff and ambassadors at stations to guide new riders
- Advertised with creative [social media posts](#)

Atlanta – MARTA

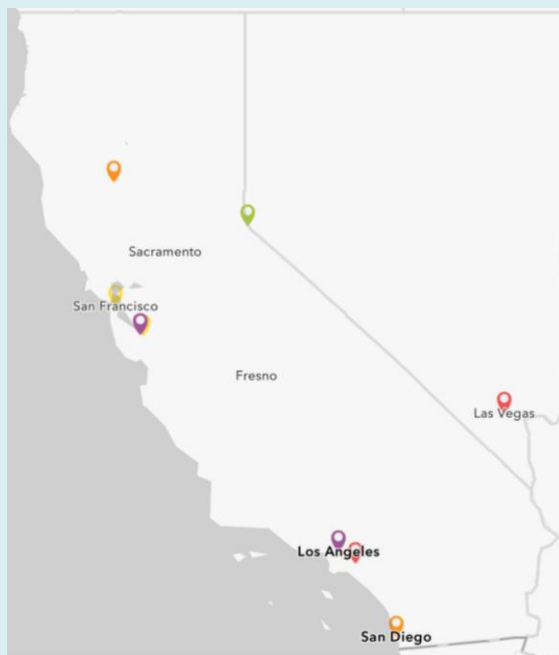
- **140,000 additional boardings** in three days
- Increased service and trains
- Increased staff at station to guide riders in payment and manage boarding
- In subsequent concerts, expanded service even more and advertised their transit app for ticketing

SMART grants enter their second year

August 8th, 2023

US DOT will distribute up to \$500 million over five years to projects through the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program. Applications are due [October 10 by 5pm EDT](#).

State, local, and tribal governments are invited to submit innovative, technology and data-focused projects across the following themes: Coordinated automation, connected vehicles, sensors, systems integration, delivery/logistics, innovative aviation, smart grid, and traffic signals.



Need inspiration? Explore some [2022 California SMART recipient projects](#)

Agency	Award	Project Purpose
LA Metro	\$2 million	Transit planning and event ticketing integration ahead of the 2028 Olympic Games.
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority	\$500,616	Explore technologies to capture bike rack and interior mobility device securements
Orange County Transportation Authority	\$1.6 million	Improve on-time bus arrival for designated lines using a cloud-based Transit Signal Priority system

Relaxed regulations for self-driving cars in California

August 10th, 2023



Photo source: Microsoft 2023

As of August 10th, San Franciscans can hail 24/7 **self-driving taxi** service provided by the two largest self-driving car companies in California, **Waymo** and **Cruise**. Despite some opposition from residents, the California Public Utilities Commission voted to lift some restrictions, allowing services to expand. This allows Waymo and Cruise to operate and charge for rides like a ride-hailing service.

As a new-frontier for regulators, there continues to be interest in testing the efficacy and challenges of self-driving vehicles.

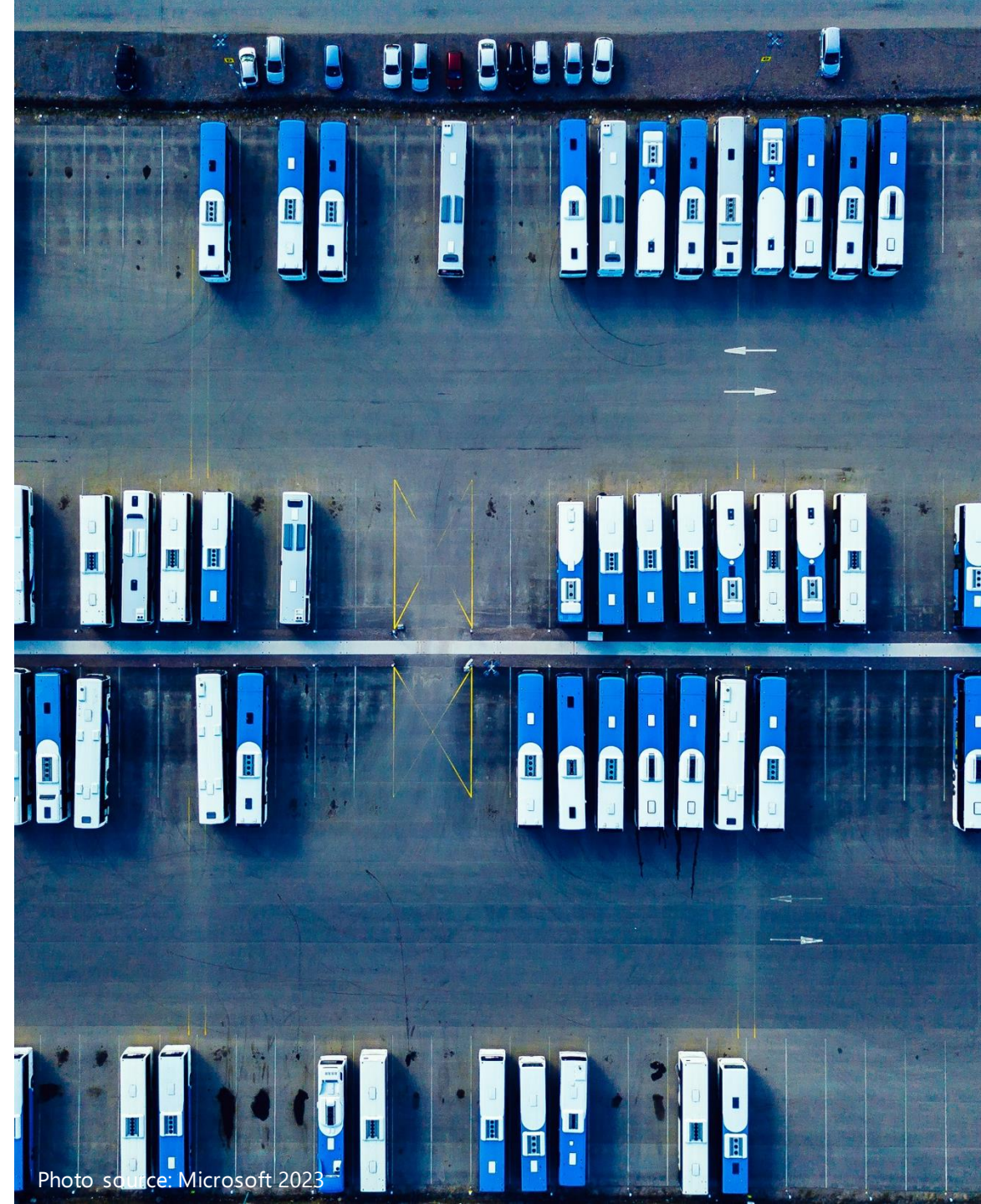
With over 40 self driving car companies testing in California, **it's unlikely this change in restrictions will be the end of the conversation about how self-driving vehicles should be regulated.**

Cal-ITP announces milestone in implementing a transit Operational Data Standard

August 22nd, 2023

Cal-ITP achieved the first set of vendor-to-vendor integrations using the Operational Data Standard (ODS), allowing five companies to now read and write ODS feeds in their software. These companies include EQUANS, Remix, Schedule Masters, Swiftly, and GIRO.

ODS is important as it combines rider-facing General Transit Feed Specifications with other operational data (especially for non-revenue trips), creating a complete data picture that can create more efficient scheduling and improve performance. The San Francisco Bay Ferry is the first agency with access to ODS and reports that ODS has positively impacted their data reporting.



Kicking Off CT Talks

August 30th, 2023

Caltrans is pleased to announce the launch of a new live virtual event series called CT Talks. Each session will feature one or more Caltrans team members who will share their story and their work. Participants will have an opportunity to ask the panelists questions. For more information, please email DHR.Communications@dot.ca.gov.

The first session on August 30th featured...

