



## Transportation Update

January 2026

Welcome to ACEEE's transportation newsletter—a quarterly update on our recent work and opportunities to connect or collaborate with our team.

### Quarterly Highlights

#### ***Opposing harmful rollbacks of fuel efficiency standards***



*Photo by egin akyurt on Unsplash*

ACEEE [opposes](#) a Trump administration proposal that would roll back fuel efficiency standards for cars and light trucks set by the Transportation Department's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2024. The new plan would replace them with much weaker standards, requiring 34.5 mpg on average by 2031, an efficiency level already surpassed by the 2024 light-duty fleet.

Peter Huether, senior research associate, gave testimony against the plan during a public hearing this month, highlighting that it would significantly raise costs for drivers and undermine the competitiveness of U.S. automakers.

#### ***Supporting utilities with strategies that encourage off-peak charging***

Our [recent research](#) explores solutions that utilities can implement to reduce EV charging loads from medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets during peak times. We describe how effective rate design, managed charging programs, and innovative vehicle-to-grid technology solutions can support EV fleet adoption while managing charging loads.



## **Highlighting utility efforts to expand EV charging access in lower-income communities**



*Photo by Andrew Roberts on Unsplash*

ACEEE recently [shared insights](#) on leading utility strategies to expand EV access in low- to moderate-income communities. We highlighted approaches from Southern California Edison, Orlando Utilities Commission, and Duquesne Light Company, among others.

The post draws from ACEEE's [working group](#) on this topic, which convenes representatives from more than 50 utilities in nearly two dozen states.

## **Aligning housing development and transportation for affordable, sustainable communities**



ACEEE supports policy and planning approaches that help align land use, zoning, and transit investments. Integrating housing and transportation can expand affordability, reduce emissions, and improve access to opportunity.

Our two recent blog posts outline how [state](#) and [local](#) policymakers can spearhead progress, highlighting successes such as Minneapolis's coordinated zoning reform and Colorado's transit-oriented communities law. Our recent [topic brief](#) provides insights from housing developers.

## **Collaboration in Action**



Senior research associate *Daivie Ghosh* (right) presented on the panel “Powering the Big Shift: Building Heavy-Duty EV Charging Infrastructure” at the Forth Roadmap Conference in October.



Transportation director *Rachel Aland* (left) moderated the panel “Future-Proofing Charging Infrastructure and Powering Fleets” at the EV Charging Infrastructure US conference in October.



*Senior research analyst Christi Nakajima presented on the benefits of leveraging community-based organizations for public engagement on a panel at the Transportation Crossroads Convening on January 15.*

## Connect with Our Team

Do you have a question, project idea, or another topic you'd like to discuss with our team? Contact us at [transportation@aceee.org](mailto:transportation@aceee.org). You can also find us at upcoming events:

- [NARUC Winter Policy Summit](#): Rachel Aland, transportation director, will speak during the “How Electric Vehicles Can Support Load Growth and Affordability” workshop on the “Flexibility for Commercial Fleets” panel in Washington, DC, on February 8. [Connect with Rachel](#).
- [NACFE Run on Less Data Workshop](#): Christi Nakajima will participate in the upcoming data analysis workshop hosted by NACFE as part of the “Run on Less” freight decarbonization initiative. The workshop is in Boulder, CO, on February 17–18. [Connect with Christi](#).
- [EV Charging Summit & Expo](#): Rachel will speak on the panel “The Next Frontier: Advanced Freight Electrification” in Las Vegas on March 19.

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ACEEE, 529 14th Street., N.W., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20045

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