

January 22, 2026

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners

FROM: Anne Richman, Executive Director

RE: Executive Director's Report – Agenda Item 4 (Discussion)

Local

January 3rd King Tide/Storm Event Recap and TAM Ongoing Work

Over the weekend of January 3rd, record king tides combined with storm events caused flooding at multiple locations across Marin, including Highway 101 near Corte Madera Creek, areas along Richardson Bay in Mill Valley and Sausalito, the San Rafael Canal Neighborhood, Strawberry, Tiburon, State Route 37, Santa Venetia, Bolinas Lagoon/Stinson Beach, and Tomales Bay. All flooded locations were previously identified as vulnerable in the TAM Sea Level Rise Study, including several designated Focus Areas with identified adaptation strategies, confirming the accuracy of prior risk assessments. Targeted mitigation measures were also proven effective, with temporary pumps in Marin City and levee and roadway measures helping keep portions of State Route 37 open.



Flooding on Highway 101 resulted in near-closure conditions and major traffic impacts. Continued coordination with partner agencies and consistent public communication will be critical to reducing impacts during future king tide and storm events.

TAM's Sea Level Rise Program work continues, including advancing Climate Resilient Transportation Design Principles and coordinating with Caltrans on their Highway 101 Adaptation Study. The Climate Resilient Design Principles effort will research current best practices for integrating adaptation solutions into the roadway,

such as green infrastructure and roadway elevation. This report will then help inform a toolkit and design principles for flooding solutions in the near term that local agencies can use to help adapt and prepare Marin, while longer term solutions take shape.

Marin Commutes – New Year Commute Challenge



The 2026 New Year Commute Challenge has kicked off! From January 12 through February 20, the [Marin Commutes](#) program is promoting a campaign for participants to earn new rewards for choosing active or shared trips and making sustainable travel a new routine.

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Funding Workshop – January 14



In recent years, TAM has been approached by program administrators for the State's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program, a "Cap and Invest" funding program providing grants for affordable housing and transportation investments statewide. The program administrators are interested in how to increase Marin County participation in the Program. The program administrators hosted a workshop on January 14 to provide information about the AHSC program and help strengthen future Marin County applications for funding. The next round of grant funding is expected to be

released in March 2026. Visit the [Strategic Growth Council website](#) for additional information.

Regional

US-101 HOV Hours to be Reduced – Implementation Expected in Late-February



Caltrans, MTC, TAM and Sonoma County Transportation and Climate Authorities have been coordinating to reduce the HOV hours on US-101 in Marin and Sonoma Counties based on recent traffic data and in response to public concerns related to traffic delays. New hours are expected to be announced in late January, and the revised hours are anticipated to take effect in February 2026 after signage has been updated with the new hours. The HOV hours will remain consistent across both counties, covering peak commute periods in the morning and afternoon/evening.

Updated information is available from Caltrans here: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-projects/hwy-101-marin-sonoma-narrows-carpool-lanes-update>.

TAM and partner agencies continue to encourage carpooling and transit use, with service provided by Marin Transit, Golden Gate Transit, and SMART. Travel options and incentives are available at www.MarinCommutes.org.

Ramp Metering Activation on US-101 in Marin & Sonoma Counties

Caltrans began phased activation of 12 new ramp meters along US-101 in Marin and Sonoma counties in December. Metering lights will be activated sequentially as each location becomes ready.



Photo credit: Alan Dep, Marin IJ 1Photo

Marin County Northbound US-101 Ramp Meters Newly Active (M-F, 2–7 p.m.):

- Shoreline Highway/Almonte Blvd. hook on-ramp
- Redwood Highway Frontage Rd./De Silva Dr. hook on-ramp

Marin County Southbound US-101 Ramp Meters Expected to be Activated in Early February:

- Rowland Blvd. diagonal on-ramp
- De Long Ave. diagonal on-ramp
- Atherton Ave. diagonal on-ramp
- San Antonio Rd./Redwood Sanitary Landfill Rd. diagonal on-ramp

This work is part of Caltrans' and MTC's broader ramp-metering program for US-101 in both counties. Additional meters will be deployed as operations are confirmed and funding becomes available. TAM staff will continue to coordinate with Caltrans on the remaining ramp metering efforts in the corridor as they are advancing through the Caltrans process.

Questions regarding the activation may be directed to Caltrans at (510) 286-4531.

State

2026 Updates to the California Ralph M. Brown Act – Senate Bill 707

Senate Bill 707 took effect on January 1, 2026, and represents a significant update to the Brown Act, with changes focused on open meetings, teleconferencing, accessibility, and public participation.



Highlights include a new requirement to provide every board member with a copy of the Brown Act, expanded and now permanent teleconferencing and social media provisions, and additional public participation and agenda requirements that begin July 1, 2026.

TAM will be providing a more detailed update to all Commissioners in the weeks ahead.

Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP)

On January 14, 2026, Caltrans announced awarding \$202 million in LCTOP funds to 143 local, clean transportation projects to prioritize public transit and electric vehicle options in communities most affected by pollution.



Included among the awarded projects:

- Marin Transit - Installation of solar panels and construction of parking and charging infrastructure at the Kerner facilities in San Rafael - \$700,017
- Marin Transit - Local matching funds to replace four 30ft Hybrid Buses with four 35ft Battery Electric vehicles - \$105,893
- SMART - Operation of commuter rail services - \$760,918

LCTOP is one of the programs under the recently renewed Cap-and-Invest Program, formerly known as the Cap-and-Trade Program, that generates proceeds from an emissions trading program aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and providing benefits to environmentally disadvantaged and low-income communities and households.

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 January 6 and January 19, 2026.

Notably, the current Federal budget Continuing Resolution (CR) expires on January 30, 2026, creating a looming deadline for Congress to pass the remaining appropriations bills or risk another government shutdown.

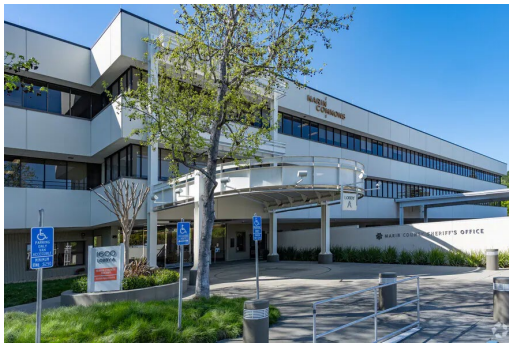
Celebrating Milestones at TAM

Congratulations to Public Outreach Coordinator Molly Graham on her 10-year anniversary with TAM! Over the past decade, Molly’s dedication, expertise, and collaborative spirit have made a lasting impact on TAM’s work and partnerships throughout Marin County. We appreciate her many contributions and look forward to the continued outreach and insight she brings to the agency.

TAM in the Community

Date	Meeting	Topic
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
12.11.2025	San Rafael Leadership Institute	General
2.6.2026	Marin Association of Realtors	General/ Infrastructure

TAM Board Meetings –Temporary Meeting Location – First Quarter 2026



Beginning with the January TAM Board meeting, and throughout the Marin County Board of Supervisors (BOS) Chambers facility upgrades, TAM Board meetings will be held in the **Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority Board Room, 1600 Los Gamos Drive, Room 335, San Rafael, California**, and virtually via Zoom.

Once the BOS Chambers renovations are complete, anticipated in spring 2026, TAM Board meetings will return to the Marin County Civic Center, Room 330, 3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael, California.

[2026 TAM Board & Executive Committee Meeting Schedule](#)



TRANSPORTATION WEEKLY **UPDATE**

*This edition covers actions from December 19 – January 9.

January 9, 2026

NEXT WEEK IN CONGRESS

House Subcommittee to Markup Auto Safety Bills. On January 13, the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee of the Energy & Commerce Committee will hold a markup to consider the following bills:

- [Motor Vehicle Modernization Act](#)
- [Safety is Not for Sale Act of 2026](#)
- [SELF DRIVE Act of 2026](#)
- [H.R. 1566, REPAIR Act](#)
- [H.R. 4376, AV Safety Data Act](#)
- [H.R. 3360, Driver Technology and Pedestrian Safety Act](#)
- [H.R. 6687, DRIVER Act](#)
- [H.R. 6688, ADAS Functionality and Integrity Act](#)
- [H.R. 6850, DRIVE to HALT Drunk Driving Act](#)
- [H.R. 1137, No Kill Switches in Cars Act](#)
- [H.R. 3385, to direct DOT to issue certain regulations to update the definition of motorcycle](#)
- [H.R. 5221, PART Act](#)
- [H.R. 2110, Safe Vehicle Access for Survivors Act](#)
- [Know Before You Drive Act](#)
- [SAFE Exit Act](#)
- [Safe Streets for Everyone Act of 2026](#)

MORE INFORMATION

House Committee to Hold Member Day. On January 14, the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee will hold a “Member Day” hearing. Members of the House of Representatives are invited to testify on priorities and issues before the Committee that are important to their individual districts.

MORE INFORMATION

THIS WEEK AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DOT Announces SS4A Grant Awards. DOT has announced \$982.23 million to 521 projects in 48 states, 18 tribes, and Puerto Rico through the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant program. The program helps fund projects that improve roadway safety by investing in safety strategies that will reduce serious injuries and fatalities among pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, and truck drivers.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

DOT Publishes OACP Proposed Guidance. DOT has published proposed guidance that would revise and update the investigatory and enforcement policies and practices of its Office of Aviation Consumer Protection (OACP), including the sanctions brought by OACP for non-compliance with aviation consumer protection requirements. Comments are due by February 5, 2026.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

DOT Publishes UTC Program Grants NOFO. DOT has published a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the availability of \$33 million through the University Transportation Centers (UTC) Program. The grants will help establish and operate a university transportation center to advance transportation expertise and technology, provide for a critical multimodal transportation knowledge base out of the Department of Transportation, and address critical workforce needs and educate the next generation of transportation leaders. Letters of intent are due by January 19, 2026, and applications are due by February 20, 2026.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

DOT IG Publishes FY 2026 Top Management Challenges. DOT's Office of Inspector General (DOT IG) published a report titled [DOT's Fiscal Year 2026 Top Management Challenges](#). The top challenges identified in the report were:

- **Aviation Safety.** Balance compliance with collaboration when overseeing air carrier maintenance programs; and maintain aviation safety while facing staffing shortages, under-resourced inspections, and data access limitations.
- **Surface Transportation Safety.** Prioritize actions to further improve safety and reduce fatalities and injuries on the Nation's roads and rails; and protect transportation workers and the traveling public.
- **Air Traffic Control and Airspace Modernization.** Hire and train the next generation of air traffic controllers while sustaining the integrity of the National Airspace System (NAS); and develop a comprehensive plan that anticipates and mitigates challenges to successfully modernizing the Nation's air traffic control system.
- **Surface Transportation Infrastructure.** Target surface transportation funding for priority outcomes; and oversee public transit agencies' efforts to expand systems or increase capacity, while maintaining a state of good repair.
- **Financial Stewardship.** Adopt streamlined grant and contract processes to support efficient and cost-effective outcomes; and implement updated financial management and reporting requirements.

- **IT Security.** Address recurring cybersecurity weaknesses to reduce risks to DOT's information systems; and reinforce cybersecurity policy implementation to safeguard DOT's information systems against continued threats.
- **Transportation Innovation.** Ensure the safety and operational efficiency of the rapidly growing commercial space transportation industry; advance the safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems into the NAS; and develop strategies to enable the deployment of vehicle automation and driver assistance technologies.
- **Curbing Fraud, Waste, and Abuse.** Verify grant and contract funds are used as intended and hold those who abuse the system accountable.

DOT IG Publishes Report on FTA CIG. DOT IG published a report titled [FTA Did Not Verify Transit Asset Management Performance Target Progress Prior to Awarding Capital Invest Grants](#). The report finds that FTA did not independently verify whether Capital Investment Grant (CIG) applicants were making progress toward required Transit Asset Management performance targets before awarding funding, instead relying largely on self-certifications. It also notes that FTA deemed the TAM requirement not applicable for more than a quarter of the grants reviewed, representing over half of the funding awarded during the period examined. As a result, FTA may have awarded grants without confirming that applicants met statutory eligibility requirements, increasing the risk of noncompliance. The report recommends that FTA establish and document a clear methodology to verify applicant progress toward TAM performance targets before awarding CIG funds.

DOT IG Publishes Report on FHWA ATCMTD Reimbursements. DOT IG published a report titled [FHWA Can Improve Its Oversight of ATCMTD Reimbursements to Reduce Program Risk](#). The report finds that FHWA approved reimbursement requests under the Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) program without always validating that supporting documentation was sufficient, leading to at least \$1.9 million in reimbursements that lacked adequate support. It also shows that FHWA's existing quarterly reporting and oversight processes did not identify unsupported costs and that FHWA paid these costs despite the deficiencies. Additionally, the report concludes that FHWA does not sufficiently monitor how state Departments of Transportation oversee and validate reimbursement requests, resulting in weaknesses in internal controls. It recommends that FHWA strengthen its financial oversight and validation procedures to reduce risk and ensure reimbursements are properly supported.



FAA Announces New UAS Test Sites. FAA has announced two new test sites for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) located in in The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Indiana Economic Development Corporation. The UAS Test Site program supports development, testing, and evaluation of public and civil unmanned aircraft and related technologies and helps advance the safe integration of drones into the National Airspace System.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Motor
Carrier Safety
Administration

FMCSA Issues a Final Determination of Noncompliance to California. FMCSA has issued a final determination finding California out of compliance with federal motor carrier safety requirements after the state failed to meet a January 5 deadline to revoke roughly 17,000 commercial driver's licenses issued to immigrants that federal officials say were improperly granted. As a result, DOT is withholding approximately \$160 million in federal highway funding from California until the state remedies the identified deficiencies.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

FMCSA Publishes Transportation of Fuel for Agricultural Aircraft Operations Final Rule. FMCSA has published a final rule that amends the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations to allow States to waive the hazardous materials (HM) endorsement requirement for holders of Class A commercial driver's licenses (CDL) who transport no more than 1,000 gallons of aviation grade jet fuel in support of seasonal agricultural aircraft operations. The rule is effective on March 10, 2026.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Railroad Administration

FRA Announces Streamlined Settlement Negotiation Process. FRA has announced a new streamlined settlement negotiation process collected a record \$15.4 million in civil penalties issued to Class I railroads. The streamlined process centers on meaningful discussions in the most significant cases while continuing to collect critical data to improve railroad safety. Under this framework, Class I railroads—Amtrak, BNSF, CN, CPKC, CSX, NS, and UP—may receive a civil penalty when inspectors identify issues such as defective wheels, with potential reductions when repairs are made and discussed with mechanical craft employees to prevent recurrence.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



NHTSA Publishes Research Affirming the Need for the Female Crash Test Dummy.

NHTSA has published new research proving that women are at higher risk of injury than men during vehicular crashes. According to the study, women have a statistically significant higher risk of injury than men in 26% of the 150 crash injury models, and women have a higher risk more frequently for moderate injuries.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

NHTSA Submits Report to Congress on the THOR-05F and WorldSID-05F. NHTSA has submitted a report to Congress, as required by House Report 117-99 that accompanied the FY 2022 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill. The report details the agency's progress in developing and validating advanced female crash test dummies and the broader research supporting their eventual inclusion in federal safety programs like the New Car Assessment Program (NCAP). It explains that these next-generation anthropomorphic test devices (ATDs) are designed to better represent female anatomy and injury responses than legacy models, addressing long-standing disparities in crash outcomes between women and men by improving real-world data analysis, biomechanics research, human body modeling, and countermeasure evaluation. The document outlines extensive experimental work with post-mortem human subjects and repeated testing to refine injury risk functions, biofidelity, durability, and repeatability, and discusses progress in analyzing crash databases to understand sex-based differences in injury and fatality risk. It also updates on enhancements to ATD design, ongoing development of

injury criteria across body regions, and steps toward broader implementation of advanced female ATDs in safety standards and ratings.

OTHER

CEQ Publishes NEPA Final Rule. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has published a final rule formally adopts the interim final rule from February 2025 and removes all of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations that implemented the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) from the Code of Federal Regulations. As a result, federal agencies will now rely on the statutory text of NEPA and their own agency-specific procedures for environmental reviews rather than a uniform set of CEQ regulations. The final rule is effective on January 8, 2026.

[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**

January 16, 2026

THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS

House Subcommittee to Hold Hearing Auto Safety Bills. On January 13, the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee of the Energy & Commerce Committee held a hearing to examine the following bills:

- [Motor Vehicle Modernization Act](#)
- [Safety is Not for Sale Act of 2026](#)
- [SELF DRIVE Act of 2026](#)
- [H.R. 1566, REPAIR Act](#)
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During his opening statement, Subcommittee Chair Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) stressed the need to modernize vehicle safety laws to reduce roadway fatalities while maintaining affordability, consumer choice, and U.S. leadership in automotive innovation. He highlighted bipartisan efforts to advance autonomous vehicle policy, reform and strengthen NHTSA, and ensure Americans can access advanced safety technologies without pricing them out of the market.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

House Committee to Hold Member Day. On January 14, the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee held a “Member Day” hearing. Members of the House of Representatives are invited

to testify on priorities and issues before the Committee that are important to their individual districts.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

THIS WEEK AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DOT Publishes Transportation RD&T Strategic Plan RFI. DOT has published a request for information (RFI) requesting comments to inform DOT's Research, Development, and Technology (RD&T) Strategic Plan for fiscal years (FY) 2026-2030. The RFI is seeking views from the transportation research community on the Department's research vision, strategic goals, and priorities, and how our research programs can advance the transportation system of the present and future. Comments are due by February 12, 2026.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



FAA Publishes Draft Transition Plan to Unleaded Aviation Gasoline. FAA has published a draft plan for a formal transition to unleaded aviation gasoline. The framework outlined in the transition plan encompasses fuel authorizations and comparison testing, market experience, and the national transition to unleaded fuel(s). Comments are due by March 13, 2026.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Railroad Administration

FRA Reestablishes RSAC. FRA has reestablished the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC). The new charter provides for 25 representatives from 21 organizations. The charter renewal will be effective for two years from the date it is filed with Congress.

[**MORE INFORMATION**](#)

FRA Publishes 2026 Emergency Relief Docket. FRA has published its emergency relief docket for calendar year 2026.

[**MORE INFORMATION**](#)



**Federal Transit
Administration**

FTA Rescinds NTD Weekly Reference Reporting Requirement. FTA has rescinded the required weekly National Transit Database (NTD) reporting requirement. The decision is applicable beginning on January 15, 2026.

[**MORE INFORMATION**](#)

FTA Publishes 2026 Random Drug and Alcohol Testing Rates. FTA has published its calendar year 2026 drug and alcohol random testing rates for specific recipients of FTA financial assistance. The minimum random drug testing rate will remain at 50 percent, and the random alcohol testing rate will remain at 10 percent.

[**MORE INFORMATION**](#)



NHTSA Publishes Anti-Ejection Glazing for Bus Portals FMVSS Final Rule. NHTSA published a final rule for FMVSS No. 217a, “Anti-ejection glazing for bus portals; Mandatory applicability beginning October 30, 2027”. The standard intends to drive installation of advanced glazing in over-the-road buses (motorcoaches) and other large buses to reduce occupant ejections. This final rule revises the minimum size requirement for applicable portals, adds a figure to illustrate a daylight opening periphery, and clarifies the target location for edge impact tests. This document denies all other portions of the petition for reconsideration, including revising the definition of “daylight opening.” The final rule is effective on January 15, 2026, and the compliance date is October 27, 2027.

[**MORE INFORMATION**](#)



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