CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

GO SAFELY CALIFORNIA

Contact:
Timothy.weisberg@ots.ca.gov

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 19, 2026

Safety is the destination all Californians share: The California Office of Traffic Safety announces nearly $123 million in road safety projects

What you need to know: The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) awards approximately $122.7 million for more than 480 projects to enhance safety across California's transportation system.

SACRAMENTO – The OTS announced today approximately $122.7 million in funding for more than 480 projects that combine innovation and proven measures to address the state's most significant traffic safety issues so people across California can keep moving safely.

"As we go about our everyday activities, whether traveling to work and school, visiting friends and family or recreation – we deserve to get places safely," OTS Director Stephanie Dougherty said. "Through collaboration and partnership, we are building positive momentum toward our vision that all people will be safe on California roads. The OTS is committed to advancing proven strategies, innovative solutions and a shared safety culture to enhance road safety in communities across the state."

The OTS funds hundreds of projects throughout the state in the areas of alcohol and drug-impaired driving, distracted driving, seat belts and child safety seats, bicycle, e-device and pedestrian safety, emergency medical services, speeding and reckless driving and traffic records.

Funding also supports the OTS "Go Safely, California" program, a statewide public education and encouragement initiative that is centered on looking out for one another. In partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the program develops and runs statewide public education campaigns, establishes strategic partnerships and holds community outreach and engagement activities. As part of "Go Safely, California," the Traffic Safety Champion program encourages organizations, communities and families to play an active role in traffic safety. Whether through educating others, working with traffic safety organizations, organizing events or sharing traffic safety messages, Californians are equipped with tools and resources to champion safety.

The OTS grant awards build upon historic state and federal transportation investments that continue to expand safe transportation options in communities across the state. Since 2019, under the Governor's Build More, Faster – For All agenda, the Newsom administration has allocated more than $81.1 billion to transportation projects across California.

This funding adds to the state's significant investments in transportation infrastructure that work to reduce serious injury and fatal crashes.

"Under Governor Newsom's leadership, California is taking bold action against the most dangerous driving behaviors and advancing the state's commitment to safety through innovation, accountability, and prevention," California Transportation Secretary Toks Omishakin said. "From proven strategies to advance impaired driving prevention to e-bike training certification programs for youth riders to the expansion of prehospital blood programs in Los Angeles County, these grants reflect our desired outcome: that every person in every community, regardless of their travel mode, is safe."

California continues to take a prevention-first approach to traffic safety. In October 2025, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) and California Health and Human Services Agency released the Joint Secretary's Policy on Road Safety, which integrates public health-based strategies that act on more upstream, population-level measures that reduce exposure, crash likelihood and injury severity. The policy also sets an aspirational, interim goal to reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries on California roads by 30 percent by 2035.

As California's designated highway safety office charged with delivering effective education, enforcement and other innovative traffic safety programs, the OTS is doubling down on proven strategies that make getting to and from places safely the expectation, not the exception.

As part of the traffic safety funding, the OTS is awarding nearly $21 million to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to support 20 projects that span both statewide initiatives and localized efforts. These grants aim to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries through targeted education, enforcement and community engagement that meets the unique needs of communities across California.

"This funding provides the California Highway Patrol with additional resources to educate drivers, address dangerous behavior, and prevent traffic-related deaths," CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee said. "Through enforcement and community-based education, we can help make California's roads safer for everyone who uses them."

The CHP statewide initiatives include:

- **Impaired Driving Prevention, approximately $8 million**: Funds driving under the influence (DUI) checkpoints, high-visibility patrols, including national enforcement efforts and public education campaigns about the dangers and consequences of impaired driving. Supports additional enforcement and education efforts for teens, including the Every 15 Minutes program. Other programs include warrant service operations for people who fail to appear in court or pay DUI-related fines, the Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE) program, which trains law enforcement to better recognize the signs and symptoms of

impairment. Additionally, a regional safety grant program in the CHP Grass Valley and Temecula Areas will support enforcement and public education, including repeat DUI-offender task force operations, where DUI is a primary crash factor.

- **Speed Prevention, Education and Enforcement Deterrence, $2 million**: Supports enforcement and public education to reduce crashes caused by speeding and aggressive driving, such as unsafe turns, passing or lane changes and following too closely.
- **Sideshow, Takeover, Racing, Education and Enforcement, $1.6 million:** Funds public education campaigns, targeted enforcement and officer training to reduce illegal street racing and sideshow activities.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety, Education, Enforcement and Awareness Program, approximately $1 million**: Supports enforcement operations targeting dangerous driving behaviors that put bicyclists and pedestrians at risk, especially in school zones and at bus stops, as well as public awareness campaigns to improve biking and walking safety.
- **Distracted Driving Prevention:** Supports program with Impact Teen Drivers (ITD) to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving and promote safe habits among teens. Provides adult-focused education and enforcement of the state's hands-free cell phone law, including free interactive classes and community outreach.
- **New Driver and Older Adult Driver Education, $775,000:** Educates newly licensed teen drivers and their parents on safe driving habits through free, officer-led classes at CHP offices, as well as public awareness campaigns, community outreach and education focused on how older drivers can stay safe and confident behind the wheel.
- **Get Educated and Ride Safe, $600,000:** Funds enforcement operations in high-risk areas for motorcycle crashes and education programs focused on the importance of proper helmet use and safe riding practices.
- **California Restraint Safety Education and Training, $850,000:** Provides free child safety seat inspections, car seats for families in need and child passenger safety technician training for CHP and other law enforcement agency personnel.
- **Hispanic/Latino and Native-Tribal Traffic Education, $875,000:** With the nation's largest Hispanic/Latino and Native American populations, expands traffic safety education and outreach to communities that are experiencing a higher rate of traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Funding will support traffic safety education at schools, businesses and community events on or near tribal lands and for Hispanic/Latino residents to reduce crashes and save lives.

Among other projects funded today:

- **Approximately $48 million for law enforcement agencies**: Helps more than 200 law enforcement agencies conduct high-visibility enforcement and education to deter the most reckless driving behaviors such as speeding, distracted and impaired driving, as well as support education programs focused on the safety of people biking and walking.

- **Approximately $10.5 million for Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Programs**: Funds walking and biking safety audits to consider potential infrastructure solutions that expand safe active transportation options, Funding also supports Safe Routes to Schools programs, classroom education, hands-on biking and walking trainings, free bicycle helmets and education on proper fitting and temporary street design installations focused on active transportation safety.
- **$7.85 million for Car Seat Safety Programs**: Supports free child safety seat check-up events, education and installation assistance, child passenger safety technician training and no-cost child safety seats to families in need.
- **Approximately $2.5 million for Emergency Medical Services**: Funds extrication equipment, known as the "Jaws of Life," that allow first responders to reach crash victims faster. Investments also include the use of e-digital alert technology by the Los Angeles and Oxnard Police Departments. Through phone-based apps, drivers are given advance warning of emergency vehicles in the area and reminded to move over a lane or slow down to a reasonable speed when approaching first responders on scene.
- **$700,000 for the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Department of Emergency Medicine:** Expands availability of the Los Angeles County Prehospital Blood Transfusion Program from approximately 500,000 people to 2.7 million people. Funding will support data collection and evaluation of patient outcomes in traffic crashes and lives saved from additional emergency medical services delivering whole blood to traffic crash victims.
- **$26,000 for the Yucaipa Fire Department**: Funds equipment used to store whole blood and administer blood transfusions on scene for traffic crash victims, as well as community presentations on how the equipment works to treat traffic crash victims before they are transported to the hospital.
- **$429,500 for the University of California, Berkeley Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (SafeTREC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH)**: Expands the California Safe System Institute for Road Safety, a program for traffic safety professionals to support Safe System Approach implementation in communities across California. Funds will also support a CDPH program to integrate Safe System Approach principles within local health departments' safety efforts.
- **$400,000 for E-Bike Safety Certification Program and County E-Bike Collaborative:** Funds an e-bike safety certification program with the City of Rancho Cucamonga Engineering Services Department that teaches high school students e-bike laws, best practices and repair skills to become certified e-bike users, as well as community e-bike training courses to help riders navigate roads and shared spaces responsibly. Establishes an e-bike collaborative through the San Mateo County Office of Education that helps school administrators across San Mateo County manage on-campus e-bike use, including guidance on policies, safety education, infrastructure needs, and community engagement.
- **$200,000 for the University of California, Davis Institute for Transportation Studies:** In partnership with the Fresno Council of Governments, funds the creation and deployment of a road safety treatment demonstration kit for

communities across the Central Valley. The kit will show temporary street safety improvements so residents can try out potential and planned street designs that enhance active transportation.
- **$100,000 for the Calaveras County Public Works Department:** Funds speed studies on county roads and data collection across 115 miles of roads to assess speed-limit determinations using technical guidance and increased flexibility to set lower speed limits through recent statutory changes (AB 43 and AB 1938).

The grant programs run until September 30, 2027.

To learn more about the OTS grant programs and the Go Safely, California initiative, visit ots.ca.gov and gosafely.org.

###