

August 23, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



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**2018 executive directors conference
september 30 - october 2
cleveland, oh**

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MEMBER REQUEST

Strategic Alignment of Committees

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning would like to connect with other MPOs and regional councils who have updated their committee structures after the development of a new long-range or strategic plan. If your organization has experience in planning and implementing strategic committee-level changes and would be willing to share materials or lessons learned in the process, please contact Sarah Reed at sarah@narc.org.

CONGRESS BRIEF

Busy Fall Ahead for Congress

September will be busy for Congress, with several big items on the to-do list. FAA reauthorization will have to be completed (or the program extended) before the end of the month, in addition to wrapping up spending bills. The Senate will also be busy with the confirmation process for a new Supreme Court justice. The Senate is already back in Washington after an abbreviated August recess and is currently working on a fiscal year 2019 spending package that combines two appropriations bills: Defense and Labor-Health and Human Services-Education. Today they are resuming consideration of a Health and Human Services assistant secretary for family support nominee, Lynn Johnson. The House returns after Labor Day.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Truck Freight Bottleneck Reporting Guidebook

The purpose of this FHWA guidebook is to support states with the implementation of truck freight bottleneck reporting requirements. It provides guidance based on best practices from around the country including highlighting the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). The guidebook includes a six-step framework for states and MPOs to identify truck freight bottlenecks.

Record Number of Letters of Interest for WIFIA Water Infrastructure Loans

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received 62 letters of interest in response to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program's 2018 Notice of Funding opportunity, collectively seeking \$9.1 billion in loans. Prospective borrowers from 24 states, D.C., and Guam asked for loans for various water infrastructure projects, including wastewater, drinking water, water recycling, desalination, stormwater management, and combined approaches. While most applicants were municipal government agencies, other prospective borrowers included small communities, public-private partnerships, corporations, and a tribe. More than half of the letters of interest included the priority of reducing exposure to lead and other contaminants in drinking water systems and updating aging infrastructure.

REGIONS BRIEF

Representatives Tour Broward MPO Complete Streets Projects

Representatives Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL) and Ted Deutch (D-FL) spent this week with the Broward MPO staff touring three infrastructure projects in the region. The three projects added features such as bike lanes, wider sidewalks, and traffic calming circles to create safer communities and enhance bike and pedestrian activities in the region. You can see pictures of the visits [here](#).

Autonomous-Car Tech Investment Skyrockets on SoftBank Deals

Investments in autonomous vehicle companies totaled \$5 billion in the second quarter, more than the last four years combined. Two major deals fueled the surge, including SoftBank Group's Vision Fund investing in Manbang Group, China's Uber-like truck rental company, and in General Motor's autonomous vehicle division. The previous four years saw a total of \$4.4 billion in investments and the first quarter of this year totaled \$197 million.

Kroger Selects Arizona for Self-Driving Grocery Delivery Pilot

The largest grocery store chain in the U.S. is now delivering groceries in autonomous-capable Toyota Prius vehicles in Scottsdale, AZ. A driver is in the vehicle in the early stages, with unmanned cars starting next month. Kroger partnered with Nuro, an autonomous vehicle startup, to improve its online grocery shopping experience to compete with Amazon's grocery business.

Eastgate Hosts Health and Equity in Transportation Event

The Eastgate Council of Governments (Eastgate) held a 4-hour workshop for regional leaders last week: Health and Equity in Transportation. The course examined the intersection between public health and transportation, and the challenges and opportunities that occupy this interdisciplinary space. The session, divided into four parts, outlined the knowledge and skills necessary to collaborate with public health and transportation professionals to identify and address health-related transportation challenges and opportunities in their communities. Attendees also learned how active living, and active transportation specifically, can improve public health.

Why the Trucking Shortage Is Costing You

A shortage of truck drivers has economic impacts, including slowing growth and contributing to inflation. Freight increases when the economy is strong, and the driver shortage impacts the speed of shipments. Trucking companies have responded to driver shortages – cumulatively estimated at 296,311 – by raising wages and increasing hauling fees, which has increased costs and fueled inflation. To help boost employment numbers, the industry is lobbying to allow drivers as young as 18 to cross state lines and setting up new driving schools. Autonomous vehicles may help with this problem in the long-term, but most freight companies do not expect this technology to be deployed for decades.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Senior-Level Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner

North Central Texas Council of Governments, Arlington, TX

Director Southern Nevada Strong

Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, NV

Associate Transportation Planner

Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Central Point, OR

GIS Analyst

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA

Executive Director

Kankakee River Basin Commission, Portage, IN

OPPORTUNITIES

[View full list opportunities!](#)

NARC F4F Webinar: Incorporating Gaseous Fuel Vehicles Into Your Fleet

August 29, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Fleets for the Future (F4F) is a national project team of regional councils, Clean Cities coalitions, and industry experts, led by NARC, tasked with coordinating regional and national procurement initiatives to consolidate bulk orders of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and infrastructure. Please join the F4F team on August 29 to learn about both gaseous fuels and their respective vehicle technologies, the best applications of the technology, and planning guidance for cooperative procurement. There will be a Q&A session following the presentation.

Critical Urban and Critical Rural Freight Corridors Guidance and Designation Process Discussion

August 29, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

This webinar will provide an overview of the Critical Urban and Critical Rural Freight Corridor designation process, including the program requirements, as well as give examples of how state DOTs and MPOs identified corridors within their jurisdictions and coordinated with other transportation planning partners as part of the designation process.

Smart Columbus Program: MMTPA/CPS Webinar

August 29, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

This webinar will focus on the Concept of Operations (ConOps) for the Multi-Modal Trip Planning Application and Common Payment System (MMTPA/CPS) developed by the City of Columbus. The ConOps conveys a high-level view of the system to be implemented from the viewpoint of each stakeholder. It frames the overall system, sets the technical course for the project, and serves as a bridge between early project motivations and the technical requirements. Finally, the ConOps offers stakeholders—and the larger ITS community—the opportunity to provide input on how the proposed system should function, which will help build consensus and create a single vision for the system moving forward. This webinar is the second in a series of webinars focusing on ConOps and trade studies developed as part of the Smart Columbus program.

Overview of Community Connections Webinar

August 30, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Community Connections is about using transportation innovations, partnerships, and technologies to bring communities together and connect people to services and opportunities. Through the Community Connections initiative, FHWA is partnering with state DOTs, MPOs, local and tribal governments, and other transportation practitioners. This webinar will provide an overview of how transportation agencies and their partners can use transportation innovations, partnerships, and technologies to bring communities together and connect people to services and opportunities. FHWA will introduce the Community Connections Toolbox, provide project examples, and outline opportunities for technical assistance. Additionally, “Leadership Perspective” segments will feature FHWA leaders sharing their thoughts on the Community Connections guiding principles, benefits of implementation, and funding opportunities.

Call for Posters for TRB Annual Meeting: Uses of Commodity Flow Survey Microdata Submissions Due: August 31

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) Freight Data Committee (ABJ90) is now accepting abstracts for poster presentations at the 2019 TRB Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. In 2015, the first generation 2012 Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) Public Use Microdata (PUM) file became available. This new, experimental data product contains information for approximately 4.5 million shipments obtained from businesses included in the 2012 CFS. The CFS team would like to know how these data are being used and solicit user feedback to continue to enhance its usefulness.

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.

Reorganizing Federal Data Agencies

September 7, 1:30 – 2:30 PM ET

This June, the White House released a proposal that would shift the Bureau of Labor Statistics from the Department of Labor to the Department of Commerce, joining with the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census Bureau under a single economics and statistics agency. Attendees will learn more about the reorganization, better understand the rationale for the proposal, and gain insights about key considerations that still need to be addressed. You are strongly encouraged to bring questions, concerns, and ideas to the conversation.

Consortium for Scenario Planning Annual Conference

September 12-14, Columbus, OH

The newly-formed **Scenario Planning Consortium** will hold its first annual conference in Columbus, Ohio, hosted by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). Program highlights include training sessions, an “unconference” portion so participants can explore the topics that interest them most, and in-depth information on scenario planning in Ohio. If you have questions about this event, please contact Janae Futrell at jfutrell@lincolnst.edu. Registration is now open and can be found [here](#).

Advancing Mobility Management

September 17-18, Dallas, TX

Many transit agencies are embracing the concept of “mobility management,” which is a strategic approach to designing and delivering transportation services that start and end with the customer. It begins with a community vision in which the entire transportation network works together with customers, planners, and stakeholders to deliver the transportation options that best meet the community's needs. This course is designed to help build the capacity of transit professionals to implement and scale up mobility management strategies and initiatives while exposing participants to promising practices in the field.

Every Day Counts/Virtual Public Involvement Webinar

September 18, 10:00 AM ET and **September 19, 2:00 PM ET**

These webinars will introduce FHWA's Every Day Counts innovation, “Virtual Public Involvement.” Public involvement is a critical component in the transportation decision-making process, allowing for meaningful consideration and input from interested individuals. The ways that the public consumes information are changing rapidly, including the range of opportunities for transportation agencies to interact with the public (a myriad of virtual platforms now exists). During these webinars, FHWA will provide an overview of virtual public involvement tools and techniques, discuss the benefits of virtual public involvement, and share notable examples. Please note that you must create an account to register.

CONTACT US

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