



November 20, 2025

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners

FROM: Anne Richman, Executive Director

RE: Executive Director's Report – Agenda Item 6 (Discussion)

Local

Project Management Training

TAM hosted a Project Management for Non-Engineers training on November 14, drawing participants from four Marin jurisdictions, one Sonoma agency, and TAM staff. This collaborative session was a great opportunity to share resources and build skills across agencies. TAM will also host a Public Speaking training on Monday, December 16, 2025, which has already generated significant interest.

Marin Commutes Program 2025 HOV Diamond Dozen Campaign



TAM's Marin Commutes Program wrapped up October with the most ambitious challenge yet – a two-month campaign celebrating Transit Month, Rideshare Month, and the newly opened Marin-Sonoma Narrows carpool lanes. The program rewarded dedicated participants with generous prizes throughout the extended challenge period. The HOV Diamond Dozen Challenge campaign delivered significant results, with September-October transit trips increasing nearly 50% compared to 2024. Shared ride trips rose 68% year-over-year.

The table below summarizes key participation data from 2024-2025 (Sept.-Oct.), which demonstrates strong improvement across all metrics.

METRICS	Sept. 2024	Sept. 2025	Oct. 2024	Oct. 2025	Sept-Oct. 2024	Sept-Oct. 2025
New users	54	104 (+93%)	56	61 (+8%)	110	165 (+50%)
Transit trips logged	2499	3723 (+49%)	2478	4635 (+87%)	4977	8358 (+68%)
Shared trips logged (all transit modes + carpool/vanpool)			4760	7973 (+67%)		
Carpool/Vanpool trips logged			2282	3338 (+46%)		
Alternative miles logged*	56,223	79,306 (+41%)	102,713	147,543 (+44%)	158,936	226,849 (+43%)
Number of tons* CO2 reduced	15.8	19.1	26.6	38.2 (+43%)	42.4	57.3 (+35%)

*Data only includes transit trips in September and Shared Rides in October (including transit, carpool and vanpool trips).

These strong outcomes are attributed to several strategic enhancements:

- **Increased Incentives:** Participants who logged 12+ transit trips in September and logged 12+ shared ride trips in October were entered to win one of a dozen \$100 gift cards – a significant increase from the \$25 incentives offered in 2024.
- **Extended Campaign Duration:** The challenge ran concurrently across both September and October, providing more opportunities for participation.
- **Expanded Outreach:** A multi-channel promotional strategy included Facebook digital ads, bilingual print ads distributed through transit partners, and amplified content sharing with partner organizations.

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day



Edna Maguire Elementary School

Marin Safe Routes to Schools marked Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day on November 14, encouraging families and students to walk or roll in support of equity, diversity, and kindness. The program introduced the event locally in 2021 at Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy, and it has since expanded into a countywide promotion.

Thirty-two elementary schools participated this year, with walking school buses and bike trains – some involving more than 100 families. The event honors Ruby Bridges’ courageous walk to school at age six as the first African American child to integrate an all-white Southern elementary school, a pivotal moment in school desegregation that still inspires students today.

Regional

Ramp Metering



Caltrans, in partnership with TAM, activated the following four ramp meters along Northbound US-101 in Marin County on June 24, 2025:

- Bridgeway/Gate 6 Road diagonal on-ramp
- Eastbound Tiburon Boulevard/SR-131 loop on-ramp
- Westbound Tiburon Boulevard/SR-131 diagonal on-ramp
- Westbound Tamalpais Drive diagonal on-ramp

These ramp meters are located in the cities of Sausalito, Mill Valley and Corte Madera where traffic bottlenecks on US-101 were identified. Metering signals are active Monday through Friday from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m. and meter only when warranted. Ramp metering operations are designed to help reduce freeway traffic congestion and delays, enhance safety and improve the efficiency and reliability of commuter traffic along the corridor. Results have been positive and are likely contributing to less northbound congestion than anticipated after the recent changes to the carpool lane hours of operation.

At the October TAM Board meeting, Caltrans committed to opening six additional ramp meters in the northbound direction (Spencer/Monte Mar to Sir Francis Drake) and four in the southbound direction (San Antonio to Rowland). Caltrans anticipates that a limited number of meters can be activated in the near-term, including:

Southbound 101: San Antonio Road, Atherton Avenue, DeLong Avenue

Northbound 101: State Route 1, Seminary Drive/Redwood Highway

Caltrans is on track to activate the remaining five ramps in early 2026 and is collaborating with MTC to transition the meters to adaptive technology in the coming years.

HOV (Carpool) Hours

At its October meeting, the TAM Board approved sending a joint letter with the Sonoma County Transportation and Climate Authorities (attached). The letter requests that Caltrans shorten the study period used to evaluate potential changes to HOV hours and ensure that any congestion-mitigation efforts do not adversely impact local streets and roads.

State Route 37 Survey – Help Shape Congestion Relief and Environmental Strategies



The [Resilient State Route 37 Program partnership](#), which includes MTC, Caltrans; TAM and our sister agencies in Sonoma, Napa, and Solano; SMART; state and federal resource agencies; tribal governments and others, launched [an online survey](#) to learn more from travelers about why, how

and how often they use Highway 37, what they know about [planned improvements](#) to the route, and their familiarity with Bay Area toll facilities and the [FasTrak](#) electronic toll payment system. Survey responses will help the Resilient 37 partners fine-tune strategies to help meet regional transportation and environmental goals.

Pavement Condition Report 2024



Photo Credit: Peter Beeler

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has released the 2024 Pavement Condition Report, showing that Bay Area streets and roads once again averaged a pavement condition index (PCI) score of 67 – a “fair” rating for the tenth straight year. While the region continues to hold the line against major deterioration, much of the network is aging and moving closer to needing costlier rehabilitation.

Within this regional picture, Marin County stands out for a series of steady gains across several communities.

Larkspur delivered one of the strongest performances in the region, earning 2024’s “Bay Area Pavement Champion” title with matching one-year and three-year PCI scores of 87 – a dramatic turnaround from the “poor” ratings it recorded as recently as 2017. Local investment, including voter-approved sales tax measures dedicated to street rehabilitation, has played a key role in restoring roadway conditions. Mill Valley posted one of the Bay Area’s more notable year-over-year improvements, with its one-year PCI score rising from 74 to 79.

The full [2024 Pavement Conditions Summary](#) includes detailed county- and city-level PCI scores, roadway breakdowns, and the percentage of streets in each condition category across the Bay Area.

New Express Lanes on Interstate 80 through Fairfield & Vacaville Begin Dec. 16.

The 18-mile stretch of I-80 between Red Top Road in Fairfield and Interstate 505 in Vacaville currently operates with traditional carpool lanes in both the eastbound and westbound directions.

New Express Lanes will go into operation starting December 16th and will operate daily – including Saturdays and Sundays – from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- All vehicles must have a FasTrak® toll tag to use the Express Lanes.
- Carpools with three or more people, and vanpools, buses and motorcycles travel toll-free with a FasTrak Flex toll tag set to the “3+” position.
- Two-person carpools pay half-price tolls with a FasTrak Flex tag set to “2”.
- Solo drivers may pay the full toll to use the Express Lanes with either a standard FasTrak toll tag or a FasTrak Flex tag set to the “1” position.

**I-80 EXPRESS LANES
COMING DECEMBER 2025**

What you need to know:

- ✓ Get FasTrak Flex
- ✓ 1 + 2 = FREE
- ✓ Lanes operate 7 days a week

Prepare now, save later.
Learn more at expresslanes.511.org

GET FASTRAK FLEX

The graphic features a red car with a FasTrak Flex tag on the side, driving on a highway with other vehicles. The background shows a scenic view of hills and trees.

Tolls rise as traffic increases and fall as traffic declines. Digital signs over the roadway display the toll rates for various destinations. Customers always pay the toll displayed when they enter the Express Lane, even if toll rates change during their trip. Toll-paying customers pay for each toll zone they enter.

The I-80 Solano County Express Lanes feature four toll zones in each direction. Designed to enhance mobility through the heart of Solano County, the new Express Lanes will improve transit reliability and access for emergency response vehicles and provide time savings and reliability for Solano County residents and others traveling through the county, including drivers headed to or from Sacramento, the Sierra Nevada, San Francisco, and the North Bay Wine Country. ([MTC BayLink](#))

SMART's Annual Holiday Express Train and Toy Drive – December 6th

**SONOMA-MARIN
SMART
AREA RAIL TRANSIT**

**Holiday Express
Toy Drive**

Saturday, December 6

A benefit for **TOYS FOR TOTS**

The graphic shows a SMART train with a Santa hat on the front. The background is a light blue with a white starburst pattern.

SMART trains will be decorated with holiday cheer throughout December. On Saturday, December 6, SMART – along with transit agencies in Sonoma and Marin – will host a special Toy Drive. Riders who donate a toy will receive a round-trip ticket valid for the entire day.

Learn more at: sonomamarintrain.org/holidayexpress.

State

California Transportation Foundation (CTF) Education Symposium

On November 6th and 7th, TAM staff participated in the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) Education Symposium. This two-day interactive workshop continues to be a favorite among staff, students and colleagues. The symposium brings together undergraduate students (nomination required) studying transportation planning, engineering or related fields with professionals and executives in the transportation industry. The event emphasizes career-development, mentorship, hands-on problem solving, and breaking down the barrier between students and industry professionals in the California transportation sector. One of the features this year included a behind-the-scenes tour of the Long Beach Airport and a meet-and-greet with airport executives.



Self-Help Counties Coalition 2025 Focus on the Future Conference



November 9th – 11th, the Self-Help Counties Coalition hosted the 2025 Focus on the Future Conference, which brings together elected officials, transportation agencies, consultant firms and industry experts. TAM Executive Director Anne Richman participated in several sessions including a CEO Roundtable panel and the Sea Level Rise panel titled, State of Resiliency: Rethinking Transportation and Infrastructure. TAM also participated in the “poster session”, featuring the Marin County Youth E-bike Safety Education Campaign. This annual conference is an important forum that highlights the role of the 25 Self-Help Counties in California that implement voter-approved sales tax measures to finance transportation infrastructure.

SR-37 Capital Maintenance Project – Pavement Rehabilitation

Caltrans construction crews are nearing completion of the State Route 37 capital maintenance pavement rehabilitation project in Novato. The project involves paving and median barrier work between the Ignacio overhead to the Petaluma River Bridge – a stretch of about three miles. Traffic advisories have been circulated throughout the project to provide information on lane closures and intermittent ramp closures for the US-101 interchange near SR-37, the Hanna Ranch Road exit, and the Atherton Avenue exit along SR-37.



Federal

TAM's Federal Legislative Consultant disseminates Weekly Updates on federal transportation issues to keep the agency informed, including activities in Congress, the Executive Administration, and relevant federal agencies, such as the Department of Transportation. Attached are Carpi & Clay's Transportation Weekly Updates for October 24, October 31, November 7, and November 14, 2025. With the government shut down during most of this period, the recent reports are brief.

TAM in the Community

Date	Meeting	Topic
10.8.2025	Clean Fleet Expo	Alt. Fuels
10.8.2025	International Walk to School Day	Safe Routes to Schools
10.9.2025	WTS – Resilient Transportation and Sea Level Rise	Sea Level Rise
10.20.2025	Southern Marin Transit Workshop	MASCOTS
10.23.2025	Innovation Workshop	Innovation
11.6-7.2025	California Transportation Foundation Educational Symposium	General
11.10.2025	Focus on the Future/Self Help Counties Coalition Annual Conference	General
11.16.2025	Play Marin! Walk-A-Thon	General/Marin Commutes



October 27, 2025

David Ambuehl
Acting District Director
Caltrans Bay Area (District 4)
111 Grand Ave.
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: U.S. 101 Marin and Sonoma HOV Hours of Operations

Dear Acting Director Ambuehl,

The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), Sonoma County Transportation and Climate Authorities (SCTCA), and Caltrans, along with other key partners, have worked closely in delivery of multimodal improvements to U.S. 101 for many years, including the Marin-Sonoma Narrows (MSN) Project. Notably, we jointly celebrated the opening of the B7 segment earlier this month, completing a long-standing goal of Caltrans, TAM and SCTCA to deliver mobility improvements for the two counties. This partnership has included significant investments of local, voter-approved funding over many years

The introduction of the continuous High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane between the two counties has and will continue to bring benefits. And, while we support consistent hours of operation for the HOV lanes in Marin and Sonoma counties, TAM and SCTCA respectfully offer the following comments and requests in support of balanced operations in the corridor.

During the last two months, users of the roadway have expressed great frustration about encountering delays resulting from the change in the HOV hours. After years of construction of the continuous carpool lane, drivers did not anticipate that its completion along with the change in HOV hours, would mean significantly longer commute delays. The new HOV hours coincided with the start of the school year and the expiration of Clean Air Vehicle HOV lane access, and the increased traffic congestion has been especially noticeable. The new U.S. 101 HOV lane hours have quickly become a top local transportation concern in our North Bay counties.

We appreciate that Caltrans has worked with MTC, TAM and SCTCA to monitor conditions, respond to public inquiries, and plan for additional corridor strategies such as activating ramp meters in both counties. We also understand that Caltrans has indicated a desire to wait for approximately six months or more to collect data, prior to evaluating and possibly recommending any changes in the hours. Both TAM and SCTCA have expressed concern with waiting that long to make any changes due to already observed impacts.

Therefore, we respectfully urge Caltrans to consider the following:

1. Do not wait six months or longer to consider changes,
2. Change the hours to a shorter duration that makes sense to ease congestion and still support HOV and transit use in the corridor, potentially the 6:00 to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. scenario that TAM and SCTCA have supported, and
3. Ensure that any mitigation efforts (such as ramp metering) do not increase impacts to local streets and roads, unless a demonstrated benefit for overall travel times has been established.

In short, we are seeking a reasonable configuration to balance congestion relief, environmental sustainability, and the community's need for a smoother, more reliable commute.

Additionally, TAM and SCTCA remain interested in working with Caltrans to develop future, expedited operational improvement projects for the corridor, such as adaptive meters, Part-time Transit Lanes where feasible, and other projects.

We hope you will consider these requests in support of timely relief for commuters, and we look forward to continued partnership in delivering transportation solutions for North Bay residents and visitors.

Sincerely,



Supervisor Eric Lucan
Chair, TAM Board of Commissioners



Supervisor Lynda Hopkins
Chair, SCTCA Board of Directors

cc: Andrew Fremier, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Senator Mike McGuire, CA District 2, Senate President Pro Tempore
Assemblyperson Damon Connolly, CA District 12
Denis Mulligan, Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District
Nancy Whelan, Marin County Transit District
Captain Amy Newton, CHP Marin



TRANSPORTATION WEEKLY UPDATE

October 24, 2025

DOT SHUTDOWN PLAN 2025

THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS

Senate Committee Approves Transportation-Related Legislation and Nominations. On October 21, the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee approved the following transportation-related nominations and legislation:

- **S. 2503, the Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform (ROTOR) Act** – the bill closes a loophole exempting most military aircraft from ADS-B requirements, mandates full ADS-B In/Out adoption to improve airspace safety, strengthens FAA oversight and coordination with the military through new reporting and audit provisions, and directs updated standards, controller training, and deployment of advanced collision-avoidance technologies.
- Seval Oz, to be the Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Research and Technology

MORE INFORMATION

THIS WEEK AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DOT Seeking BTIC Nominations. DOT has announced they are seeking nominations for the Beautifying Transportation Infrastructure Council (BTIC) which will advise the Secretary on enhancing the aesthetic value of the nation's transportation systems. Nominations are due by November 21, 2025.

MORE INFORMATION



Channon Hanna, Partner at Carpi & Clay Government Relations, brings over 20 years of expertise in navigating federal transportation policy complexities to advance priorities for public and private sector clients across all modes of transportation.



TRANSPORTATION WEEKLY UPDATE

October 31, 2025

DOT SHUTDOWN PLAN 2025

NEXT WEEK IN CONGRESS

Senate Committee to Hold Hearing on Transportation Nominations. On November 5, the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on the following transportation nominations:

- Ryan McCormack, to be Under Secretary of Transportation Policy, DOT
- Daniel Edwards, to be Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs (DOT)
- Trent Morse, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA)

MORE INFORMATION

Senate Committee to Hold Hearing on Transportation Nominations. On November 6, the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on the following transportation nominations:

- John Deleeuw, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
- Richard Kloster, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board (STB)
- Michelle Schultz, to be a Member of STB (renewal)

MORE INFORMATION

THIS WEEK AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DOT Publishes Notice on EAS Funding. DOT published a notice advising Essential Air Service (EAS) air carriers and communities that funding for EAS service will extend until November 18. If there is a government shutdown beyond November 18, service obligations of the air carriers under their EAS contracts may be suspended after that date.

MORE INFORMATION

DOT Restricts Mexican Airline Routes Over Bilateral Agreement Dispute. DOT has issued two orders in response to alleged non-compliance by the Mexican government with the 2015 U.S.–Mexico Air Transport Agreement. [The first order](#) disapproved multiple schedules filed by Mexican carriers, including Aeromexico, Volaris and VivaAerobus, for current and planned U.S. routes, citing actions at Mexico City’s Benito Juárez International Airport to exclude U.S. all-cargo flights and reassign slots in ways that DOT determined disadvantaged U.S. carriers. [In a companion order](#), DOT proposed a condition barring Mexican passenger airlines from carrying belly-cargo between Mexico City and the U.S., pending comment. DOT also announced a separate measure that would cancel “combination service” (passenger + cargo) on 13 existing or proposed routes by Mexican carriers into the U.S. — including services between Mexico City and San Juan, Newark, and others via Felipe Ángeles Airport — and freeze growth of Mexican carrier services at Mexico City, as part of its enforcement of bilateral commitments.

DOT Publishes Procedures in Regulating and Enforcing Unfair or Deceptive Practices NPRM. DOT published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that would reinstate the hearing procedures used when conducting a discretionary rulemaking action under its authority to regulate unfair or deceptive practices in air transportation or the sale of air transportation. This notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) also seeks comment on the rescission of a final rule published by the Department. Comments are due by December 1, 2025.

[**MORE INFORMATION**](#)



Channon Hanna, Partner at Carpi & Clay Government Relations, brings over 20 years of expertise in navigating federal transportation policy complexities to advance priorities for public and private sector clients across all modes of transportation.



November 7, 2025

DOT SHUTDOWN PLAN 2025

THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS

Senate Committee Holds Hearing on Transportation Nominations. On November 5, the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee held a hearing on the following transportation nominations:

- Ryan McCormack, to be Under Secretary of Transportation Policy, DOT
- Daniel Edwards, to be Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs (DOT)
- Trent Morse, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA)

During his opening statement, Chair Ted Cruz (R-TX) emphasized that the three nominees before the committee will help make America’s transportation system safer, more efficient, and more reliable. He also noted the urgency of the work, referencing a recent cargo plane crash as a reminder of the critical need for improved aviation safety.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Senate Committee Holds Hearing on Transportation Nominations. On November 6, the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee held a hearing on the following transportation nominations:

- John DeLeeuw, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
- Richard Kloster, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board (STB)
- Michelle Schultz, to be a Member of STB (renewal)

During his opening statement, Chair Ted Cruz (R-TX) praised the three nominees before the committee — John DeLeeuw (for the National Transportation Safety Board), Richard Kloster and Michelle Schultz (both for the Surface Transportation Board) — highlighting DeLeeuw’s aviation-safety background and the rail and legal experience of Kloster and Schultz, stating they are “well-equipped to serve” and “highly qualified” to strengthen transportation safety and rail competition.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

THIS WEEK AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



FAA Issues Emergency Order Limiting Use of Airspace. FAA has issued an emergency order that temporarily prohibits certain operations in the navigable airspace to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficiency of the National Airspace System (NAS). To maintain the highest standards of safety in the NAS, certain air carriers will be required to reduce their total daily scheduled domestic operations between 6:00am and 10:00pm local at each airport by 10%. Impacted airports are:

ANC – Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport
ATL – Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
BOS – Boston Logan International Airport
BWI – Baltimore/Washington International Airport
CLT – Charlotte Douglas International Airport
CVG – Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport
DAL – Dallas Love Field
DCA – Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport
DEN – Denver International Airport
DFW – Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport
DTW – Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport
EWR – Newark Liberty International Airport
FLL – Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport
HNL – Honolulu International Airport
HOU – William P. Hobby Airport
IAD – Washington Dulles International Airport
IAH – George Bush Houston Intercontinental Airport
IND – Indianapolis International Airport
JFK – New York John F. Kennedy International Airport
LAS – Las Vegas McCarran International Airport
LAX – Los Angeles International Airport
LGA – New York LaGuardia Airport
MCO – Orlando International Airport
MDW – Chicago Midway International Airport
MEM – Memphis International Airport
MIA – Miami International Airport
MSP – Minneapolis–St. Paul International Airport
OAK – Oakland International Airport
ONT – Ontario International Airport

ORD – Chicago O’Hare International Airport
PDX – Portland International Airport
PHL – Philadelphia International Airport
PHX – Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport
SAN – San Diego International Airport
SDF – Louisville International Airport
SEA – Seattle–Tacoma International Airport
SFO – San Francisco International Airport
SLC – Salt Lake City International Airport
TEB – Teterboro Airport
TPA – Tampa International Airport

The order will not require a reduction in international flights. Additionally, airlines will be required to issue full refunds but will not be required to cover secondary costs.

[**MORE INFORMATION**](#)



Channon Hanna, Partner at Carpi & Clay Government Relations, brings over 20 years of expertise in navigating federal transportation policy complexities to advance priorities for public and private sector clients across all modes of transportation.



TRANSPORTATION WEEKLY UPDATE

November 14, 2025

NEXT WEEK IN CONGRESS

Senate Subcommittee Holds Hearing on the Impact of the Shutdown on Air Safety and Travel. On November 19, the Subcommittee on Aviation, Space, and Innovation of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee held a hearing titled “Flying on Empty: How Shutdowns Threaten Air Safety, Travel, and the Economy”. Witnesses will include representatives from National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA), Airlines for America (A4A), and General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA).

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS

Congress Approves Package to End Shutdown. On November 12, the House approved by a vote of 222 to 209 a package to end the government shutdown that was approved by the Senate on November 10 by a vote of 60 to 40.

The package, [H.R. 5371](#) included:

- A continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government through January 30, 2026.
- Reverses Reductions in Force (RIFs) of federal employees executed October 1 or after
- The following extensions until January 30, 2026:
 - National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
 - TSA’s reimbursable screening services
 - Essential Air Service Program
 - Motor Carrier Safety
- Three bill FY26 minibus package ([Agriculture](#); [Military Construction-VA](#); [Legislative Branch](#))

THIS WEEK AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



FTA Publishes CIG Final Guidance. FTA has published final policy guidance for the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program. The new policy guidance has revised FTA's approach to evaluating environmental benefits by moving away from a vehicle-miles-traveled (VMT) framework and the monetization of greenhouse gas emissions using the social cost of carbon, instead returning to a more straightforward method that emphasizes whether a project is located in a non-attainment area and other readily measurable indicators. The guidance also includes targeted adjustments to the land-use criterion, such as removing urgent-care centers from the list of "essential services" due to changes in data availability. Beyond these methodological updates, FTA has added clarifications to streamline project development—providing additional detail on extensions, reinforcing expectations around resilient infrastructure planning, and aligning portions of the document with recent executive directives and DOT economic-analysis procedures. While the overall framework of the CIG evaluation process remains intact, these refinements update how certain criteria are measured and signal a shift toward simpler, more transparent evaluation metrics for project sponsors. The guidance is effective immediately.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



Channon Hanna, Partner at Carpi & Clay Government Relations, brings over 20 years of expertise in navigating federal transportation policy complexities to advance priorities for public and private sector clients across all modes of transportation.