

January 31, 2019 [View this email in your browser](#)



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

NARC's **2019 National Conference of Regions** will be held Sunday, February 10 - Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at the Washington Court Hotel. **Register for the conference today.**

Be sure to check out our **draft agenda**.

- **Mobile Tour: National Landing, Amazon**
*Sunday, February 10, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**
- **NARC Executive Directors Council Business Meeting**
Monday, February 11, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
- **General Session: Perspectives from Local Government Partners**
Monday, February 11, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Featuring the Honorable Gary Moore, Judge/Executive, Boone County, Kentucky; NARC Past President; NACo 2nd Vice President
- **General Session: Federal Agency Partners**
Tuesday, February 12, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Featuring the Honorable Benjamin Carson, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Congresswoman Dina Titus, (NV-1), and the U.S. Department of Transportation
- **NARC Board of Directors Business Meeting**
Tuesday, February 12, 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
- **Capitol Hill and Federal Agency Day**
Morning of Wednesday, February 13
End your trip to Washington with a congressional breakfast and visits to Capitol Hill.

CONGRESS BRIEF

House Hearing to Focus on Costs of Delaying Transportation Investments

New House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) has announced the committee's first hearing of the new Congress, which will focus on the costs that result when infrastructure investments are delayed due to lack of adequate federal funding. Though speakers have not been announced, the hearing will serve as an opportunity for DeFazio and others to discuss the value of an infrastructure package and the need for an increase in the nation's fuel taxes to funding infrastructure investments.

T&I Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Sam Graves (R-MO), and committee member Dina Titus (D-NV) will all be speaking on Tuesday morning, February 12, 2019 during NARC's policy conference. We hope you will be thereto hear from the distinguished group of speakers. **It's not too late to register!**

House Blue Dogs Ask for Infrastructure Focus

Blue Dog Democrats in the House sent a letter to Democratic leadership this week to make their plea for an early push toward infrastructure legislation. In the letter, they credit the focus on infrastructure on the campaign trail as a leading reason the Democrats took back the House in November. The letter calls for action on modernizing the nation's electric grids, energy-efficiency programs, reform of ports and water infrastructure, and transit improvements.

ADMINISTRATION

Spoiler Alert: CBO Says HTF is Going Broke

It is a day that only transportation policy wonks can love: the release of the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) January Baseline, which provides some insight as to when (not if) the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) will run out of cash. The Highways Account of the HTF will make it into fiscal year (FY) 2022 with a small amount of funding, but the transit account will be effectively at zero by the end of FY2021 (though, given cash on hand requirements that U.S. DOT requires means both accounts would be functionally at zero by the end of FY2021 without an additional infusion of cash).

Nason Has Hearing to be FHWA Director

Nicole Nason, President Trump's pick to head the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), appeared earlier this week before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Nason, who ran the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration under President George W. Bush, stressed the need for stable funding for the Highway Trust Fund, though unsurprisingly stopped short of indicating what solution she favors. This position has been empty since the start of the Trump Administration, but Nason – who has been confirmed twice before by the Senate for other positions – should move quickly.

MEMBER REQUESTS

Feedback on Non-Profit Spinoffs for MPO Funding

COMPASS in Boise, Idaho is seeking feedback from NARC members on the following: any MPO's who have created a nonprofit spinoff so they are eligible for more sources of funding? If your organization has done this, or you know of others that have, please respond to erich@narc.org and we'll pass your information along.

How Are MPOs and Regional Councils Addressing Rail Crossings?

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) is requesting assistance from NARC members regarding rail crossing concerns in other regions, and what MPOs and Regional Councils are doing to address this problem. Specifically, NIRPC is looking for information on how other regions are addressing trains blocking road crossings for extended periods of time, and related implications for sitting hazardous materials, quiet zones, and emergency response concerns in not being able to cross railroad tracks. NIRPC is also in need of data regarding any pedestrian and bicycle crossing blockages at railways, including blocking of continuity of sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails. This issue has become pronounced in Northwest Indiana following a recent Indiana Supreme Court decision striking down the state's blocked train crossing law, a verdict in-line with similar jurisprudence nationwide. Please respond to erich@narc.org and we'll pass your information along.

REGIONS BRIEF

Moving on Up: WFRC Prepares for Move to New Office

Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) will move to a new office space in March. The new space is more centrally located and served by multiple modes of transportation – including commuter rail, light rail, and bus, plus bike storage and garage parking - to increase accessibility.

EasyMile Launches Automated Shuttle in Denver

In a first for Denver and Colorado, EasyMile has launched a new autonomous shuttle to take passengers from a commuter-rail station to the EasyMile offices and nearby offices of Panasonic Corp. as well. The shuttle will operate for four to six months under the current agreement. This demonstration project will raise the profile of automated vehicles as a first-mile, last-mile solution.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Transportation Planner/Engineer

Posted: 1/31/2019

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

Planner

Posted: 1/31/2019

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Executive Director

Posted: 1/25/2019

Southern California Association of Governments, Los Angeles, CA

Transportation Travel Demand Modeler

Posted: 1/25/2019

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA

Deputy General Counsel

Posted: 1/22/2019

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

OPPORTUNITIES*[View full list opportunities!](#)***Webinar: How to Compete for INFRA 2019 Grants**February 5th, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET

The Department is hosting a technical assistance webinar for potential INFRA applicants which will cover the program's eligibility requirements and selection criteria for potential applicants, with an opportunity for participants to ask questions throughout.

Webinar: Plan Smarter: How to Streamline the Path to Sustainable Plans & PoliciesFebruary 6th, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM ET

Join Urban Footprint and learn how to elevate your planning practice with best-in-class data, mapping, scenario tools, and analytics. They'll cover how to: ratically streamline existing conditions mapping and analyses; efficiently integrate scenario planning into more projects, simplify alternative development, and better understand future plan impacts; and deepen your analysis capabilities with a full suite of transportation, hazard risk, emissions, conservation, and fiscal models.

Webinar: National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) Users Quarterly Technical AssistanceFebruary 7th, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET

This webinar will be an opportunity to raise any questions of the NPMRDS team related to the use of the data set, and to discuss recent updates. This quarter's webinar will serve to convene users, the NPMRDS development team, and FHWA to discuss changes to the data set and any needs related to the use of the NPMRDS (note: new users without an "@dot.gov" address must register at [this link](#) first).

Transportation Needs and Assessment: Survey of Older Adults, People with Disabilities, and Caregivers WebinarFebruary 14th, 2:00 PM - 3:30 p.m. ET

The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center's recent national poll found that older adults and people with disabilities are facing significant challenges after they give up the keys and say they lack accessible and reliable transportation options. The survey also found that caregivers spend significant time providing or arranging transportation for their loved ones. Join us for a discussion of the survey results and the implications for public transit and aging and disability organizations.

Webinar: Smart Columbus Program Connected Electric Autonomous Vehicle ProjectFebruary 20th, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM ET

Focusing on the Smart Columbus Program's Connected Electric Autonomous Vehicle (CEAV) Project, this webinar will focus on the Operational Concept document, the first deployment, lessons learned, and preparation for a second deployment.

Every Ride Counts: NADTC's Information and Education Campaign Webinar

February 20th, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM ET

The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center's **Every Ride Counts** campaign is designed to support local communities' efforts to promote the availability and accessibility of transportation options for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. The campaign consists of carefully crafted messages and materials that promote different options. The webinar will provide an overview of the campaign, instructions for using the materials to create customized posters, flyers and other campaign materials, and include examples of local programs that are using the materials. Join us!

Webinar: Exploring the Human-Centered Mobility Principle

February 28th, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET

The Partnership for Active Transportation has created its **Human-Centered Mobility Principles** to guide their collective and individual work to shape mobility and community design choices facing our society by putting people and places first. This webinar will allow you to learn about the guidelines, how they might be applied to current efforts, and look at how two communities are embracing what's next in active transportation.

Deadline Extended!: 2019 Transportation Excellence Awards (TPEA) Program

Applications Due: March 1st

The TPEA Program recognizes outstanding initiatives across the country to develop, plan, and implement innovative transportation planning practices, and provides a unique opportunity to recognize and celebrate the outstanding work performed by planners and decision makers across the country. State, MPO, and transit operators that have used Federal FHWA/FTA funding to develop a plan, project, or planning process that demonstrates excellence in planning are encouraged to apply.

Award categories are: Accelerating Planning and Project Delivery; Performance-Based Planning and Programming; Modeling and Technology Applications; Innovative, Safe, and Efficient Movement of Goods; Public Involvement and Outreach.

Research Study: Useful pedestrian transportation research and ideas for future research

This survey will gather opinions about the most influential and useful pedestrian transportation research in the last 50 years and ideas for future pedestrian transportation research (including possible upcoming challenges for pedestrians). This survey is being conducted by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Committee on Pedestrians to gather information for a TRB Centennial Paper. TRB has invited standing committees such as the Pedestrian Committee to write these papers to “showcase their past accomplishments and contributions to transportation, demonstrate the committee’s current relevancy and activities, and consider the committee’s role in meeting future challenges and opportunities.” The Centennial Papers will be featured on TRB’s Centennial website. The survey authors may also use the survey results for other research reports or papers. The survey will take about 10 minutes.

CONTACT US

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