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AMPO News

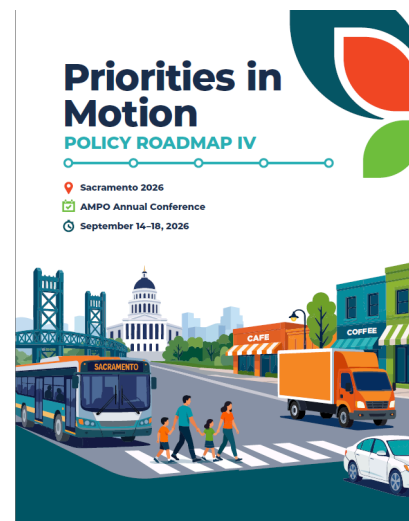
As we continue the momentum from the 2026 AMPO Annual Conference in Sacramento, we want to make sure you have access to the resources and updates shared during and after the event. If you missed our post-conference email—or simply want to revisit the conference—links to a clickable conference agenda, including session presentations, and photos from the conference can be found below.

In Case You Missed It: Policy Roadmap IV

During the Annual Conference, AMPO released [Policy Roadmap IV: Priorities in Motion](#), outlining how member-driven priorities are shaping a shared national agenda and advancing in Congress as the current surface transportation authorization reaches its September 30, 2026 expiration.

The Roadmap centers on four priorities: modernizing metropolitan planning funding, empowering regional decision-making, streamlining federal programs, and advancing safety through regional action. It also provides MPOs with practical context and resources to communicate regional priorities and engage in the federal reauthorization process.

Be sure to explore Policy Roadmap IV: Priorities in Motion and use AMPO's [MPO Engagement Toolkit](#) to help elevate MPO priorities with key decision-makers as reauthorization moves forward.



[Clickable Agenda](#)

[Conference Photos](#)

Welcome Our Newest AMPO Member

Please join us in welcoming our newest MPO member, Macon Area Transportation Study! You can learn more about our latest Georgia-based member [here](#).

MATS

Interested in joining AMPO as an MPO member, DOT Partner or Industry Partner? Click [here](#) to learn more or contact our Membership Director, [Jessica O'Keefe](#), directly.



Ellen Zavisca, AMPO's Director of Planning & Research, met with MPOs across the state of Wisconsin on Sept. 25 at their annual meeting in Oshkosh. She discussed the many ways AMPO serves the MPO community as well as that latest news related to reauthorization of the surface transportation bill.

A Message From AMPO Executive Industry Partner - Michelin Mobility Intelligence

AMPO EXECUTIVE PARTNER

Moving Millions: What a Major International Soccer Tournament Teaches About Transportation Resilience

MICHELIN
MOBILITY INTELLIGENCE

By Nishant Pareek

Earlier this summer, I attended a major international soccer match in Atlanta with my family. As we made our way into the city, I found myself paying attention to everything happening around the match. Roads were busy. Transit stations were full. Thousands of people were trying to reach the same destination at roughly the same time.

As someone who works in mobility analytics, I wondered what really happens when an entire region starts behaving differently for a single event.

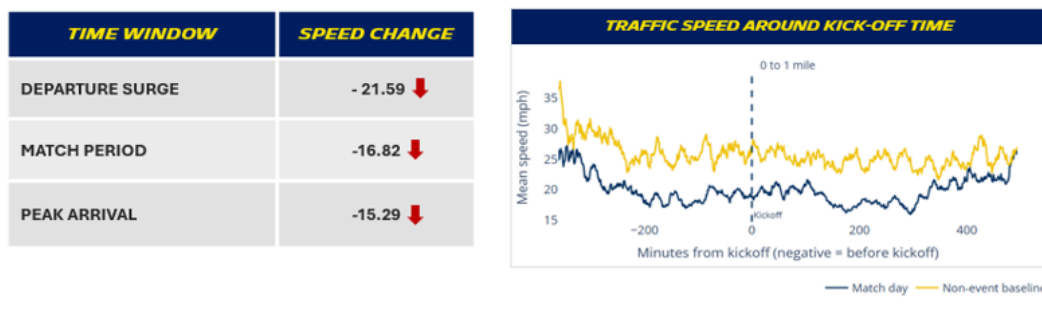
That experience brought a real-world perspective to a question Michelin Mobility Intelligence was already examining through its *Moving Millions: What Major Events Reveal About Transportation Resilience* [study](#). We examined tournament matches across seven host cities to understand how congestion, risk, and operations evolve during mega-events. Several clear patterns emerged.

Takeaway #1: The greatest impacts stay close to the venue

One of the strongest findings was that disruption was localized. Across host cities, the greatest impacts occurred within one mile of the venue.

In Atlanta, the most substantial slowdowns were concentrated around the stadium, with impacts dropping significantly beyond the venue core.

CONGESTION IMPACT ON TRAFFIC FLOW (WITHIN 1 MILE RADIUS AROUND THE STADIUM)



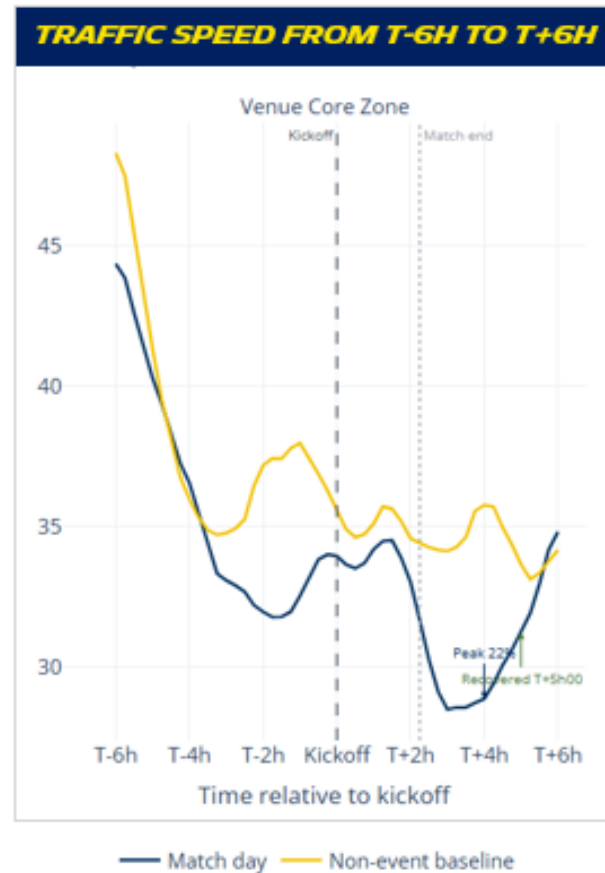
For agencies, this reinforces the importance of targeted planning. Rather than treating an entire metro area as equally affected, resources can be prioritized around the corridors and

access points most likely to experience stress.

Takeaway #2: The real challenge begins after the event ends

Many people assume the biggest transportation challenge is getting fans to the venue. Our data suggests otherwise.

In Atlanta and other host cities, the most significant traffic impacts occurred during the departure period.



Peak is calculated by comparing match-day speed with normal-day speed at each 15-minute interval and finding the largest difference: it does not represent the highest or lowest speed on the chart.

For planners, that means the final whistle should not mark the end of operations planning. In many cases, it marks the beginning of the most demanding period.

Takeaway #3: Congestion, risk, and pedestrian exposure often overlap

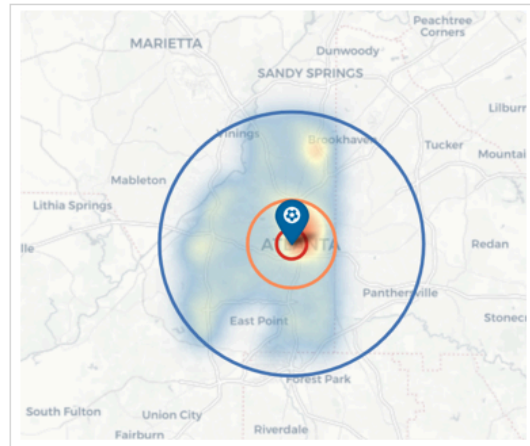
Traffic delays tell only part of the story. By analyzing harsh-braking activity alongside traffic conditions, we found that areas experiencing the greatest congestion often showed elevated behavioral risk signals as well.

Major events increase the number of people walking between venues, transit stations, rideshare locations, restaurants, and parking areas. When elevated pedestrian activity overlaps with congestion and risk signals, areas surrounding major venues become critical safety zones, not just traffic management zones.

EVENTS

(WITHIN 1 MILE RADIUS AROUND THE STADIUM)

RISK ZONE	MEDIAN CHANGE VS BASELINE
Venue Core Zone	+1221.8%
Primary Influence Zone	+885.4%
Regional Mobility Zone	+727.3%



Takeaway #4: Data helps agencies move from reaction to preparation

Perhaps the most important lesson from this study is that mega-event transportation impacts follow recognizable patterns. While every city is unique, agencies can use mobility intelligence to understand where pressure is likely to emerge, when it will peak, and where risks may affect both drivers and pedestrians.

Major events will continue to test transportation systems. With the right data and planning, agencies can better prepare for the travel demand they create.

The *Moving Millions* study helps agencies turn event lessons into practical transportation resilience and safety strategies.

[Read Full Study Here](#)

AMPO Responds to Proposed Census Changes

AMPO has submitted [formal comments](#) on the Census Bureau's proposed changes to residence criteria and demographic questions, highlighting potential impacts on transportation planning, including data continuity, forecasting and modeling, MPO/TMA designations, federal funding, Title VI analysis, and small-area planning.

AMPO also joined the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) in [requesting an extension](#) of the public comment period. Additionally, AMPO has developed a [customizable MPO comment letter template](#) that MPOs can use as a framework for submitting their own comments with region-specific feedback to the Federal Register.

Comments are currently due **October 13, 2026**.

Resources: [AMPO Comment Letter](#) | [MPO Comment Letter Template](#) | [National Beat Analysis](#) | [Webinar Recording](#) | [View Proposed Rule](#) | [Submit Comments](#)

MPO Survey Opportunities: Health Metrics and Conformity Practices

AMPO is partnering with [ITE](#) and with MPOs across the state of Texas in survey research that will assist the MPO community in two key areas of our work: linking transportation with health impacts, and better understanding transportation/air quality conformity processes. If your MPO has an interest in health metrics or is engaged in a conformity process, we encourage you to respond to these surveys!

Responses are requested to both surveys by October 9.

ITE's survey focuses on **current and emerging MPO practices around health metrics** to identify and share success stories, understand common barriers, and gather strategies for addressing them. Your contributions will help to develop strategic resources (webinars, published articles, and educational resources) on the current state of the practice and how practitioners can most effectively-advance it (within MPOs, member and partner agencies, and consulting firms).

[Take the Health Metrics Survey](#)

The survey from the Texas MPOs focuses on **challenges that are sometimes part of the transportation/air quality conformity process**, including delays and interagency coordination.

[Take the Transportation Conformity Survey](#)

Join Us

Interest Group participants can claim AICP credits following the webinar

Environment & Resiliency Interest Group Q4 Webinar

November 4 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET

Topic: Emergency Route Planning — Preparing for Disasters

Register [here](#)

Core Products Interest Group Q4 Webinar

November 10 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET

Topic: Performance Measures and Visualization

Register [here](#)

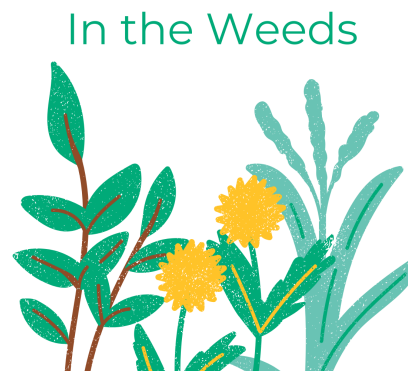


In The Weeds

In the weeds, you'll find timely updates from the Federal Register as it pertains to our industry.

NHTSA Waives Requirements for State Safety Targets to Match HSIP

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration has regulations requiring that states submit safety targets that align with those included in each state's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). NHTSA has announced an amendment to [23 CFR 1300.11](#) to waive the requirement that the targets for common performance measures submitted in the State's FY 2027 triennial Highway Safety Plan be identical to those in the HSIP annual report submitted August 31, 2026. Although this action affords States flexibility to continue to use non-identical targets for FY 2027, NHTSA encourages State Highway Safety Offices (HSOs) and State DOTs to continue to collaborate as they work together to implement a Safe System Approach and reduce deaths and serious injuries on our roadways. Read [more](#).



USDOT Finalizes Changes to DBE Regulations

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has finalized amendments to its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) regulations that were published as an interim rule in October 2025. The

new regulation eliminates race- and sex-based presumptions that USDOT determined to be unconstitutional while making a few modifications to the language in the interim rule. In place of the previous DBE rules is a program requiring firms to demonstrate disadvantaged ownership through “an individualized personal narrative (PN) process. Read [more](#).

FHWA Requests Comments on Streamlining Experiments

Comment period: Oct. 26, 2026

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is seeking comments on a new process for submission and evaluation of applications under SEP-16, SEP-15, and TE-045 (collectively the “three experimental projects”). The purpose of the modification is to achieve a streamlined, uniform process to reduce burden and improve the efficiency of the application and evaluation process for all three experimental projects. These three experimental projects were created in recent decades to test different methods of streamlining and funding transportation projects. The applications processes for the three experimental projects are all different, and this proposal seeks to make them consistent and less time-consuming. Read [more](#).

NHTSA Issues Final Rule on CAFE Standards

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has issued a final rule making changes to the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) program. Previous regulations would have required a 2% annual increase in fuel efficiency for passenger cars and trucks, leading to average fuel economy of 50.4 miles per gallon (MPG) by 2031. This change reduces the increase in fuel economy to 1% per year, meaning the fleet would reach an average fuel economy of 34.9 MPG by 2031. This matters for MPOs because many of them use models of the future fuel economy of vehicles to predict emissions, especially in regions that are in nonattainment or maintenance status for National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Read [more](#).

Events & Resources

Events

FHWA EDC-8 Regional Peer Exchanges

FHWA will host four regional peer exchanges in October and December 2026 to bring transportation professionals together to discuss implementation of the six Every Day Counts Round 8 (EDC-8) innovations. The free, interactive events will offer opportunities to share practices, learn from regional peers, and explore actionable strategies for advancing innovation.

Upcoming dates and locations:

- Oct. 15: St. Louis, MO
- Oct. 21: Salt Lake City, UT
- Oct. 29: Pittsburgh, PA
- Dec. 2: Houston, TX

If you're interested in participating, contact your FHWA Division Office for more information and registration details. A limited number of participants will be offered travel reimbursement. Learn more about EDC-8 [here](#).

Webinar: Performance-Based Asset Management Investment Strategies

FHWA and FTA will host a webinar highlighting findings from a national study on how MPOs, transit agencies, and State DOTs are connecting performance targets and state of good repair goals to funding and programming decisions. The webinar will feature case studies and practical approaches for data-driven decision-making, interagency coordination, and performance-based planning.

Tuesday, October 13 | 2:00–3:30 PM ET Register [here](#).

Ozone Exchange Air Quality Conference

The Intermountain West Ozone Exchange will bring researchers, policymakers, planners, industry representatives, and community members together to discuss persistent ground-level ozone challenges and strategies for reducing air pollution across the region. The conference will take place **October 26–28, 2026**, in Loveland, Colorado. Learn [more](#).

Resources

FTA Seeks Research Concepts to Advance Public Transportation

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is seeking concept papers for applied research projects that improve the safety, reliability, efficiency, and accessibility of public transportation. Priority areas include reducing deployment risks, improving safety, lowering operating costs, expanding transit benefits and accessibility, and supporting domestic transit manufacturing. Priority deadline: **October 19 at 11:59 PM ET**.

For submission details, visit the [SAM.gov Broad Agency Announcement](#). Questions may be directed to tennile.palmer.ctr@dot.gov.

AMPO Job Board

Interested in learning more about the latest job opportunities in our industry? Click the button below. If you have a job posting that you'd like us to share on our website, please click [here](#).

[AMPO Job Board](#)

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