



Central Texas Council of Governments
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Central Texas Transportation Grants, Resources, and Updates Newsletter

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Federal and State Legislative Updates

Senate Vote Marks Official Start to Conference on Competition and Innovation Legislation

With a vote of 67 to 27, the U.S. Senate on May.5 agreed to go to conference on the United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA), H.R.4521 and negotiate an agreement with the House of Representatives on a final bill. U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, a key member of the Conference Committee, spoke during the Wednesday committee hearing stressing the national urgency for Congress to invest in U.S. semiconductor manufacturing. Ahead of the Senate vote that set the stage for the conference committee, Cantwell urged her colleagues to come to the table to negotiate a final bill. On March 24, she spoke on the Senate floor about the impact the semiconductor supply chain shortage is having on the price of used cars and delivered remarks about the urgency to appoint a conference committee to resolve differences between the House and Senate bills. If passed, the USICA would provide funding for FY2022-FY2026 to support U.S. semiconductor manufacturing, research and development, and supply chain security. For more information on the bill, click [here!](#)

FHWA Highlights Actions to Tackle Climate Change with New Programs and Historic Funding Under President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) highlighted a variety of actions the agency is taking to protect the environment and combat climate change as part of announcements to celebrate Earth Day 2022. These include new programs and funding under the IIJA that will lower transportation emissions. One program is Quantifying Emissions of Sustainable Pavements, an opportunity to improve sustainability of pavement structures and work towards net-zero emissions. FHWA also partnered with the FTA to develop a Flex Funding Website to help states increase access to transit in order to encourage public transportation projects that reduce single-occupancy vehicle travel and associated air pollution on highways. For more information, click [here!](#)

Central Texas Regional Transportation Advisory Group (CTRTAG) Updates

CTRTAG Quarterly Meeting and Central Texas Transportation Facebook Page

The next CTRTAG meeting will be held on May.19, 2022 at 9:30 AM. This meeting will contain an agenda item discussing progress so far on coordinating and implementing the 2022-26 RCTP from CTCOG and the Hill Country Transit District as well as a Local Agency Update from Killeen.

As part of the coordination of resources and efforts, staff has created a new Central Texas Transportation Facebook page to post resources and updates on implementation of the RCTP. Like and follow the page [here!](#)

To access the 2022-26 RCTP, [Click Here!](#)

If you are interested in providing a Local Agency Update for your City/County at a CTRTAG meeting, contact dominic.elizondo@ctcog.org.

Funding Opportunities and Resources

EPA SmartWay Program

The EPA's SmartWay program helps companies advance supply chain sustainability by measuring, benchmarking, and improving freight transportation efficiency.

Launched in 2004, this voluntary public-private program:

- provides a comprehensive and well-recognized system for tracking, documenting and sharing information about fuel use and freight emissions across supply chains
- helps companies identify and select more efficient freight carriers, transport modes, equipment, and operational strategies to improve supply chain sustainability and lower costs from goods movement
- reduces freight transportation-related emissions by accelerating the use of advanced fuel-saving technologies

For more information on how freight shippers, managers, and haulers can participate in the program, [click here!](#)