Transportation Authority of Marin

October 22, 2026

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners

FROM: Anne Richman, Executive Director

RE: Executive Director's Report – Agenda Item 3 (Discussion)

## Local

**Marin Commutes – Transit Month Results and October Rideshare Campaign**




This fall, TAM's Marin Commutes program is encouraging alternatives to driving alone through back-to-back campaigns aimed at reducing traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

The September Transit Month campaign concluded with more than 3,500 transit trips logged by participants traveling by bus, train, and ferry. A total of 120 participants logged at least 12 transit trips during the month, qualifying for a drawing for one of three $100 gift cards. Participants who took their first-ever transit trip or their first transit trip of the year received an additional entry.

Building on this momentum, Rideshare Month is underway throughout October, encouraging commuters to explore carpooling and vanpooling options. The campaign highlights TAM's vanpool incentive program, which offers up to $3,600 in financial incentives for qualifying new vanpools.

Both campaigns are offered through Marin Commutes Rewards, which allows participants to earn up to $500 annually for choosing sustainable transportation options. The program is complemented by TAM's Emergency Ride Home program, which provides a reliable transportation safety net when unexpected circumstances arise. Learn more at marincommutes.org.

**SR2S International Walk to School Day and Ruby Bridges Day**



On Wednesday, October 7, thousands of students across Marin County celebrated International Walk to School Day, choosing active transportation options to travel to school. The countywide event, the largest annual celebration organized by TAM's Safe Routes to Schools program, drew participation from 45 elementary schools, nine middle schools, and two high schools, with several schools reporting record turnout.

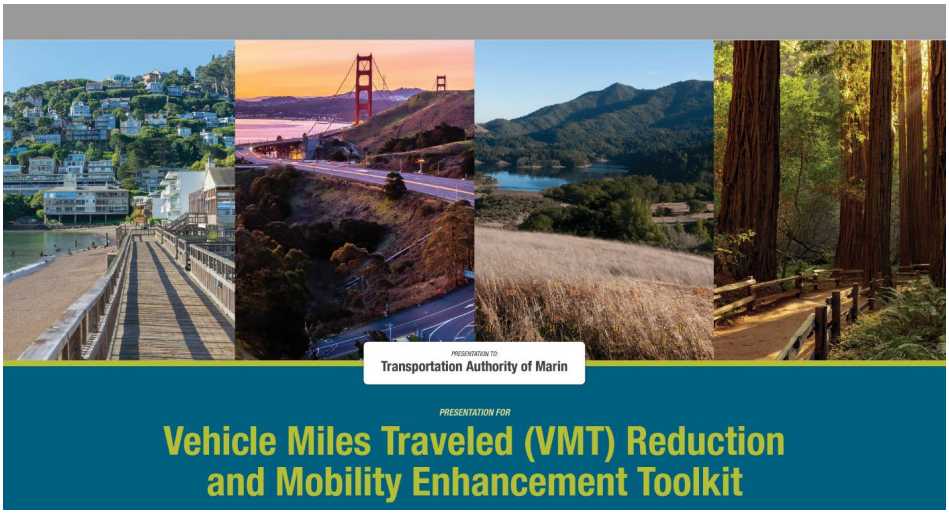
The celebration featured walking school buses, bike trains, school mascots, and plenty of school spirit. At several schools, local police officers and firefighters joined the festivities, escorting students traveling by bicycle, scooter, and roller skates. The Marin Independent Journal also highlighted the event with photos of students participating at Lu Sutton Elementary School in Novato.

This semester's Safe Routes to Schools theme, "Community and Consistency," encourages students and families to make walking, biking, and other active transportation choices part of their daily routines.

The program's next countywide event is Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day on November 18, which celebrates inclusion, kindness, and the importance of safe routes to school.

**TAM Hosts VMT Toolkit Workshop for Local Jurisdictions**

On October 8, TAM hosted a virtual workshop for local jurisdictional staff to introduce draft tools designed to support vehicle miles traveled (VMT) analysis for development review and broader planning efforts. The workshop drew more than 30 participants from public works, planning, and sustainability departments across Marin County. Staff presented VMT calculation tools, methods for measuring trip reduction, and resources to assist jurisdictions in evaluating land use development projects. The tools and workshop are part of the Caltrans-funded VMT Toolkit project; more information will be coming to the Board soon.



## Regional

**State Route 37 – Upcoming 55-Hour Full Closure for Winter Storm Preparations**

Caltrans District 4 has announced a **55-hour full closure of State Route 37 (SR 37) in both directions between Mare Island and Sears Point**, beginning **Friday, October 23, at 10:00 p.m. through Monday, October 26, at 5:00 a.m.** The closure is to prepare for anticipated severe winter storms.

In advance of the full closure, **westbound SR 37 will also be closed overnight on Wednesday, October 21, and Thursday, October 22, from 7:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.** the following mornings.

During the 55-hour closure, crews will remove portions of the median and install concrete barriers to shift eastbound and westbound traffic onto the existing westbound lanes. This traffic shift will allow crews to begin work on the eastbound lanes, where portions of the roadway will be raised approximately three feet to help reduce flooding risks along this critical transportation corridor.

Caltrans has deployed changeable message signs throughout the region to alert motorists and encourage travelers to plan ahead, allow extra travel time, and use alternate routes.

Eastbound Detour




Westbound Detour




[View the Caltrans Traffic Advisory]

*All work is weather dependent.*

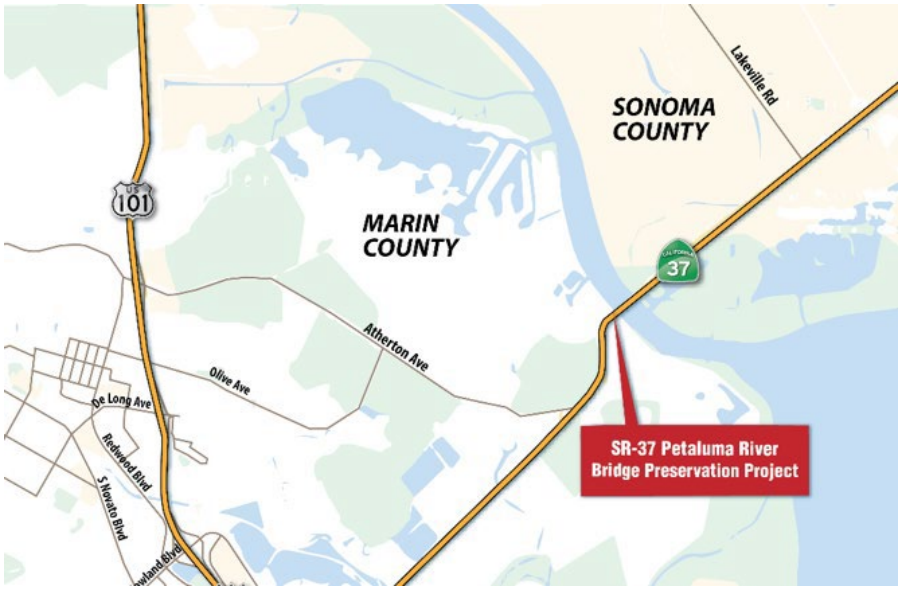
**Additional SR 37 Overnight Lane Closures for Petaluma River Bridge Rehabilitation**

Caltrans has begun a structural rehabilitation project on the State Route 37 (SR 37) Petaluma River Bridge**,** located at the Marin–Sonoma County line. The project will require **overnight lane closures in both directions from Monday, October 19, through Friday, October 23.**

During this period, **one of the two travel lanes in each direction** will be closed according to the following schedule:

- **Eastbound SR 37:** 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. the following morning.
- **Westbound SR 37:** 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. the following morning.

Motorists traveling through the area should anticipate potential delays and allow additional travel time while rehabilitation work is underway. **View the Caltrans Traffic Advisory**




## State

**Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) – Cycle 13 Call for Projects**

On July 1, 2026, Caltrans announced the Cycle 13 Call for Projects for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), which provides federal funding for projects aimed at reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries on public roads. Approximately $120 million is available for local agency projects, with applications due to Caltrans by November 2, 2026.



Source: FHWA.

TAM staff distributed the funding opportunity to local jurisdictions and continues to encourage Marin Public Works Association (MPWA) members to consider submitting applications related to the Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP).

### State Improvements for Highway Safety and Transit Enhancement Options

In August 2026, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved $2.7 billion in funding for more than 150 new projects statewide designed to improve travel times, increase multimodal options and strengthen the state's transportation assets against severe weather and other climate-related threats. Projects in Marin County include:

- $220,503,000 allocation on SR-37 in and near Novato to replace the Novato Creek Bridge and construct drainage systems.
- $4,850,000 allocation on SR-37 and US-101 at various locations within Marin County to rehabilitate bridges, overlay bridge decks, clean and paint bridge piles, install galvanic anode jacket system, and upgrade bridge railings.
- $2,300,000 allocation on US-101 in and near Sausalito, Corte Madera, and Larkspur, to construct concrete barrier, drainage system, relocate overhead sign structure, highway lights, widen shoulders, upgrade Advanced Warning Beacons, install crash cushions, and repair fencing.
- $1,850,000 allocation on SR-1 near Marshall and Tomales from 0.6 mile north of Marshall Petaluma Road to Second Street to rehabilitate drainage systems.
- $1,416,000 allocation on SR-1 near Marshall at 1.2 miles south of Marshall Petaluma Road to place rock slope protection, replace fencing, and repair the pavement.
- $920,000 allocation on US-101 near Sausalito at 0.1 mile north of Sausalito Road Undercrossing to stabilize the rock slope, clear the shoulder catchment of fallen rock, and repair the concrete barrier and fence.

## Federal

### Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program



The Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP), authorized under IIJA, is a competitive grant program with the goal of reducing Wildlife Vehicle Collisions (WVCs) while improving habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species.

A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the WCPP was released on September 29, 2026 with applications due November 16, 2026. Approximately $80 million is available for this NOFO release. This NOFO was circulated to local agencies.

**Federal Legislative Consultant Weekly Updates**



TAM's Federal Legislative Consultant disseminates regular 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 September 25 and October 2 and 16, 2026.

## Celebrating Milestones at TAM

TAM is pleased to recognize Associate Project Delivery Manager Audrey Veyssiere on her first anniversary with the agency. Over the past year, Audrey has made valuable contributions to TAM's project delivery efforts and to advancing transportation improvements throughout Marin County. We congratulate Audrey on this milestone and thank her for her dedication and contributions to the TAM team.

## TAM in the Community

| Date | Meeting | Topic |
|---|---|---|
| 9.15.2026 | Novato Employee Health and Benefits Fair | Marin Commutes/General |
| 9.16.2026 | San Rafael Wellness Fair | Marin Commutes/General |
| 9.26.2026 | Nuestro Canal Nuestro Futuro | Marin 101-580/SLR/General |
| 9.30.2026 | Golden Gate Health and Wellness Fair | Marin Commutes/General |
| 10.7.2026 | International Walk to School Day | SR2S |
| 10.8.2026 | VMT Toolkit Workshop | Vehicle Miles Traveled |
| 10.21.2026 | WTS Leadership Workshop | General |
| 11.12.2026 | Marin Coalition | SR-37 |
| 11.18.2026 | Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day | SR2S |

## Upcoming TAM Board Meetings

As a reminder, the November and December TAM Board meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month, on November 19 and December 17, 2026, respectively. Both meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. TAM Calendar




**September 25, 2026**

## THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS

**Senate Approves Transportation-Related Bills.** This week, the Senate approved the following bills:

- **S. 3258, the Aviation Medication Transparency Act** – directs FAA to compile, publish, and annually update a list of medications that may be safely prescribed to pilots and air traffic controllers for the purposes of issuing a medical certification. The list must be publicly available on the FAA website and distributed to those seeking a license and medical certification.

- **S. 3257, the John A. Hauser Mental Health in Aviation Act** – requires FAA to modernize mental-health medical certification rules for pilots and air traffic controllers, improve the special-issuance process and examiner training, expand the Office of Aerospace Medicine's capacity, implement aviation mental-health recommendations, and conduct a public education campaign to encourage individuals to seek care.

The bills now move to the House for consideration.

## THIS WEEK AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**DOT Publishes ACDBE Final Rule.** DOT has published a final rule that makes amendments to its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) program regulations. With few modifications, this final rule

follows the interim final rule (IFR) published on October 3, 2025, which eliminated race- and sex-based presumptions that DOT determined to be unconstitutional. This action completes the transition to a system of individualized determinations of social and economic disadvantage to ensure program constitutional compliance and addresses administrative challenges identified by stakeholders during the public comment period. The rule is effective on September 25, 2026.
**MORE INFORMATION**

**DOT Announces SMART ATC Tool.** DOT has announced that it has begun to use the Strategic Management of Airspace, Routes, and Trajectories (SMART), an AI-supported tool that centralizes 200 data streams – including weather patterns, flight paths, traffic flow, and controller staffing metrics – into one platform. SMART then synthesizes all this data to provide a comprehensive visualization of where planes are going, how much traffic the system can handle, and where congestion or weather could cause challenges. SMART cannot be used to replace the critical role air traffic controllers play or take over control of an aircraft. All of SMART's recommendations are reviewed by FAA staff, and local leadership at air traffic control facilities can choose to accept or pass on these scheduling suggestions. SMART is being used in the airspace in and around Washington, DC and will gradually be expanded to other parts of the country.
**MORE INFORMATION**

**FAA Publishes FCT Grant NOFO.** FAA has published a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the availability of $100 million for the FAA Contract Tower (FCT) competitive grant program. The purpose of the FCT competitive grant program is to make annual grants available to eligible airports for airport-owned airport traffic control tower (ATCT) projects that address the aging infrastructure of the nation's airports. The FAA will consider ATCT projects that sustain, construct, repair, improve, rehabilitate, modernize, replace, or relocate non-approach control towers; or acquire and install air traffic control, communications, and related equipment to be used in those towers; or construct a remote tower certified by the FAA including acquisition and installation of air traffic control, communications, or related equipment. Applications are due by October 19, 2026.
**MORE INFORMATION**

**FHWA Publishes Notice to Streamline Experimental Project Application Process.** FHWA has published a notice and request for comments on a proposed streamlined application process for its special experimental project programs, which allow State DOTs to test innovative approaches to project delivery, financing, and administration. The proposal would create a more standardized process for submitting and evaluating requests across the programs. Comments are due October 26, 2026.
**MORE INFORMATION**

**NHTSA Publishes THOR-50M SNPRM.** NHTSA has published a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM) to amend NHTSA's 49 CFR part 572 regulations to include an advanced crash test dummy (the Test Device for Human Occupant Restraint (THOR) 50th percentile adult male) by requesting comment on specifying an additional spine configuration and an alternative to the face foam and announcing the availability of additional documents. Comments are due by October 22, 2026.
**MORE INFORMATION**

**NHTSA Publishes Uniform Procedures for State Highway Safety Grant Programs Final Rule.** NHTSA has published a final rule amending the uniform procedures implementing the State Highway Safety Grant Program to waive, for fiscal year (FY) 2027, the requirement that targets for the common performance measures be identical to targets in the Federal Highway Administration State Highway Safety Improvement Program. The rule is effective on September 23, 2026.
**MORE INFORMATION**

## OTHER

**GAO Publishes Report on Aviation Cybersecurity.** The Government Accountability Office has published a report titled **Aviation Cybersecurity: Enhanced Air Safety Requires FAA to Better Mitigate Threats to Aircraft Communications**. The report found that while FAA has identified cybersecurity threats to aviation communications—including GPS and other

spectrum-related jamming and spoofing—it has not completed key risk assessments, mitigation plans, security documentation, or comprehensive real-time monitoring needed to respond to those threats. GAO also found gaps in FAA's coordination with federal and industry partners and vulnerabilities in aircraft communication applications that could allow malicious actors to intercept or spoof messages, potentially disrupting flight operations or creating safety risks. GAO made nine recommendations to strengthen FAA's management of spectrum cybersecurity risks, improve collaboration, and enhance protections for aviation communications, all of which DOT concurred with on FAA's behalf.

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**October 2, 2026**

## THIS WEEK IN CONGRESS

**Senate Unveils Bipartisan Permitting Reform Bill.** On September 30, Environment & Public Works Chair Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV), Ranking Member Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Energy & Natural Resources Chair Mike Lee (R-UT), and Ranking Member Martin Heinrich (D-NM) introduced **S. 5653, the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026**. The bill would make broad changes to the federal environmental review and permitting process, including several provisions that could affect the delivery of transportation and other locally sponsored infrastructure projects.

Key provisions include:

- **Fewer projects would require NEPA review.** Repair, reconstruction, restoration, retrofit, or replacement of existing "lifeline infrastructure" would not be treated as a major federal action if capacity increases by no more than 20 percent. For highways and bridges, the project also could not add through travel lanes. Projects with minimal federal funding or federal involvement would similarly fall outside the definition of a major federal action.

- **Endangered Species Act (ESA) relief.** Projects within an existing operational right-of-way that qualify for the MAP-21 categorical exclusion would be exempt from certain ESA Section 7 consultation requirements. The bill also shortens the standard consultation timeline and generally requires ESA consultation to be completed by the time the applicable NEPA review is finished.

- **Firm deadlines and a bigger local role.** Environmental assessments generally would be due within one year and environmental impact statements within two years, and project sponsors could seek judicial relief when agencies miss applicable deadlines. Cities and counties could serve as cooperating or joint lead agencies, and federal

agencies could adopt or incorporate state environmental reviews, such as CEQA, when they serve a similar function as NEPA.

- **Limits on lawsuits.** NEPA challenges generally would have to be filed within 150 days and, where a public comment opportunity was provided, brought by parties that raised the relevant issue during the comment period. If a court finds a NEPA violation, the authorization generally would be sent back to the agency for correction without vacating the approval or stopping the project while the agency fixes the deficiency.

- **Protection for approved permits.** Federal agencies generally could not revoke, suspend, or materially alter permits held by non-federal sponsors, including cities, counties, and transit agencies, except in specified circumstances such as a court order, violation of permit terms, fraud, or certain urgent threats. Sponsors that successfully challenge improper federal interference could recover litigation and delay-related costs.

The Senate is expected to consider the legislation after the midterm elections, during the Lame Duck session.

## THIS WEEK AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**DOT Announces INFRA Grant Awards.** DOT has announced $426 million to 12 projects in 12 states through the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight & Highway Projects (INFRA) program. The program helps to fund large, nationally and regionally significant freight and highway projects that improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of people and goods.
**MORE INFORMATION**

**FAA Announces AIP Grant Awards.** FAA has announced $84 million in Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant awards to airports in 5 states. AIP helps to fund airport infrastructure projects such as runways, taxiways, airport signage, airport lighting, and airport markings.
**MORE INFORMATION**

**FHWA Publishes Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program NOFO.** FHWA has published a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the availability of $80 million through the Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program. The program provides funding to local governments for projects seeking to improve safety of the traveling public by reducing the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVC) and, in doing so, improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. Applications are due by November 16, 2026.
**MORE INFORMATION**

**FHWA Publishes Prioritization Process Pilot Program NOFO.** FHWA has published a NOFO for the availability of $2 million through the Prioritization Process Pilot Program (PPPP). The program provides grants to states and metropolitan planning organizations to develop and implement transparent, data-driven processes for evaluating, scoring, and prioritizing transportation projects for inclusion in long-range transportation plans and improvement programs. Applications are due by October 30, 2026.
**MORE INFORMATION**

**FTA Publishes CIG Proposed Guidance.** FTA has published proposed guidance that would make several changes to the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program. Among the key changes, FTA would require sponsors to meet new milestones during Project Development, including completing at least 15 percent design and updating project cost, scope, and schedule estimates within one year, and would require New Starts and Core Capacity projects to have commitments for at least 50 percent of non-CIG funding before entering Engineering. The proposal would also make the local financial commitment evaluation more stringent by placing greater weight on the reasonableness of a sponsor's financial plan, rounding down ratings that fall between rating levels, and revising incentives for projects that request a lower CIG share. At the same time, FTA proposes to expand pre-award authority for certain projects seeking a federal share of 25 percent or less and allow non-CIG federal funds to be used for eligible pre-award activities. The revised guidance would take effect immediately when finalized, with no grandfathering for projects already in the CIG pipeline. Comments are due November 16, 2026.
**MORE INFORMATION**

**NHTSA Publishes Final Rule on CAFE Standards.** NHTSA has published a final rule published a final rule revising the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for passenger cars and light trucks for model years 2022 through 2031. The rule reduces the previously established standards and sets new fuel economy requirements that increase by approximately 0.9 percent annually for passenger cars and 0.51 percent annually for light trucks through model year 2029, followed by 1 percent annual increases through 2031; NHTSA estimates the standards would result in a combined industry-wide average of approximately 34.9 miles per gallon in model year 2031. The rule also changes several CAFE compliance provisions, including eliminating inter-manufacturer credit trading for credits earned beginning in model year 2028, removing certain air-conditioning and off-cycle fuel-economy adjustments from the agency's standard-setting analysis, and revising vehicle classification requirements beginning in model year 2030. The final rule is effective on November 30, 2026.
**MORE INFORMATION**

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**This edition covers actions from October 3 – October 16.*

**October 16, 2026**

## THIS WEEK AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**DOT Announces INFRA Grant Awards.** DOT has announced $200 million to projects in 12 states through the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight & Highway Projects program (INFRA). The "Track 2" awards fund projects to expand public parking for truckers along critical freight corridors.
**MORE INFORMATION**

**FAA Announces Funding for Drone Research and Testing Projects.** FAA has announced $12 million to 19 companies through the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Broad Agency Announcement Program. The funding will help companies working with FAA-designated UAS test sites to evaluate technologies that support safe drone integration.
**MORE INFORMATION**

**NHTSA Announces Vehicle Lighting Advisory Committee.** NHTSA has announced it is forming a Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee for Vehicle Lighting. The committee will advise the Secretary on vehicle lighting safety matters through a negotiated rulemaking process. The committee will terminate when its stated objectives have been accomplished ( *i.e.,* the committee submits its recommendations to the Secretary) or upon the expiration of a period not to exceed two years, unless the charter is renewed by the Secretary. NHTSA requests comments on the proposal to establish the committee. NHTSA also requests nominations for membership on the committee. Proposed members include:

- Four representatives from vehicle lighting manufacturers or lighting retailers;
- Two representatives from national motor vehicle manufacturers;
- Four representatives from national motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment manufacturing associations;
- Two representatives from national motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment safety organizations;
- Three representatives from educational institutions or research institutions, or testing organizations within the United States; and
- Three representatives from national professional engineering associations or standard setting associations.

Comments on the intent to establish the committee and the proposed membership, as well as applications for membership are due by November 9, 2026.
**MORE INFORMATION**

**NHTSA Announces ADS Workshop.** NHTSA has announced they will hold a public meeting on December 1-2, 2026, to provide updates and insights into ongoing activities across NHTSA's safety research programs. The meeting will be held in-person and will feature panel presentations and research posters by representatives from the Offices of Vehicle Safety Research and Behavioral Safety Research. Each research panel will conclude with an opportunity for the audience to ask technical questions related to the presented materials. Visual slides used in presentations and posters will be made available in the public docket following the public meeting. The event will not be live streamed; however, panel presentations will be recorded and made available on the NHTSA website after the event. On the afternoon of the first day, Tuesday, December 1, the Agency will also convene an Automated Driving Systems (ADS) Workshop organized by the Office of Automation Safety.
**MORE INFORMATION**

# OTHER

**FEMA Publishes Security Grant Awards.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced the following security grant awards:

- **$1.9 million for the Intercity Bus Security Grant Program**
- **$88.35 million for the Transit Security Grant Program**

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