

February 14, 2019 [View this email in your browser](#)



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

The NARC Policy Conference is a Wrap

NARC staff can finally exhale with the 2019 National Conference of Regions finally completed. It was an action-packed four days, with an impressive slate of speakers and many great sessions. We heard from House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) about his priorities for the 116th Congress, and T&I members Reps. Garret Graves (R-LA) and Dina Titus (D-NV) shared their thoughts as well. Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) joined us for our Congressional Breakfast on Wednesday to tell us about his proposal to increase the federal fuel tax and regale us with the importance of livable communities. We also heard from Anthony Bedell, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs at U.S. Department of Transportation.

We also heard from partners at the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, and American Public Transportation Association and shared our transportation reauthorization priorities with the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials and the U.S. Chamber of Congress. We discussed NARC's transportation priorities with our members at the Transportation Committee meeting and during the Major Metros Roundtable. And heard some great perspectives on transportation data and federal planning requirements from top-notch experts.

There is exciting work ahead. We'll finalize our reauthorization principles in the next few months for final approval at the Annual Conference in Omaha this June (hint, hint: **registration is already open**), develop additional materials for your future meetings on Capitol Hill, and we'll continue our coalition work with like-minded organizations here in Washington. We'll need your help along the way, so stay tuned as these efforts develop.

CONGRESS BRIEF

Transportation Appropriations (Finally) Nearing Finish Line (Probably)

With an agreement in place, the House and Senate are scheduled to vote today on a package of appropriations bills that will provide funding for all remaining federal agencies for the rest of fiscal year 2019. Though President Trump has expressed concern with the amount of funding available for building a physical barrier along the nation's southern border, indications are that he will sign the bill once it passes both chambers of Congress and in advance of another government shutdown deadline that would have been triggered at midnight on Friday.

As for transportation funding, this bill is largely similar to the funding bill that was agreed to late last year but never passed. This is good news, particularly because it means programs funded through the FAST Act authorization bill are fully funded, and because the bill contains a substantial additional bump in the amount provided to the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP).

ADMINISTRATION

Seven States Receive Funding to Test New Ways to Fund Highways

The Federal Highway Administration this week announced more than \$10 million in awards to states to test new ways to finance highway and bridge projects. The seven projects will investigate and evaluate various mileage-based and road-user charges, including for trucks and automated vehicles, and the implementation and operation of the technologies at a regional level.

REGIONS BRIEF

California Scales Back High-Speed Rail Ambitions

In his “state of the state” address earlier this week, California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that the state is currently scrapping plans to build and operate a high-speed train route between San Francisco and Los Angeles, though it will complete a smaller segment of the project that is currently under construction between Bakersfield and Merced in the state’s Central Valley. The price tag for the complete 520-mile route had ballooned in recent years to \$77 billion and was expected to be completed many years later than originally estimated. Environmental reviews will continue on other portions of the project, however, and a spokesman for the Governor later clarified that they would eventually seek investors and federal money to complete other segments of the project, once the Central Valley portion of the project “demonstrates the viability of the broader project.”

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Director, Information Technology

Posted: 2/13/2019

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Washington, DC

Transportation Planner

Posted: 2/13/2019

Capitol Region Council of Governments, Hartford, CT

Principal II Transportation Planner/Engineer

Posted: 2/13/2019

Capitol Region Council of Governments, Hartford, CT

Tribal and Regional Transportation Planning Manager

Posted: 2/1/2019

Washington State Department of Transportation, Olympia, WA

Transportation Planner/Engineer

Posted: 1/31/2019

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list opportunities!

Enhancing Urban Freight Planning Through Improving Last Mile Delivery

February 20th, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM ET

A primary challenge faced by transportation professionals dealing with freight projects is last mile deliveries. These deliveries often occur in locations with limited parking availability, were not designed to accommodate frequent deliveries, and often experience significant traffic volumes. All modes are impacted by the growth of last mile delivery needs. The increased focus on last mile deliveries also provide opportunities for both public and private sector organizations to address these problems in multiple ways. This webinar will examine what selected private freight carriers, state DOTs, and city governments are doing to address last mile freight delivery needs.

Options to Further Leverage NPMRDS for Performance Measurement and Decision-

Making

February 26th, 1:30 PM ET

Join a webinar presented by INRIX & the University of Maryland's CATT Lab where they will summarize additional NPMRDS-related data and tools uniquely available through their partnership. This webinar will focus on additional data and toolset options, and how they can be accessed (including an AASHTO Pooled Fund Study), to help states and MPOs get the most out of their NPMRDS-related efforts.

U.S. DOT Work Zone Data Exchange Project

February 26th, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET

The U.S. DOT's **WZDx project** aims to make travel on public roads safer and more efficient through ubiquitous access to data on work zone activity. Up-to-date information about dynamic conditions occurring on roads -- such as construction events -- can help automated driving systems (ADS) and humans navigate safely and efficiently. This webinar will provide updates on the WZDx project developments, vision, and status; share WZDx project lessons learned; and describe how to access the WZDx v1.1 Common Core Data Specification, contribute comments, and find resources.

Webinar: The Road to Autonomous Vehicles

February 27th, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM ET

The US DOT ITS-JPO Professional Capacity Building Program (PCB) invites you to an upcoming Talking Technology and Transportation in Education (T3e) Webinar. Attendees will learn about the numerous automated systems currently available in cars and what new technology will be added to Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) that improves driver and passenger safety.

Seeking Examples of Effective Local Government Access Management Ordinances and Regulatory Strategies

Response deadline: February 28th

The Center for Urban Transportation Research is seeking examples of effective local government access management ordinances and regulatory strategies for NCHRP Synthesis 50-05: Incorporating Access Management into Local Ordinances. Examples of regulations and contacts for further information may be emailed to Kristine Williams at kwilliams@cutr.usf.edu.

Using TAM Data to Support Agency Efforts and Communicate Asset Management Successes

March 19th, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET

The webinar will feature presentations from Daniel Hofer, Manager of State of Good Repair for Utah Transit Authority (UTA) and Alexi Miller, Director of State of Good Repair for Houston METRO. Dan will focus on UTA's efforts to track condition data and support capital replacement, and Alexi will discuss Houston METRO's efforts to use analytical tools and visualize data using dashboards.

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2019 National Association of Regional Councils, All rights reserved.

