

MOBILITY NEWSLETTER

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

August 6, 2024



Mobility Headlines:

Recent transportation news from around the world



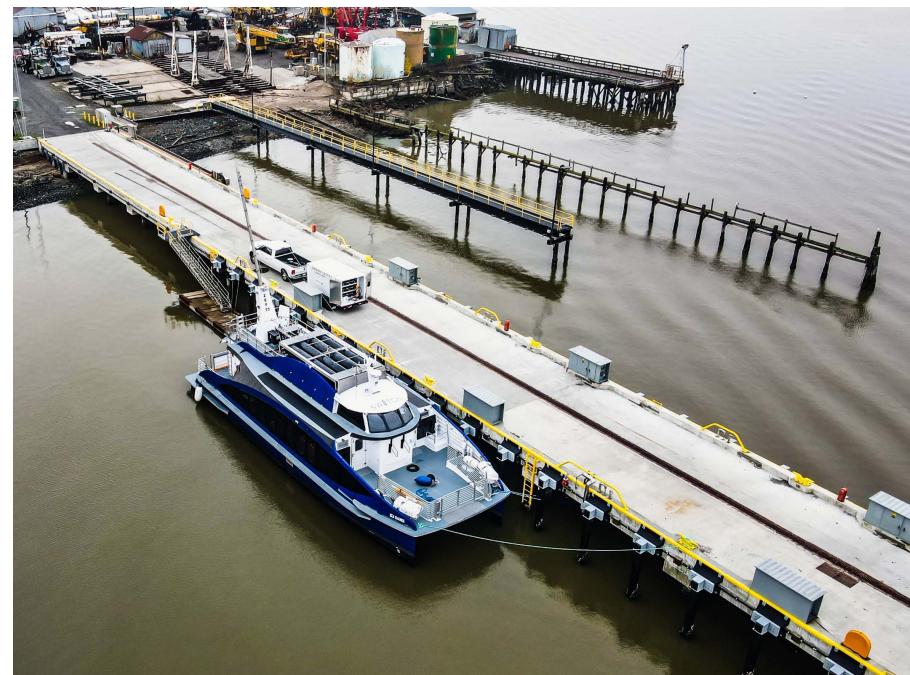
San Francisco launches world's first 100% hydrogen-powered ferry, developed in California with funding by CARB

July 19th, 2024

As California agencies gear up to meet CARB's requirement that all short-distance ferries in the state transition to zero-emission technology by the end of 2025, San Francisco has introduced the world's first 100% hydrogen powered ferry boat.

The ferry, named MV Sea Change, was custom-developed in California to demonstrate innovative uses of zero-emission technology, and was supported by \$3m in grant funding from CARB. The boat can hold up to 75 passengers at a time and will service the route between the San Francisco Ferry Terminal and Pier 41 for free for the first six months.

While most of the other zero-emission ferries being developed run on electric power, hydrogen's higher energy density allows for longer travel distances and less frequent refueling compared to battery-powered electric systems. Additionally, hydrogen refueling can be quicker than recharging large batteries, improving operational efficiency and reducing downtime.



New public map data is available, aiming to break Google's dominance in the space

July 24th, 2024

High-quality, easily-consumable mapping data is incredibly valuable for many different applications, including transportation planning and urban analytics, in addition to customer-facing uses such as wayfinding.

While Google Maps has remained the dominant worldwide provider of underlying maps data, the Overture Maps Foundation (supported by Google's major technology competitors like Amazon Web Services, Microsoft, and Meta, in addition to industry majors ESRI and OpenStreetMaps) has recently emerged as a primary competitor.

After releasing beta versions of a handful of mapping data sets over the last year, Overture has launched four new data sets for general availability, including [buildings](#), [places](#), [divisions](#), and [base](#), which can be layered together to build a data-rich mapping environment.

An additional layer, [transportation](#), is still only available in beta, but is expected to be released in the future.

Micromobility ridership in North America shows strong growth, continuing post-COVID resurgence.

July 22nd, 2024

According to new data from the National Association of City Transportation Officials, micromobility demand across North America has never been stronger. Following a significant dip during the COVID-19 pandemic, ridership on shared bikes and scooters has reached a new high of 157 million trips in 2023.

This all-time high represented a 16% growth year-over-year, and just under half of all rides came from the 10 largest station-based bikeshare systems, which grew at an even faster pace of 40% year-over-year.

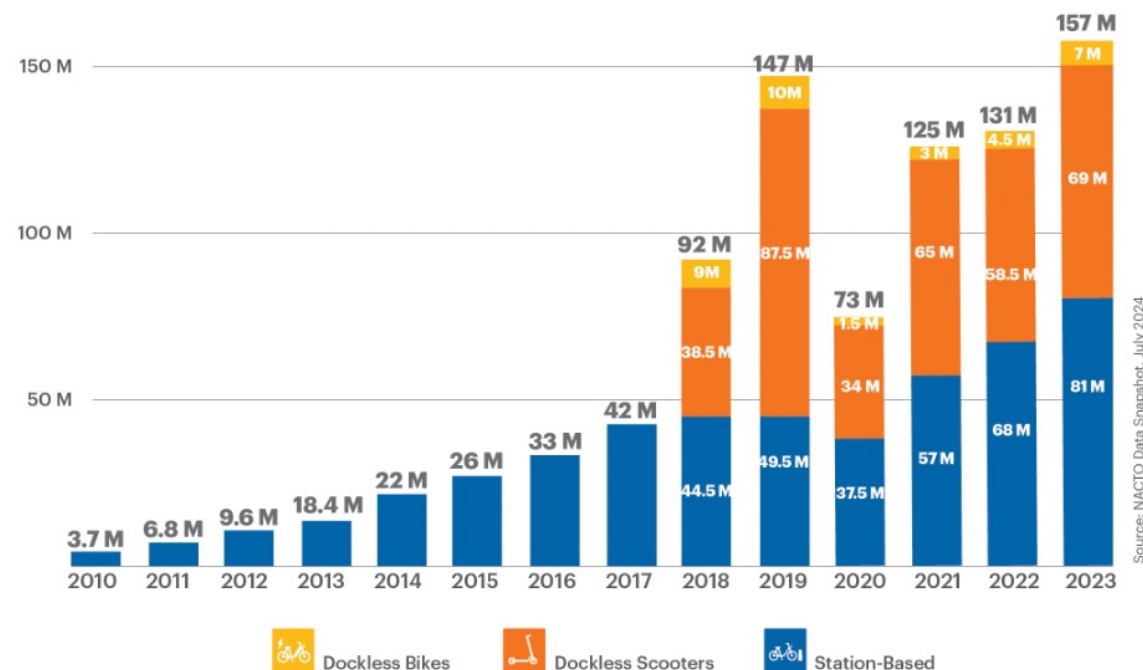
A key driver of this explosive growth is the increasing availability of electric bikes, coinciding with significant investments in bike lane infrastructure.

Looking to the future, more public investment in shared micromobility systems can help lower costs for consumers and shore up the supply-side challenges we've seen in a volatile provider market.

Sources: [North American Association of City Transportation Officials](#)



Shared Micromobility Ridership
in the U.S. and Canada, 2010-2023



San Diego agencies MTS and NCTD join other California transit agencies in offering contactless payments!

July 22nd, 2024

In a win for contactless payments, two additional California transit agencies, San Diego's MTS and the North County Transit District (NCTD) have both launched tap-to-pay on board!

MTS and NCTD join a growing community of California agencies enthusiastic about the introduction of open-loop fare payments. "It's fast and simple," said MTS Board chair Stephen Whitburn. "Being able to just tap a credit card makes taking transit easier. Contactless payment is a great example of how we are making the transit system a more convenient option for residents to get around town."

As other California agencies consider implementing tap-to-pay systems, Cal-ITP remains an invaluable resource to help plan, procure, and implement the necessary technology and services. For interested parties, please reach out to hello@calitp.org for any questions related to implementing contactless payments on transit!

Sources: [Mass Transit](#)



MTS's Rapid Bus

Canadian federal government announces largest-ever investment in transit, creating a permanent source of funding

July 17th 2024

The newly-launched Canada Public Transit Fund (CPTF) will open in 2026-27, allocating \$3 billion annually to enhance public transit and active transportation infrastructure across Canada.

The fund was developed in response to a [nationwide survey](#), which found broad support among Canadians for permanent funding for key public transportation infrastructure, including in rural and Indigenous regions.

Local governments and transit providers across Canada can apply for funding under three streams:

- [Metro-Region Agreements](#), which will support long-term development of public transit infrastructure in large urban areas,
- [Baseline Funding](#), which will provide predictable, long-term funding to communities with existing transit systems to support routine investments, and
- [Targeted Funding](#), which will provide flexible, call-specific funding to address federal priorities that meet local needs.

Sources: [Government of Canada](#). [Global Mass Transit](#). [Prime Minister of Canada](#)





Question, feedback, or topic you would like to know more about? Please reach out to isaac.sonnenfeldt@rebelgroup.com