

July 26, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



## CONGRESS BRIEF

### **Chairman Shuster Releases Plan to Fix Highway Trust Fund**

House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA), who is retiring at the end of the current Congress, released a broad proposal this week that seeks to provide short- and long-term solvency for the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) and make other changes to federal transportation policy as well. The purpose of the draft is to raise some essential issues and introduce potential solutions. Some highlights include an increase in fuel taxes until 2028 when they would zero out, new taxes on other transportation items, and pilots and studies looking at how to achieve long-term HTF solvency. NARC's section-by-section analysis is [here](#) and the discussion draft is [here](#).

### **LOT Coalition Letter on Senate Appropriations**

The Local Officials in Transportation (LOT) Coalition, of which NARC is a member, **sent a letter** to House and Senate appropriators this week outlining specific funding requests for the fiscal year 2019 bill. These include receding to the House bill on additional STBGP funding at \$3.8 billion, keeping BUILD Grant funding at \$1.5 billion as it was last year, and meeting or exceeding last year's funding level for transit grants. The Senate is currently debating a mini-bus collection of four appropriations bills, including the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, & Related Agencies (THUD) appropriations bill. A vote is expected next week. Progress in the House has slowed, and today is the last day the House will meet until September 4, so additional action will have to wait until September.

### **FAA Amendment List Circulating**

A list of potential amendments for a manager's package on the FAA bill is circulating in the Senate, indicating the bill may move soon. The 46 amendments include provisions such as developing an air traffic control system for drones and making some airport projects eligible for TIFIA loans. The Senate should know today if floor time is still feasible for next week for the bill.

## ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

### **Trump to Seek Repeal of California's GHG Regulatory Power**

A new plan expected from the administration will seek to revoke California's authority to mandate electric vehicle sales and regulate greenhouse gas emissions. Thirteen other states and the District of Columbia also follow California's emission standards. The proposal would also halt federal rules boosting fuel efficiency by capping them at the 2020 goal, a 35 miles-per-gallon (mpg) fleet average, rather than the 2025 50 mpg goal in the Obama plan. The plan is led by the Office of Management and Budget and will potentially be unveiled for public comment this week.

## REGIONS BRIEF

### **Eno Brief: Taxing New Mobility Services: What's Right? What's Next?**

Seven major cities and 12 states have a tax or fee on transportation network companies (TNCs) such as Uber and Lyft. Not much is known about how TNC fees impact transportation behavior, and the Eno Center for Transportation has released a policy brief highlighting four questions cities and states should try to answer before implementing these taxes and fees. The questions focus on how TNC fees can be best utilized to support community goals such as reducing congestion and

ensuring everyone benefits from TNC services.

### **World's Largest Autonomous and Connected Vehicle Testing Facility Breaks Ground in Ohio**

The Transportation Research Center (TRC), located in East Liberty, Ohio, has broken ground on its new SMARTCenter, which will become the largest automated vehicle testing facility in the world when complete. The \$45 million project is funded by the State of Ohio, Jobs Ohio, and The Ohio State University. It will host a variety of intersection scenarios and a 10,000 square foot control building with full site access to dedicated short-range communications and high-speed wireless communication. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of 2019.

### **Brookings Survey Finds Only 21 Percent Willing to Ride in a Self-Driving Car**

A recent survey by the Brookings Institution shows a downward trend in support for self-driving cars, compared to other surveys over the past year. The Brookings survey reported only 21 percent of adult internet users are inclined to ride in a self-driving car, compared to 61 percent who are not. A Pew Research Center poll from May 2017 reported 44 percent saying they would "ride in one if given a chance," while 56 percent would not. One notable finding from the survey was that a majority (54 percent) of people believe the government very much should regulate self-driving cars, and 26 percent think it should somewhat regulate the vehicles.

## **JOBS**

*[View full list of jobs!](#)*

### **Transportation Travel Demand Modeler**

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA

### **Senior Quality Assurance Analyst**

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

### **Parks and Recreation Director**

City of Kinston, Kinston, NC

### **Clean Energy Coordinator/Planner**

Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Boston, MA

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

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

### **Webinar Series on the Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program: Device Acquisition and Installation**

**Wyoming DOT Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment**, July 23, 11:30 – 1:00 PM ET

**NYCDOT Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment**, July 30, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

**Tampa Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment**, August 7, 11:00 – 12:30 PM ET

USDOT will host a webinar for each pilot site about the connected vehicle devices being acquired and installed as part of the deployment. Representatives from each pilot site will provide an overview of their approach to identifying the type and number of devices, equipment, and software-based capabilities acquired for the pilot. The webinar will also address their approach to engaging with vendors and getting the devices in hand and installed while adhering to a stringent installation schedule.

### **FTA Webinar Series on New Safety Rules**

Final Safety Rules Overview: July 31, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Additional Webinars: August 2 – September 12

On July 19, FTA issued two final regulations: the **Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)** rule and the **Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (PTSCTP)** rule. The PTASP final rule requires certain rail and bus operators to develop safety plans to better manage their safety risk using Safety Management Systems. The PTSCTP final rule establishes a basic curriculum for rail transit safety personnel responsible for the safety oversight of rail transit systems. To explain the safety rules and their applicability to transit agencies, FTA will host a webinar series from July through September with webinars directed at different

stakeholders. Information on PTASP webinars can be found [here](#) and PTSCPT can be found [here](#).

### **TREDPLAN-Regions Demonstration**

July 31, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

TREDPLAN is a new and unique system for evaluating and communicating the interrelationship between growth, and freight activity for regional planning using a fusion of data including county-level freight data. TREDPLAN-Regions offers a way to put the regional shifts in freight-economy in perspective by offering an intuitive model, which links models of freight and the economy together to allow for dynamic forecasting of activity and tracking of inter-industry freight shipments. It allows for the comparison of regions based on stratified market segments, by commodity, mode, and foreign trading partner and domestic sources. This webinar will demonstrate TREDPLAN-Regions.

### **EPA and Port Everglades Partnership: Emission Inventories and Reduction Strategies Webinar**

August 1, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

As part of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) broader Ports Initiative, EPA and Broward County's Port Everglades in Florida released a first-of-its-kind collaborative report describing how EPA and the Port developed baseline and future year emission inventories for nitrogen oxides (NOx), particulate matter (PM), and other harmful pollutants that result from typical port operations. The report also analyzes how hypothetical voluntary strategies such as reduced idling and deployment of cleaner diesel and electric technologies can cut pollution from existing and expanded port operations. This webinar will explore the recently released report.

### **NPMRDS Users Quarterly Technical Assistance Webinar**

August 4 1:00 – 3:00 PM ET

The next National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) users webinar will focus on handling frequently asked questions related to the use of the NPMRDS, including common issues with conflation, metric reporting for the System Performance/Freight/CMAQ performance measures, and the National Highway System. Presenters will provide an update on recent developments with the NPMRDS (v2) and FHWA resources to support the use of the data set and the calculation of performance measures.

### **National Coalition on Truck Parking - Technology and Data Research Needs**

August 6, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

The National Coalition on Truck Parking – Technology and Data Working Group is hosting a webinar to review and discuss state-level truck parking studies, activities, and needs. The webinar will provide an update on the National Coalition on Truck Parking's recent activities, discuss high-level stakeholder needs, and provide examples from states on recent truck parking research initiatives.

### **FRA Webinar on the FY 18 CRISI Grant Program**

August 8, 10:00 – 11:30 AM ET

FRA is providing a webinar on the FY 18 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program, authorized by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act with over \$318 million in federal funds available for projects that will strengthen intercity passenger and freight rail, support capital projects, and boost safety initiatives including improved highway-rail grade crossings, and congestion mitigation. During the webinar, FRA will provide information about the grant program, new FY 18 updates and requirements, and how to apply for grant funding. Additionally, FRA will share expertise on preparing Benefit-Cost Analyses for proposed CRISI projects. When registering for the webinar, registrants are encouraged to submit questions for the webinar's Q&A session.

### **Act Fast: The Growing Call for Slower Speeds**

August 8, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Every community member has a right to safe places to walk and be physically active.

Unfortunately, the rise in pedestrian fatalities in recent years reminds us that our work in protecting that right is far from over. Hear from those leading the call for slower speeds and communities putting people first in the call for safer streets.

**National Dialogue on Highway Automation: Workshop 3 – Freight**

September 5 – 6, Chicago, Illinois

The National Dialogue on Highway Automation will consist of 5 meetings held across the country. Each workshop will involve discussions on general issues of highway automation and specific topics as identified. Participants should select specific workshops based on their desired topic area, or simply by the most convenient date and location. The Chicago workshop will focus on freight and will explore truck platooning applications and truck automation, as well as implications for traffic operations and infrastructure.

**CONTACT US**

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