



PUBLIC POLICY NEWSLETTER

ACT Signs On to COMTO's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Ruling Comment Letter



COMMENTS

The U.S. DOT recently released an interim final rule and guidance for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. The U.S. DOT and the US Department of Justice consider the DBE program to be unconstitutional, arguing that race and sex-based presumptions are a violation of the Fifth Amendment.

ACT joined the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) on their letter to the U.S. DOT, arguing for a reimagined DBE program with the goal of having it included in the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization legislation. [You can read the draft letter here](#) – ACT will notify our members when the official letter is released.

**Read the
letter**

Judge Rules U.S. DOT Cannot Withhold Federal Funds Based on Cooperation with Immigration Enforcement



USDOT

On November 4, U.S. District Judge John McConnell ruled that the Trump Administration cannot tie transportation funding to cooperation with immigration enforcement. The decision invalidates an April U.S. DOT directive that tied grant eligibility to collaboration with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Twenty states challenged the policy, arguing it exceeded the agency's authority. This ruling holds nationwide impact, affecting all FAA, FTA, FRA, FHWA, and other DOT grants. While the condition is struck down, further appeals remain possible.



Government Reopens After Historic Shutdown

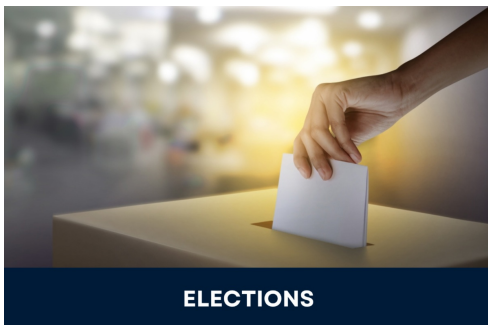


After the longest shutdown in U.S. history, the federal government has officially reopened. Lawmakers reached a compromise on a funding package that provides full-year funding for a select group of agencies, while all others will operate under short-term funding through January 30. The main cause of the shutdown, disagreements over extending the Affordable Care Act subsidies, has yet to be resolved. Republican Senate leadership agreed to give Democrats a vote in December on extending these subsidies.

The Department of Transportation has resumed normal operations. If you have questions about the shutdown and its impact, please reach out to Emma (ewasserman@actweb.org).

[Contact Emma](#)

2025 Election Recap: Big Wins for Democrats and Transit



The elections on November 4, resulting in a near sweep for Democrats up and down the ballot, highlight a dramatic shift in voter opinion and trends from last year's presidential election. Moreover, transit ballot measures were proposed across the country, with the vast majority winning.

Winning Candidates' Views on Transportation
Mayor-Elect of New York City, Zohran Mamdani, ran his campaign with a relentless focus on making the city more affordable.

A crux of his platform was to make buses fast and free. As Mayor, Mamdani plans to eliminate fares on all buses throughout the city and improve their efficiency by “rapidly building priority lanes, expanding bus queue jump signals, and [creating] dedicated loading zones to keep double parkers out of the way.” The campaign argues this policy will save NYC riders 32 million hours every year and generate \$1.5 billion in savings.

Nearby, Mikie Sherrill, Governor-Elect of New Jersey, plans to address congestion by investing in mass transit while continuing improvements to roads and rails. During her time in Congress, Sherrill has been a supporter of the Gateway Project, which builds more train tunnels under the Hudson river from New Jersey into New York City. She also believes NJ Transit must have a...

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