

Memorandum

From: Capitol Transportation Consulting and Pavluchuk & Associates

To: James Corless, Executive Director

Date: May 23, 2023

Subject: Federal Policy Monthly Report

Green Means Go

During the Cap-to-Cap meetings, transportation, housing, and land-use were key issues brought up by many of the interests attending. Following those meetings, the Federal advocacy team met with our local delegation to discuss how funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) as well as the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) could be packaged in a way to support Green Means Go. During those meetings, we discussed our efforts with the US Department of Transportation (DOT) and other Federal agencies to look at how portions of key programs could be set-aside and packaged to develop a pilot program. Congressional delegation members offered their support in working with USDOT to make this a reality and pledged to continue to look at different ways they could exert their authority and influence to see that funding be made available for Green Means Go.

Freight Rail Safety

The U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation approved the bipartisan [Railway Safety Act of 2023](#) led by Senator Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Chair of the Committee, Senators Sherrod Brown, J.D. Vance, Bob Casey and John Fetterman, along with Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Josh Hawley (R-Mo.), following the devastating train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio.

A summary of the key provisions included in the bill can be found [HERE](#).

Grant Update

Following are a list of new grants for consideration:

- **Department of Commerce grants**

This spring, the Department of Commerce through the Economic Development Administration posted several Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO). Several of these programs (with links below) have transportation interests.

- [Regional Innovation and Technology Hubs \(Tech Hubs\)](#) / [NOFO](#)
- [FY 2023 University Center Program](#) / [NOFO](#) (Denver and Austin Regions)
- [FY 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance](#) / [NOFO](#)

- [STEM Talent Challenge](#) / [NOFO](#)

- **Joint Office of Energy and Transportation Ride and Drive Electric funding opportunity**

The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation (Joint Office) has announced a \$51 million Ride and Drive Electric funding opportunity to support the rapid transition to electrified transportation and catalyze private sector investments in clean transportation.

The Ride and Drive Electric funding opportunity will be administered by the Joint Office, which was created through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to leverage the combined expertise of the U.S. Departments of Energy and Transportation to build out a national electric vehicle (EV) charging network that can build public confidence and fill gaps in rural, disadvantaged, and hard-to-reach locations.

Desired outcomes from this funding opportunity include:

- increased industrial capacity, competition, and redundancy for validating and testing charging equipment,
- new business models for electrified shared mobility and fleet-based services,
- and increased opportunities for underserved communities through new jobs and training resources, among others. Aligning with the President's Justice40 Initiative, all applicants must outline the benefits that will be delivered to disadvantaged communities through the Ride and Drive Electric funding opportunity.

[Read the full Ride and Drive Electric funding opportunity announcement.](#) The submission deadline for concept papers is June 16, 2023. Only applicants who have submitted an eligible concept paper will be eligible to submit a full application. The submission deadline for full applications is July 28, 2023.