

San Jose State University

MTM 214: Transportation Policy & Regulation

Fall 2025

Instructor: [Donna DeMartino](#)

Classroom: [Zoom](#)

Course website: Canvas (<http://sjsu.instructure.com>)

Course Format

Students must have regular access to email and the internet in order to communicate with the instructor, submit assignments, and engage in other class activities.

Students attend class sessions online using Zoom, SJSU's online meeting application. During classes, students should:

- Be in a quiet room without distractions (e.g., no family members or colleagues walking through or asking questions)
- Have stable internet access
- Use a video camera and good quality microphone so you are seen as well as heard
- Follow good "meeting etiquette" principles (one such list: <https://blog.gotomeeting.com/7-rules-virtual-meeting-etiquette-every-professional-know/>)

Plan to join at least ten minutes before 5:30 pm, to make sure you are ready when class begins. (The first time you join from a computer or device, allow extra time for set-up.)

The university has many useful tutorials on how to use Zoom here: <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/zoom/index.html>

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Surveys political frameworks of governments as both customer and provider; development of transportation policy with public involvement; and performance measurement with public oversight. Reviews policy impact on intermodal development in seeking to manage public and private objectives and diverse agendas of federal, state, and local agencies.

MSTM Program Learning Goals

Goal 1: Transportation Systems and Society: Craft management decisions that integrate knowledge of multi-modal transportation, social, and environmental systems

Goal 2: Innovation: Develop innovative solutions to transportation management challenges

Goal 3: Leadership: Develop high-impact leadership styles and competencies (traits, skills, behaviors)

Goal 4: Communications: Communicate effectively with a diverse workforce and citizenry

Goal 5: Analytical skills: Identify and evaluate transportation management issues using appropriate data and methods

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the basic framework of transportation legislation, regulations, and policy.
2. Differentiate between laws, regulations, and policies. Understand the methods of enforcement for each.
3. Analyze and explain how to change or modify a law, a regulation, or a policy that is outdated or does not work.
4. Explain the specific resources available to keep up to date on federal, state, and local regulations, requirements, and opportunities.

Required Texts/Readings

Weekly readings and assignments will be available on CANVAS.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, at least 45 hours over the length of the course for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities.

Weekly readings, paragraph summaries, and questions for next week's guest speaker. Eight weeks of the ten-week course, students will be assigned short readings and/or various internet resources to research. Students will submit a summary of the readings, which may be completed by finding answers to questions posed by the instructor. In addition, students must prepare and

submit one question for the upcoming guest speaker. No speaker scheduled for next week? No question required.

Individual Policy and Regulation Challenge. Each student must identify a challenge at work they want to address. Students must write a one-to-two-page memo to their supervisor, manager, or board that clearly provides the problem statement, proposes a solution, and cites resources to support their position. It must also show the reader(s) why they should support the proposal (WIIFM – What’s in it for me (them)).

Class Culminating Project: This will be a team project with a final presentation by the group. Each team will include four students and will select a Policy, Regulation, or Law they would like to change. The team will identify the process to make the change. They will make the case for the change and identify resources used to support their position. Each team will make a 20-minute presentation to the class with each team member participating in the presentation.

Grading Information

Activity	% of Course Grade	Course Learning Objectives Addressed
Weekly Readings and Paragraph Summaries	35 points	1, 2, 4
Individual Policy/Regulation Challenge Project	35 points	1, 2, 3, 4
Class Culminating Team Project	30 points	1, 2, 3, 4

Determination of Grades

Weekly Assignments

- Each weekly assignment will earn five points. They will be graded as pass/fail. Students may miss one of the weekly assignments and still earn all 35 points towards their class grade.
- All points will be given for weekly assignments if completed and turned in on time. These are due by 5 pm on the dates listed in the assignment area of this syllabus (earlier submissions are always welcome). Students will receive 2.5 points for late submissions, if completed within one week of the due date.

Individual Policy/Regulation Challenge Project

- Up to 35 points may be earned for the Individual Policy and Regulation Challenge Project based on the quality of the required memo and the comprehensiveness of the overall submission.
- Late submissions will result in a 5-point reduction in the score for each week it is turned in late.

Class Culminating Team Project

- Up to 30 points may be earned for the Class Culminating Team Project based on the quality of the overall presentation and the student's part in the team process. Individual grades may be assigned above or below the team grade in cases where the student contributed considerably more or less than other team members. Students may be asked to write a short self-assessment of their performance.

Grades will be determined based on points earned: 97 and above = A+, 93 to 96 = A, 90 to 92 = A-, 87 to 89 = B+, 83 to 86 = B, 80 to 82 = B-, 77 to 79 = C+, 73 to 76 = C, 70 to 72 = C-, 67 to 69 = D+, 63 to 66 = D, 60 to 62 = D-, Below 60% = F

Course Schedule

Week 1 - Introduction – Policy, Regulations, and Legislation – How does it all work?

- a. The Big Picture
- b. Why Does it Matter So Much to us in Public Transportation? Funding!
- c. Changing What Does Not Work
- d. The Importance of Public Participation and Public Opinion

Guest Speaker: Therese McMillan, Executive Director (retired), Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Week 2 - Federal Regulations and Policy – History, Funding, and the Rulemaking Process

- a. Federal Investment in Transportation
- b. UMTA to FTA
- c. FHWA, FRA, and FTA (Guidance, FAQs, Webinars, Online Resources)
- d. Regulatory Oversight and Compliance
- e. Federal Advocacy and Lobbyists (APTA, visiting federal representatives)

Guest Speaker: Ward W. McCarragher, Vice-President Government Affairs and Advocacy, American Public Transportation Association

Week 3 - State Regulations and Policy – History, Funding, and Rulemaking Process

- a. TDA
- b. Caltrans and CalSTA
- c. Enforcement of the Rules

Guest Speaker - Chad Edison, Chief Deputy Secretary, Rail and Transit, CalSTA

Week 4 - Transportation and the Environment – Policy and Requirements

- a. Fleet Rule
- b. Innovative Clean Transit
- c. Expectations and Incentives to Transition

Guest Speaker - Yachun Chow, Manager, Zero Emission Truck and Bus Section at California Air Resources Board

Week 5 - Transportation and the Environment – Compliance

- a. The road to zero emissions
- b. Battery Electric and Hydrogen Fuel Cell

Guest Speaker - Lauren Skiver, Chief Operating Officer Rail, NEMT, Fleet Services, and Maintenance, Transdev

Week 6 - Transportation and Civil Rights

- a. ADA and Mobility Management
- b. Equity & Inclusion: What is Happening NOW?

Guest Speakers -

Naomi Armenta, Principal Planner at Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates

Amar Cid, Deputy Director of Community Investments and Planning,
California Strategic Growth Council

Week 7 Public Policy and Public Participation and Impacts on Transportation Policy

- a. MPOs, Title 6, and the Planning Process
- b. Getting Involved and Staying Informed

Guest Speaker - Toks Omishakin, Secretary California State Transportation Agency

Week 8 - Transportation Boards

- a. Different Types of Boards
- b. Policymakers? Maybe
- c. The importance of good staff work

Guest Speaker - Steve Morrissey, Vice President – International Regulatory and Policy

Week 9 - Rulemaking - Stay Informed -Make and Respond to Changes - We Have a Voice!

- a. Making a case with good facts
- b. Review available Resources Covered in Course
- c. Associations as Resources

Guest Speakers

Michael Pimental, Executive Director, California Transit Association

Bill Higgins, Executive Director, CALCOG

CULMINATING PROJECT Team Presentations Begin

Week 10 - CULMINATING PROJECT Team Presentations

Guest Speaker - Ray Tellis, FTA Region 9 Regional Administrator