

2016 ADVOCACY TIPS - TRANSPORTATION

NARC urges you to meet with your Senators and Representatives during your stay in Washington for NARC's National Conference of Regions, February 7-9. While Wednesday, February 10 is the designated Capitol Hill Day, we encourage you to meet with your delegations whenever you have some free time. Below are some tips on getting the most out of your meeting(s).

GET THE MEETING

OPTION 1: Meet with Your Senators and/or Representatives

Call the office or committee you want to meet with—the quickest way is to call either the Senate (202.224.3121) or House (202.225.3121) switchboards and ask to be connected to the appropriate office. If you know your Senator or House member and believe they will meet with you, ask for the Appointments Secretary or Scheduler; otherwise ask for the Transportation Legislative Assistant. Once connected, explain who you are, why you want to meet, and when you are available. If you let them know that 15-20 minutes is all you need, your likelihood of getting an appointment will improve. Meetings with Senators and Representatives who hold positions on key transportation committees are particularly important.

OPTION 2: Meet with Committee Staff

Another option is to meet with congressional committee staff. With the Highway and Transit legislation up for reauthorization this year, meeting with staff is often a good idea. In the Senate, you could request an appointment with the staffs of the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, which has jurisdiction over the highway program and/or the Banking Committee, which has jurisdiction over the transit program. In the House, the Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee has jurisdiction over both the highway and transit programs. Remember that there are separate staff on each committee for Republicans (majority staff) and Democrats (minority staff). Generally it is better to meet with the majority staff but often easier to get an appointment with the minority staff.

AT THE MEETING

Congressional staff knowledge of local government and regional planning organizations varies a great deal. Given that much of NARC's legislative focus is on transportation, we suggest you cover the following topics in your meeting(s):

INTRO

Introduce yourself and explain what role you play in your MPO, COG, or other regional council.

WHAT'S A REGION?

Explain what a MPO, COG, or regional council does.

LOCAL ISSUES

Explain any local transportation issues or projects that are important to your region, such as federal funding for a major highway or transit project.

NATIONAL ISSUES

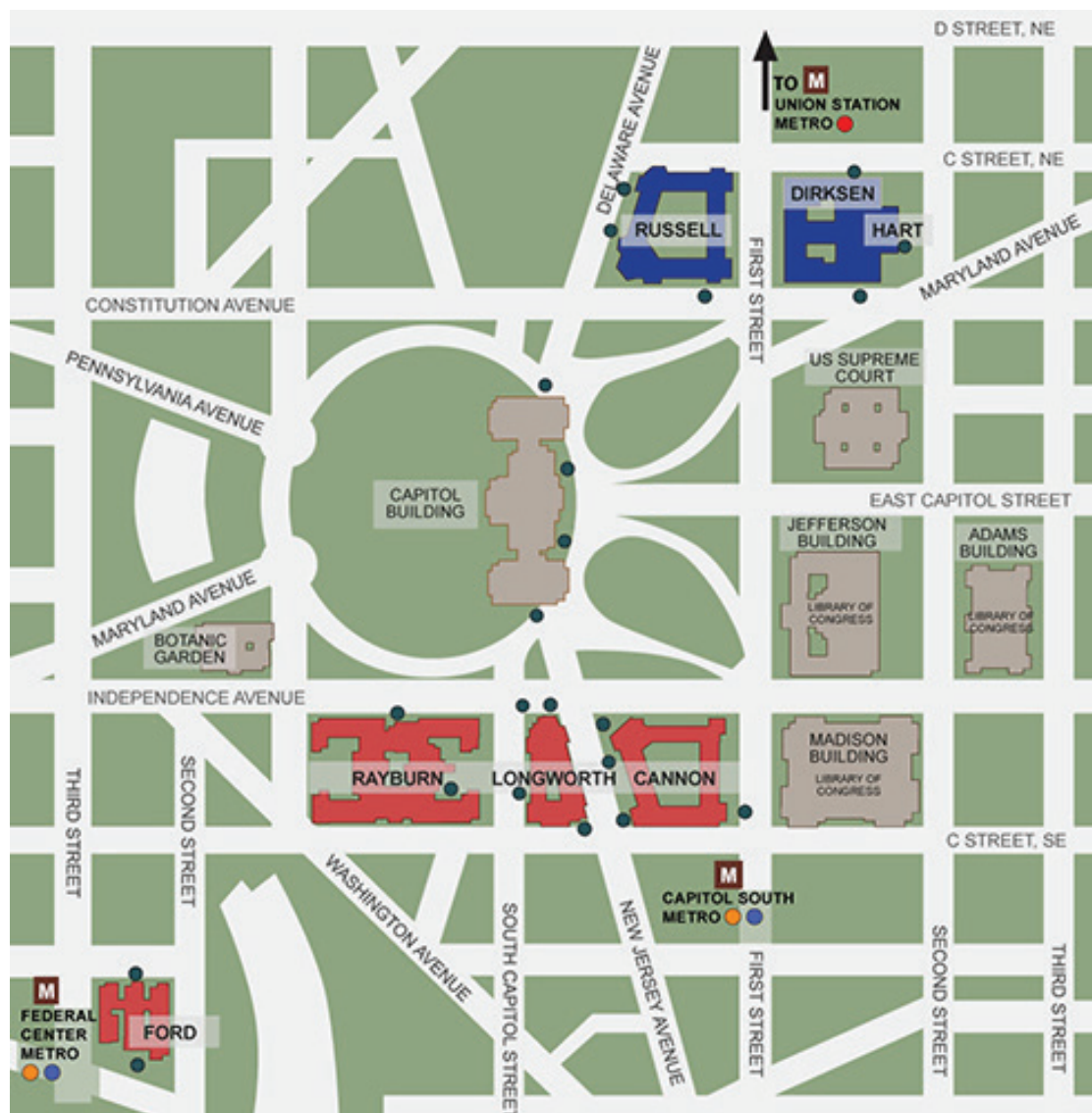
Discuss NARC's two transportation priorities — Increased sub-allocation of the STP program and the TAP program and increased metropolitan planning (PL) funding. If you are meeting with an office that is a member of the EPW, Banking, or T&I committees, specifically ask if they would be willing to support either of the NARC priorities. Make sure you leave the NARC handout on these two issues with the staff person. If appropriate, let them know that you will have NARC staff follow up.

AFTER THE MEETING

After the meeting, email a thank you note to whomever you met. Let them know that you or a NARC staff member can be contacted with follow up questions.

NARC staff are always available to answer questions prior to your meeting(s). We may also be available to accompany you, depending on scheduling. After your meeting, please tell us who you met with, what you discussed, any feedback, and whether NARC staff should follow up. **Feel free to stop by NARC's office, 777 North Capitol Street NE, on Wednesday before, between, or after your meeting(s) for a cup of coffee and to share what you learned.**

DIRECTIONS



 House office building (Rayburn, Longworth, Cannon, Ford)

 Senate office building (Russell, Dirksen, Hart)

 Building entrances

 Metro station

 Red line  Blue line  Orange line

Senate offices are either in the Russell, Dirksen, or Hart buildings.

- Take the Red Line and get off at Union Station.

House offices are either in the Cannon, Longworth, or Rayburn buildings.

- Take the Red Line, transfer to the Orange/Blue Line at Metro Center and get off at Capitol South.

Walking Directions to NARC from the Hill:

- From the intersection of First St. NE and Constitution Ave NE, head NORTH on First St. NE (towards Union Station);
- Turn LEFT on D St. NE;
- Turn RIGHT on North Capitol St.;
- Destination on RIGHT, 777 North Capitol St. NE, Suite 305.
- Check in at the lobby desk as a guest. You will need picture ID.

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