

December 6, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



## CONGRESS BRIEF

*The House and Senate are in session.*

### [AV Start Bill Gets Last-Minute Push from Congress](#)

Early this week, Congress made a last attempt to push the AV START Act through before the end of the year. An updated version of the bill published on December 3rd changes language about preemption of state and local laws and to arbitration language, both an effort to overcome specific opposition to the bill. The new version also requires manufacturers to pass all other existing occupant protection mandates when exempt from Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and requires AVs be enabled to detect all types of road users and traffic.

### [Key Senate Dems Oppose AV START](#)

Despite these new updates and increased protection for consumers, key Democratic senators have already announced their continued opposition. Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Ed Markey (D-MA) expressed interest in sunset provisions to address permanent state preemption regarding safety.

### [Congress Approves Measure to Prevent a Partial Government Shutdown for Another 2 Weeks](#)

Today, Congress passed a continuing resolution to prevent a shutdown in the wake of this Friday's funding deadline; this plan would extend that deadline to December 21st. Currently, the funding set to expire covers about 25% of government spending. Before the December 21st deadline, lawmakers must vote on seven spending bills in order to avoid a shutdown. Among these bills is funding for the Department of Homeland Security, which Trump has threatened to veto if it does not satisfy his \$5 billion demand for the border wall. The Senate version of the bill allocates \$1.6 billion to DHS, a figure which House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi has indicated is non-negotiable.

### [Rep. Graves Elected Top Republican on House Transportation Committee](#)

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has named the top Republican, Missouri Representative Sam Graves. Previously the chairman to the Transportation and Infrastructure Highways and Transit Subcommittee, Rep. Graves succeeds Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA). Rep. Graves is positioned to play a critical role in the negotiations and planning for the much-anticipated infrastructure package with the new Congress come next year.

### [Congress Urged to Use Public, Not Private, Dollars to Invest in Infrastructure](#)

The Atlantic held their annual Summit on Transportation and Infrastructure this week. Rep. Peter DeFazio attended and relayed his views on the new Congress and high hopes for an Infrastructure bill. High on his priority list is funding, pointing toward reforming the gas tax. He also discussed the funding structures for projects, indicating that they will rely heavily on public funds through state, federal, and local governments. Unlike the President's infrastructure plan, which relied heavily on public-private partnerships, Rep. DeFazio estimated that only a discreet percent of

infrastructure needs might be met through public-private partnership funding.

### **Manufacturers Urge New Congress to 'Start with Infrastructure'**

Just in time for the new Congress in 2019, the Association of Equipment Manufacturers launched a \$100,000 digital ad campaign that will run through December 14th that promotes public works in 2019. The video presents a bipartisan cohort highlighting the successes of infrastructure developments across the country. This campaign follows their summer effort "Mission Not Accomplished," meant to remind President Trump that he has yet to fulfill his promise to pass an infrastructure bill.

## **ADMINISTRATION BRIEF**

### **U.S. Department of Transportation Marks Opening of New Jacksonville Bus Rapid Transit Line**

FTA and local leadership convened in Jacksonville, FL for the opening ceremony of the East Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Red Line. This line is the fourth part of a five-phase First Coach Flyer BRT system which will connect education to employment opportunities throughout the region and Jacksonville metropolitan area. The Red Line will benefit from traffic signal priority, real-time bus arrival information, and natural gas buses. The \$34 million project received \$16.9 million alone from the FTA as part of the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) Program.

### **U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$149 Million Funding Agreement with Orange County Transportation Authority**

In partnership with the Orange County Transportation Authority, the FTA announced a \$149 million Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for the Orange County Streetcar in California. This project represents 4.1 miles linking active centers with transportation services in downtown Santa Ana, such as Amtrak, Greyhound, commuter rail, and local buses. Funding for this project was allocated through the CIG Program, of which this is the third project to sign a FFGA.

### **Transportation Department Tips Lawmakers to BUILD Grant Winners**

This past March, Congress appropriated \$1.5 billion to the BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Grant program. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao has begun notifying grant awardees prior to the formal December 11<sup>th</sup> ceremony which will reveal the full list of BUILD Grant projects. Formally known as TIGER grants under the Obama administration, the BUILD grants retain the mission to enable states to compete for grants to fund road, rail, transit, and port projects that advance national goals.

## **REGIONS BRIEF**

### **Southern California Politician Wants Constitutional Amendment to Kill High-Speed Rail**

Former San Diego Council Member Carl DeMaio, who attempted to repeal the state's gas tax in the past November election, is campaigning for a 2020 amendment to the California Constitution aimed to disrupt high-speed rail plans. His proposal would shift construction and maintenance, as well as funding responsibilities, from the state to local governments. Furthermore, the amendment would terminate funding for the state's high-speed rail project which has seen costs almost double to \$77 million since its approval in 2008.

### **SANDAG Welcomes Hasan Ikhata as New Executive Director**

This past Monday, SANDAG welcomed Hasan Ikhata for his first day as Executive Director. Following ten years leading the Southern California Association of Governments, Ikhata will lead SANDAG's 375 employees and oversee the \$1.3 billion annual budget.

## **JOBS**

***View full list of jobs!***

### **Grants Assistant**

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Destin, FL

### **Assistant Planner**

Puget Sound Regional Council, Seattle, WA

**Transportation Planner**

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA

**Government Contract Procurement Program Manager**

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA

**Planner**

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

**OPPORTUNITIES**

*[View full list opportunities!](#)*

**Eno's 2019 Transit Senior Executive Program**

March 4-8, 2019

Apply by December 7, 2018

The Eno Transit Senior Executive Program is a 6-month long leadership development program designed for senior-level managers in the public transit industry. The program is centered around an intensive week-long seminar held in the Washington, DC area. The TSE Program is an intensive and confidential forum on strategic management, leadership, and critical emerging industry issues. Participants will develop their leadership skills and build connections in the transit industry.

**Introduction to Transportation Conformity**

December 11 – 13, Cleveland, OH

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is teaming up with the National Transit Institute (NTI) to host an *Introduction to Transportation Conformity* course at their office in Cleveland on December 11 – 13. This three-day course will present basic information about conformity requirements and the relationship of the transportation and air quality planning process to help prepare staff of federal, state, and local agencies to participate in interagency consultation and work effectively in resolving conformity issues. There is no cost to attend for public agencies, but advanced registration is required.

**[The Dockless Revolution: What We're Learning from Shared Micromobility Data](#)**

December 13, 2018

4:00 - 4:30 PM ET

The Eno Center for Transportation will host a webinar discussing cities' data needs for transportation policy and planning as it relates to the new mobility services such as shared scooters, bikes, and cars across the country. With dockless bikes and scooter policies, many cities have been successful in obtaining access to private mobility data. This webinar will explore ways in which some cities are already accessing data about the safety, equity, and efficiency of transportation.

**5th Annual Walkability Action Institute RFA**

Applications Due: December 14

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) will be hosting their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Walkability Action Institute on April 22-25, 2019 in Decatur, GA. NACDD has opened their request for applications (RFA) to offer eight interdisciplinary regional teams a chance to compete for travel assistance to attend the action institute. The course combines traditional learning methods with robust activities and outdoor learning. The teams must have a minimum of public health, planning, transportation, and elected official representation. Start forming your teams now!

**Introducing the Exploratory Modeling and Analysis Tool**

December 18, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Emerging connected and autonomous vehicle technology, new mobility services, and changing travel patterns will potentially have significant impacts on future surface transportation operations and travel demand. The dimensions and depth of uncertainty around the potential impacts due to changing travel behavior and emerging technologies call for a more comprehensive and exploratory approach to planning future mobility. This webinar will describe the concepts and overall framework behind the development of the Travel Model Improvement Program

Exploratory Modeling and Analysis Tool (TMIP-EMAT), a utility to be integrated with existing travel forecasting models to facilitate the application of these models in an exploratory, rather than predictive, manner. Illustrative examples from the proof of concept deployment of TMIP-EMAT using the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council regional travel demand model will be presented.

### **2019 TRB Annual Meeting Resiliency Tabletop**

January 13, 2019, Washington, DC, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

This exercise will assemble fifteen multi-disciplinary teams at the Annual Transportation Research Board (TRB) meeting in Washington, DC. Each team will have representatives in each of the following groups: economics and commerce, infrastructure, emergency management, government transportation entities (all levels), and government non-transportation entities. During the 4-hour exercise, each team will collectively complete a workbook to stimulate a recovery from a freight disruption that affects local communities, regional economies, and national supply chains.

### **Opportunity for U.S. EPA Technical Assistance: Travel Efficiency Emissions Assessment and Planning**

Application Deadline: January 11, 2019

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) is seeking to partner with state, tribal, regional, or local transportation and air quality agencies interested in assessing transportation sector emissions and exploring how they could be reduced through travel efficiency strategies. EPA will select agencies based on the letters of interest received by January 11, 2019 and may consider other factors (e.g., geographic diversity) as well as those described above.

### **5th Annual Walkability Action Institute RFA Going Live Soon**

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## **CONTACT US**

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