

National Association of Regional Councils
45th Annual Conference and Exhibition

***Transportation Open Session and
Committee Meeting***

Co-Chairs:

Mr. Lyle Wray, Executive Director, Capitol Region Council of Governments

Mr. Michael Parks, Assistant Executive Director, Brazos Valley Council of Governments

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Building Regional Communities

Transportation Committee

- Welcome and Introduction
- Today's Agenda



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- 1/2011 SOTU
 - “Winning the Future”
 - # of mentions of transportation
 - Presidential recognition of infrastructure as a jobs creator



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- Current Extension of SAFETEA-LU
 - 7th Extension; originally expired 9/30/09
 - Funds program until end of FY11
 - Level OA from 2010
 - \$42.46 billion for highway
 - \$10.33 billion for transit



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- FY 2012 US DOT Budget Request
 - \$128 billion request
 - Assumes many programmatic changes
 - Front loads spending in the first year
 - No recommendations for funding increases



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- FY2012 Congressional Budget
 - Chair Ryan, “Path to Prosperity, Restoring America’s Promise” – *House passed deeming document on 6/1*
 - Significant \$\$ reductions; total BA down 31%
 - No new \$\$ for HFT from increase in user fee increase or general fund transfer



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- FY2012 Congressional Budget
 - Must “live within its means”
 - CBO estimates \$38 billion/yr; or \$230 billion over 6yrs
 - Current CA: \$43 billion/yr FHWA, \$8 billion/yr FTA



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- US House Rules Change
 - Not law, governs how legislation proceeds in House
 - Originally surface \$\$ protected b/c of HTF
 - Now all legislation must conform to budget frameworks; otherwise subject to point of order



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- 5/2011 “Leaked” Admin Surface Policy
 - Draft; sections not supported by Presidents Office
 - \$556 billion over 6yrs; increase not sustained by revenue recommendations
 - Front loaded, \$50 billion in FY2012



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- 5/2011 “Leaked” Admin Surface Policy
 - Program Consolidation
 - Livability with TE, CMAQ, etc.
 - Streamlining
 - Linking planning with NEPA
 - MPO Threshold increase



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- 5/2011 “Leaked” Admin Surface Policy
 - Bottom line: Not official policy but still used as a negotiating document
 - May not see an “official” policy
 - Helps President avoid thorny financing discussions; publicly opposes, privately discusses



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- summer/2011 House action
 - T&I wants to release draft within weeks; markup by fourth of July
 - Streamlining, program consolidation, smaller program, devolution tied to more traditional federal roles
 - Live “within its means”



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- summer/2011 House action
 - Need “floor time”
 - Many competing priorities
 - Debt Ceiling
 - Appropriations (influence of deeming resolution)
 - Entitlement reform



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- summer/2011 Senate action
 - Big 4 joint statement
 - Writing bill now; wants to release June/July
 - Involvement of other committees
 - Senate Commerce Committee
 - Senate Banking Committee
 - Senate Finance Committee



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- summer/2011 Senate action
 - Maintain funding levels: ObLim \$41.5/yr, rising with inflation
 - Program consolidation
 - Big TIFIA expansion (up to \$1 billion)
 - Streamlining with environmental protections



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- Next Steps
 - Examination of Admin concepts
 - Message development/talking points
 - Quick mobilization



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- Examination of Admin concepts
 - What's acceptable/not acceptable?
 - Where is there a role for local governments that doesn't currently exist?
 - What issues should we focus on?

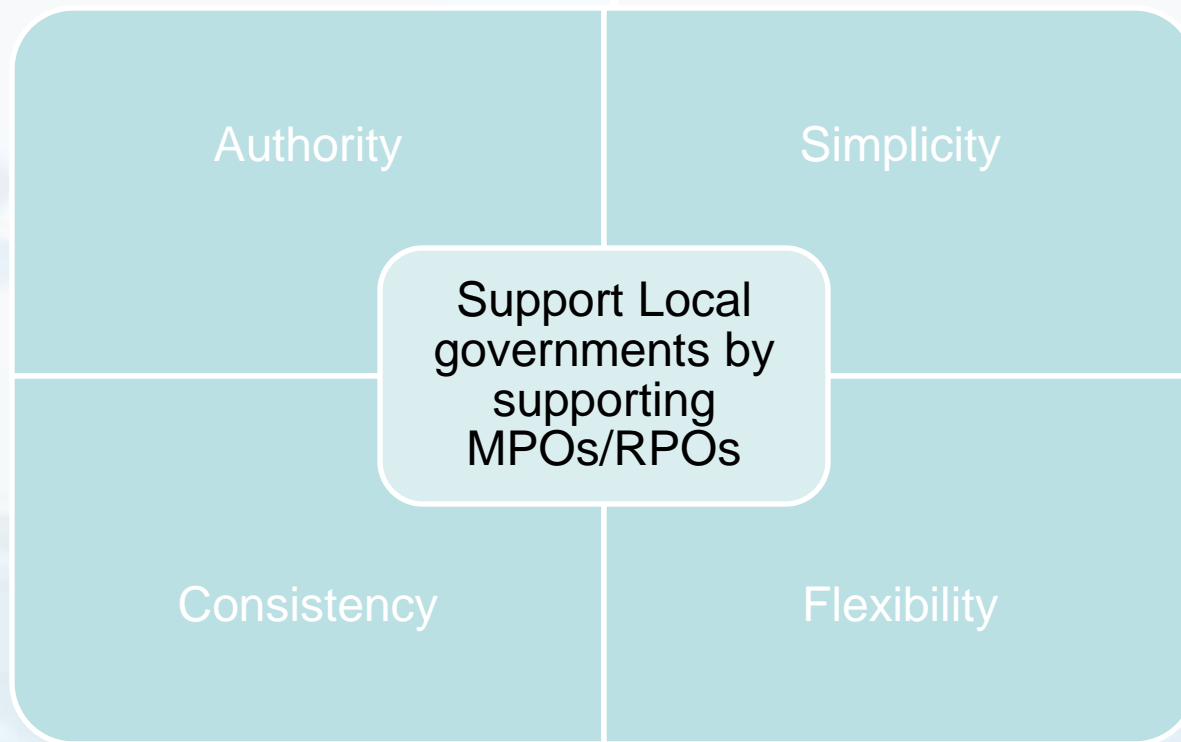


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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

- Message Development



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Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

Committee Discussion



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Staff Update

- “Making Livability Real”
 - USDOT/NARC/NLC/NACo/APWA/ICMA
 - 2-yr project; translate federal livability strategies into locally implementable mechanisms
 - NARC Annual Conference workshop



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Staff Update

- “Making Livability Real”
 - Send NARC your livability documents
 - Valerie Hermanson, Research Fellow
 - valerie@narc.org



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Staff Update

- 2011 NACo Rail Conference
 - 3/2011 Naperville, IL
 - Supported NACo in outreach and organizing
 - Examined the role of local elected officials in developing a federal, rail-based freight policy



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Staff Update

- Monthly Webinars
 - Many co-hosted with NLC
 - **Border Freight Update, Transportation and Land Use,**
 - N4A upcoming
 - Soliciting ideas



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Staff Update

- Regional Air Quality Working Group
 - Jointly with NACo
 - Expanding to include other stakeholders
 - Focuses on US DOT/EPA actions
 - Revising standards or training announcements
 - Outreach materials – Air Quality Toolkit



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Staff Update

- FHWA Office of Freight – survey
- TRB – TIMS/Operations survey



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Transportation Committee

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