

A note from Executive Director David Straus

Dear ACT members and friends,

As many of us have seen, January has brought significant upheaval and uncertainty from the new Trump Administration and the 119th Congress. Many members have voiced concerns about the shifting landscape of federal transportation funding and the potential impact on critical projects and programs they manage. The wave of Executive Orders and accompanying memos from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has led to a lack of clarity and turned all standing norms for receiving federal funds on their heads.



At ACT, we recognize the challenges this uncertainty presents for our members. We want to assure you that we are actively monitoring developments, analyzing policy changes, and...

Continue reading for details about our upcoming virtual discussion and more...

Commuter Benefits Webinar, Board Approval, White Paper, Template, One Pager



On February 6, ACT's Board of Directors moved to approve the Commuter Benefits Work Group's recommendations for improving and enhancing the Qualified Transportation Fringe Benefit (QTFB). The proposed recommendations include changes to parking, vanpooling, and transit benefits while also adding micromobility and carpooling to the program.

ACT has released a variety of materials in conjunction with the board's approval including a white paper on the specifics of our recommendations and a template letter to be used as part of advocacy efforts to protect the QTFB. You can find them on this page. Additionally, if you did not have the chance to attend our webinar "Learn About and Discuss ACT's Proposal for Improving Commuter Tax Benefits," you can find the recording here.

Congress is set to pass a <u>reconciliation bill</u> in the coming months. In a 50-page memo, Republicans detailed all of their possibilities for cutting government spending. Among these was the complete elimination of the QTFB. ACT is currently assessing our advocacy strategy for protecting the benefit. If you are interested in advocating in the meantime, please reach out to <u>Emma Wasserman</u> for further assistance.

USDOT Memos & Executive Orders – Policy Alert and Virtual Discussion



In response to the changes initiated by President Trump's Executive Orders and the USDOT's accompanying memos, ACT released a policy alert detailing the specifics of these documents. These directives have the potential to significantly affect how state DOTs, MPOs, transit agencies, and others can receive federal funding.

Please find the policy alert <u>here</u>.

Further, ACT will be holding a virtual discussion on **Friday, February 14 at 1 p.m. ET** for our members to discuss and explore the implications of these policy changes on key funding programs supporting TDM initiatives. This is an opportunity for ACT members to share insights into how these directives may impact your programs and organization and reshape federal funding priorities. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in conversation, ask questions, and gain a deeper understanding of the evolving transportation landscape.

Our goal is to identify opportunities for ACT to address these challenges and better advocate for you, our members.

Read the policy alert

Register for the discussion

Attending this webinar qualifies for 1 TDM-CP Credit.

Where to Follow Federal Changes

ACT is committed to providing our members with as many resources as possible to help navigate the multitude of changes happening in our government. Below are a few resources where you can keep up with current transportation happenings.

USDOT Newsroom

House Transportation and Infrastructure Newsroom

White House Newsroom

Senate EPW Republican Press Releases Senate EPW Democratic Press Releases

Executive Order Tracker - Gibson Dunn

FHWA Press Releases





This week, staff members Emma Wasserman and David Straus have been meeting with Congressional offices and committee staffers on Capitol Hill. ACT met with the offices of Jake Auchincloss (D-MA), Mike Thompson (D-CA), Mike Lawler (R-NY), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Marilyn Strickland (D-WA), the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

ACT focused its meetings on protecting and strengthening the qualified transportation fringe benefit and laying the groundwork for the upcoming Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill.



NEVI Funding Temporarily Rescinded

The new leadership at the U.S. Department of Transportation has rescinded the current guidance for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program. In a statement released on February 6, the USDOT states that "the current NEVI Formula Program Guidance...and all prior versions of this guidance are rescinded" and "no new obligations may occur under the NEVI Formula Program until the updated final NEVI Formula Program Guidance is issued and new State plans are submitted and approved."

> Read more

Additional Policy Resources













