



**LEAD STAFF:**           **ALEX CLIFFORD, CEO**  
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**REPORT:**               **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**  
                                  **UPDATED 9/14/2022**

### **CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS**

**September 14, 2022.** The Senate Environment & Public Works (EPW) Committee held a hearing on the nomination of Shailen P. Bhatt to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Mr. Bhatt has previously worked at three state DOTs across the country, including Kentucky and Colorado, and as the Secretary of the Delaware DOT, where he worked closely with EPW Chairman Tom Carper (D-DE). RTD receives funding through the FHWA Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program, due to the poor air quality in San Joaquin County. In addition, many programs within FHWA can be flexed from highways to transit. The ability to transfer highway funding for transit provides opportunities for RTD to secure funding through traditional highway programs for transit. The FHWA also administers the newly authorized National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program, which provides \$7.5 billion to build out a national network of EV chargers in the United States. California is expected to receive about \$384 million over five years to support the expansion of an EV charging network in the States. California will also have the opportunity to apply for grants from the discretionary \$2.5 billion program for EV charging. The EV funding through FHWA will be important to RTD in implementing an electric bus fleet. <https://bit.ly/3S2uNdR>

***Effect on RTD: The nomination of Shailen Bhatt is informational for RTD.***

### **OTHER REPORTS/NOTICES/NEWS ARTICLES**

**September 12, 2022.** The FTA announced their participation in the DOT's multi-modal "Stop. Trains Can't" campaign. The campaign runs September 12-December 14, 2022, to promote rail safety awareness near rail grade crossings and reminds drivers of the precautions they must take. Over the last five years (2-12-2016) 1,225 people died while trying to cross railroad tracks. The Federal Railroad Administration and national Highway Traffic Safety Administration have launched a national railroad crossing safety ad campaign to increase public awareness around railroad tracks and reduce crossing deaths and injuries. <https://bit.ly/3digNy3>