



METRANS on the Move: **our weekly newsletter written** **and produced by students**



In the News

The articles in this newsletter are prepared or accomplished by others in their personal capacity. The opinions expressed are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the views of METRANS or its partners.



Revolutionizing Commuting Experience: LA METRO'S FARE CAPPING PROGRAM

In a bold move to enhance the accessibility and affordability of public transportation, Los Angeles Metro has taken a giant leap forward with its innovative Fare Capping Program. Partnering with Cubic Transportation Systems, this cutting-edge initiative is set to transform the city's public transit system, making commuting a seamless and cost-effective experience for millions of passengers.

Read more [here](#).



Hit The Brakes: Speed Cameras May Be Coming To LA

Keep an eye on that speedometer. Glendale is one of six California cities that could be designated to be a pilot location for a speed camera program intended to reduce traffic deaths if a bill currently making its way through the state legislature were signed into law.

Read the LAist feature [here](#).



Metro “Multimodal” 605 Freeway Ramp-Widening Project Out to Bid with No Multimodal Component

Metro recently put its \$20+ million 605 Freeway South Street project out to bid. The I-605 South Street Off-Ramp Improvement Project is part of Metro's I-605 Hot Spots Program, which is a sort of catch-all funding category for widening the 605, the 91, the 60, and several ramps and roadways leading to these freeways.

Read the **STREETSBLOG LA** feature [here](#).



Congress Wades Into Self-Driving Debate With New House Bills

Congress is wading into the debate over whether automakers should be allowed to sell hundreds of thousands of self-driving cars while manufacturers seek federal permission to expand testing of the technology. The U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee is scheduled to consider two pieces of legislation that would increase the number of cars exempt from federal motor-vehicle safety standards requiring human drivers.

Read the **Transport Topics** feature [here](#).

Webinars & Online Events

Survey: Battery Electric, Hybrid, and Plug-in-Hybrid Vehicle Fire Safety Study

The National Disaster Preparedness Training Center at the University of Hawai'i is conducting a research study on the public's awareness of the risks of battery electric and hybrid vehicle fires. With the move towards decarbonizing transportation and the increasing number of electric vehicles on the road, this study will assist in understanding people's perception, understanding, and experience with the safety of batteries associated with electric, hybrid, and plug-in hybrid vehicles. The findings will assist our center in developing training for first responders.

[More Info](#)

Distinguished Speaker Series: Sarah Kaufman

Thursday, July 27th at 1:00 pm PDT (online), hosted by WTS

Sarah M. Kaufman is the Interim Executive Director of the NYU Rudin Center for Transportation, where she researches, advocates for, and educates about, cutting-edge technologies in transportation. She is also an Adjunct Associate Professor of Planning, teaching Intelligent Cities and Advanced Projects in Urban Planning. Ms. Kaufman directs several projects related to improving transportation through technology: an autonomous vehicles policy framework for NYC; The Pink Tax on Transportation, an analysis of how safety concerns impact women's travel patterns in New York City; Intelligent Paratransit, to rethink how we transport seniors and the disabled; and the Emerging Leaders in Transportation Fellowship, a program to enhance innovation at all levels of transportation planning and policymaking.

[More Info](#)

Webinar: Road Weather and Use Variable Speed Limits: Technology Applications for Rural Road Safety

Tuesday, August 1st at 11:00 am PDT, hosted NRITS

The speakers in this webinar will share information on two current weather responsive variable speed limit applications, one in Arizona for dust conditions and one in Virginia for fog. In addition, speakers will cover research plans for integration of connected vehicle information and road weather information systems, and the automation of weather, traffic and pavement data as input to variable speed limit applications.

[More Info](#)

AI power for efficient logistics operations

Tuesday, August 10th at 2:00 am PDT (online), hosted by Martin Schmitz

Discover how AI technologies are driving efficiency, accuracy, and cost-effectiveness across the entire supply chain. Gain valuable insights into real-world case studies and learn practical strategies to optimize inventory management, packaging, and more. Impact of AI in logistics, Transition of AI into logistic operations, The easy switch to robotics, Real-time tracking and monitoring of inventory using IoT and AI

[More Info](#)

Webinar: TRID - Your Lifelong Learning Tool for Transportation Research

Tuesday, August 22nd at 11:00 am PDT, hosted by TRB

TRID helps researchers locate solutions to problems, avoid duplication of work, save resources, and satisfies Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements to consult TRB's TRIS Databases to identify ongoing or previously completed research on a given topic. TRB will host a webinar that will help users understand what is in TRID and how to use its search functions. Learn ways to find the most relevant publications and other products from transportation research projects.

[More Info](#)

Women in Rail: Panel Discussion

Wednesday, August 23rd at 11:30 am PDT (in-person), hosted WTS-LA

Please join us for an in-person luncheon and panel discussion with High Speed Rail, Metrolink, LA Metro, and Union Pacific Railroad! Panelists: LaDonna DiCamillo, Southern California Regional Director, High Speed Rail, Elizabeth Lun, Assistant Director of Design, Metrolink, Avital Barnea, Senior Executive Officer of Multimodal Integrated Planning, LA Metro, Lupe Valdez, Senior Director of Public Relations, Union Pacific Railroad

[More Info](#)

Webinar: Utilizing Traffic Simulation Models to Analyze Complex Roadway Situations

Tuesday, August 29th at 11:00 am PDT, hosted ITE SIMCAP Committee

This webinar will discuss real world examples of how traffic modeling and simulation have been used to evaluate traffic performance for unique and complex situations. One example will present the modeling of multiple maintenance of traffic phases to determine the impacts to traffic while a construction project is underway. A second example will demonstrate how innovative design treatments are being modeled and implemented in actual projects.

[More Info](#)

IAME Conference 2023

Tuesday, September 5th - 8th (in-person), hosted by METRANS

The METRANS Transportation Consortium at the University of Southern California (USC) and California State University Long Beach (CSULB) is honored to be able to host the International Association of Maritime Economists Conference 2023 (IAME Conference 2023) to be held in Long Beach, California,

September 5-8, 2023. Since its foundation in 1992, IAME has developed into an international association with over 300 individual members from every continent and more than 10 corporate members. The Association is officially linked to two leading academic journals within the field: Maritime Policy & Management and Maritime Economics & Logistics.

[More Info](#)

Mentorship and Speaker Series

Tuesday, September 12th at 3:00 pm PDT (online), hosted by COMTO Maryland

The Transportation Leader Series is a 4-month long program intended to serve as a group mentor experience while also providing an informal networking opportunity for transportation professionals at all levels. This is a chance for junior transportation professionals to gain invaluable insights from leading mid- and senior-level professionals in all transportation sectors while also allowing them a chance to ask vulnerable questions, gain advice and create lasting connections for the next stage of their professional journey and career.

[More Info](#)

Fast Facts

Created for Students, by Students

Balancing Accountability and Flexibility in California's Local Option Sales Taxes

Author: Martin Wachs

Year: 2020

Keywords: California, Tax Measures,
Transportation, Ballot Measures



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