

Prop L Appropriation for Federal AV Policy



San Francisco
County Transportation
Authority

Community Advisory Committee – Item 5
February 25, 2026

AV Regulatory Framework

FEDERAL	CALIFORNIA		LOCAL
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishes, monitors, enforces vehicle safety standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permits drivers and vehicles to operate in California roadways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permits commercial passenger services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SFMTA manages ROW & operates transit services - SFCTA is Congestion Management Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No specific regulations on AV design, performance, or operations - Adopted AV crash reporting requirements, expanded exemptions program, issued guidance document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2014 AV drivered testing regulations - 2018 AV driverless testing & deployment - 2026 Expected update of AV testing & deployment regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2018 pilot programs for AV drivered & driverless passenger service - 2020 drivered & driverless deployment - 2024 Expanded data reporting requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No local permitting authority over AVs - 2022 Board of Supervisors Resolution re SF AV Policy

SFCTA AV Federal Policy Input

Advocated for adoption of AV **safety standards**, **transparent performance evaluation**, and **open data reporting**

In 2025, Rep. Kevin Mullin requested SFCTA's technical assistance on the **AV Safety Data Act**, which codifies AV crash reporting requirements to NHTSA and establishes new reporting requirements for vehicle immobilizations and vehicle miles traveled.

This year Rep. Mullin requested **continued advisory support on AV policy**

US DOT invited SFCTA to participate in an **AV Peer Exchange to inform federal AV Policy** and provide lessons learned for other cities as they deploy

SELF DRIVE Act

H.R.7390

Author: Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH)

What: Creates first comprehensive federal statutory framework governing AVs, centered on manufacturer-developed “safety cases,” expanded federal preemption of state and local regulation, and a narrower scope of AV crash data reporting.

Our concerns: The bill significantly shifts authority from states to NHTSA, structuring self-certification around qualitative guidance rather than enforceable safety standards. It preempts states and local governments from restricting AV operations if providers comply with the Act’s requirements, limits crash reporting, and prohibits states from adopting additional reporting requirements.

SFCTA Prop L Request - Timely Support Needed

Federal AV legislative package is moving through Congress now - we have an important, time-sensitive opportunity to shape federal AV policy in ways that will directly affect San Francisco, and local governments nationwide.

- Jan 8: Package of AV bills introduced
- Jan 13: Hearings at House Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade
- Feb 4: Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

Timely action is needed to advocate for SFCTA's legislative/policy priorities for AV sector:

- Brief and advise SF delegation, work with bill authors
- Work in coordination with other cities/states and organizations to advance our policy priorities; prevent harmful policies such as Federal pre-emption.

Funding request - Scope of Work

- Support Transportation Authority staff participation in **federal AV policy development**, including:
 - **Develop Federal AV policy strategy** in coordination with other interested agencies, parties
 - **Provide policy input and technical assistance to federal policy makers** on legislative initiatives and regulatory proposals
 - **Engage with Federal Highway Administration** and peer cities on San Francisco's experience with AVs and policy recommendations

Funding request - Budget and Schedule

● Prop L Appropriation Request - \$75,000

- Task 1 - Project Management \$5,000
- Task 2 - AV Policy Development and Technical Assistance \$60,000
- Task 3 - FHWA Education and Peer Exchange \$10,000

● Schedule

- From February 2026 to December 2026
 - *Requesting a Prop L policy waiver to include work completed in February.*

Questions?

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