



The Big Beautiful Bill Act Signed Into Law, While ACT Achieves Win for Commuter Tax Benefits



Just hours short of their self-imposed deadline, Republicans pushed through the sweeping “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” after months of back-and-forth debate among Republicans in both chambers. The sprawling piece of legislation is marked by deep cuts to Medicaid and SNAP, expanded tax breaks, and a host of other contentious provisions. While national coverage has focused on the broader implications, a critical issue for Transportation Demand Management (TDM) professionals flew under the radar: the survival of commuter tax benefits.

A proposal to eliminate the Qualified Transportation Fringe Benefit (QTFB) in its entirety, including transit, vanpool, parking, and bicycle benefits, was initially floated as part of Republican cost-cutting efforts. Through sustained and strategic advocacy, ACT was able to protect transit, vanpool, and parking benefits in the final legislation, with the only draw being the bicycle benefit facing elimination. While we’re disappointed that the bicycle commuter benefit...

Keep reading below for more and a comprehensive recap of ACT's efforts on the bill.

Keep reading

Bridging the Rural Mobility Gap: The Case for Transportation Demand Management in Rural Communities



ACT is pleased to announce the release of our latest white paper [*Bridging the Rural Mobility Gap: The Case for Transportation Demand Management in Rural Communities*](#). This publication explores the role TDM strategies can play in enhancing mobility options and quality of life in rural areas. Despite making up 75% of U.S. counties, rural communities remain underserved by transportation options, leaving millions without reliable access to jobs, healthcare, and basic services.

The report includes compelling case studies from Minnesota, Nebraska, Montana, and South Carolina, where innovative vanpool and transit programs have yielded strong economic and

social benefits. In Minnesota, for example, rural transit generates \$127.9 million in economic value.

Read the full report below and join ACT in transforming rural mobility.

**Read the
report**

Join us at the International Conference for Public Policy Sessions



ACT's public policy team is excited to hold 2 sessions at this year's International Conference in New Orleans! Join us for the following sessions:

[Monday, August 4 - Federal Policy Fast Forward: What the next year will bring for TDM Policy at the Federal Level](#)

Federal transportation policy is constantly evolving—and in today's political climate, staying informed and prepared is more important than ever.

Join members of ACT's Government Affairs Team and Public Policy Committee for an engaging, interactive session exploring what's ahead on the federal policy front over the coming year. Gain insider insights into upcoming legislation, strategies for effective advocacy, and how to position yourself and your organization for success in a rapidly changing environment. Experience the policy process from multiple perspectives—constituent, congressperson, and lobbyist—and walk away with practical tools and knowledge to confidently navigate whatever policy shifts lie ahead.

Speakers:

- **Matt Meservy**, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Director of Planning
- **Ben Odendahl**, Smith Garson, Senior Counsel
- **Brett Garson**, Smith Garson, CEO
- **Veronica Jarvis**, Thurston Regional Planning Council, Senior TDM Planner

[Tuesday, August 5 - TDM as Resilience: How TDM programs are essential for construction and unplanned closures](#)

In this session, join panelists from Baltimore and Philadelphia as they share how Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies have helped them avoid worst-case congestion scenarios during high-impact disruptions. Whether it's a major sporting event, concert, long-term construction, or an unexpected infrastructure failure, communities need smart strategies to keep people moving.

Learn how to effectively communicate the value of TDM to policymakers and community leaders, and explore real-world examples of TDM strategies in action during infrastructure failures and the management of demand that far exceeds capacity. Discover how proactive planning and flexible strategies not only keep traffic flowing but can also accelerate construction timelines. The session will also highlight the importance of building strong, cross-agency partnerships in advance—including with emergency operations planning agencies and public information officers—to ensure a more resilient, adaptive transportation system when it matters most.

Speakers:

- **Stacy Bartels**, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Manager, Office of TDM Strategy and Marketing
- **Aniya Smith**, City Of Baltimore, Transportation Marketing Coordinator
- **Brett Thorne**, AICP, City Of Baltimore, Chief of Transportation Services
- **Sara Hendricks**, TDM-CP, Center For Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), Senior

Visit the conference
site

Winnipeg Approves \$4.3 Billion Transportation Plan to Build a More Accessible, Multimodal Future



The City of Winnipeg recently approved a bold, long-term [transportation plan](#) committing \$4.3 billion over the next 25 years to reshape how residents move around the city. The plan works to shift travelers away from single-occupancy vehicles and create a multimodal transportation system that includes transit, active transportation, and strategic investments in existing roads. The plan has four primary goals: “improving accessibility and equity, increasing road safety, enhancing economic prosperity, and shifting travel mode share — encouraging more walking, cycling and transit use.”

As Winnipeg’s population approaches one million, the city faces growing transportation demands on aging infrastructure. Winnipeg’s plan prioritizes utilizing and maintaining their current transportation infrastructure before building new roads. The plan highlights the forthcoming implementation of a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategy. In addition, pilot projects are expected including "designated truck lanes, pop-up active transportation corridors, secure bike parking, curbside management trials and reduced parking on arterial roads.” Winnipeg’s plan marks a pivotal step toward a more resilient, multimodal transportation network that supports the city’s long-term growth and livability.

ACT Thanks Members for Advancing TDM Policy



ACT would like to thank our members that joined meetings this month with Congressional Offices. A special thank you goes to **Trent Schultz** for joining a call with Rep. Wied’s (R-WI-8) office, **Lynn Rumbaugh and Linda DuPriest** for meeting with Rep. Hurd’s (R-CO-3) office, **Jennifer Sazehn** for speaking with Sen. Graham’s (R-SC) office, and **Lonny Stern** for meeting with Rep. Sessions’ (R-TX-17) and Rep. John Carter’s (R-TX-31) office.

Additional Policy Resources



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