

# Prop L Appropriation for Federal AV Policy



San Francisco  
County Transportation  
Authority

Transportation Authority Board - Agenda Item 7  
March 10, 2026

# AV Regulatory Framework

| FEDERAL                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | CALIFORNIA                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | LOCAL                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p>U.S. Department of Transportation</p> <p><b>NHTSA</b><br/>NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION</p>                              |  <p>STATE OF CALIFORNIA</p> <p><b>DMV</b><br/>Department of Motor Vehicles</p>                                                           |  <p>PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION<br/>EUREKA<br/>STATE OF CALIFORNIA</p>                                                                            |  <p><b>SFMTA</b></p> <p>San Francisco County Transportation Authority</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishes, monitors, enforces vehicle safety standards</li> </ul>                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permits drivers and vehicles to operate in California roadways</li> </ul>                                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permits commercial passenger services</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SFMTA manages ROW &amp; operates transit services</li> <li>- SFCTA is Congestion Management Agency</li> </ul>       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No specific regulations on AV design, performance, or operations</li> <li>- Adopted AV crash reporting requirements, expanded exemptions program, issued guidance document</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2014 AV drivered testing regulations</li> <li>- 2018 AV driverless testing &amp; deployment</li> <li>- 2026 Expected update of AV testing &amp; deployment regulations</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2018 pilot programs for AV drivered &amp; driverless passenger service</li> <li>- 2020 drivered &amp; driverless deployment</li> <li>- 2024 Expanded data reporting requirements</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No local permitting authority over AVs</li> <li>- 2022 Board of Supervisors Resolution re SF AV Policy</li> </ul>   |

# 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
- *Requesting an amendment to the Citywide and Modal Planning 5-Year Prioritization Program to add this project using funds from a planning placeholder*

## ● Schedule

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

# Questions?

**Jean Paul Velez**

Principal Transportation Planner  
Technology Policy



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[sfcta.org/stay-connected](https://sfcta.org/stay-connected)