

August 30, 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 REQUESTS

Consolidated Planning Grant Matching Funds

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) is seeking input on how other MPOs handle Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) matching funds. They are particularly interested in knowing what percentage of the match you provide for CPGs is cash versus in-kind services. DRCOG is considering changing their cash/in-kind ratio and would like information on what other organizations provide. Please send your responses to Erich Zimmermann (erich@narc.org).

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

Transportation Appropriations

Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Chairman of the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Subcommittee, told reporters this week she is disappointed by the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 THUD bill allocation. She did not discuss specific budget numbers, but this indicates that the basic elements of a spending deal have not been settled, despite the Senate having already passed its version of the bill. The Senate's THUD bill would cut \$698 million from USDOT, and Collins' indications of disappointment may indicate further cuts. The House THUD bill increased transportation funding. The overall numbers will have to be worked out and the House and Senate will have to conference the THUD bill to come to a final allocation.

With only 11 full legislative days in the month of September, Congress is in a time crunch to pass their own versions of each remaining appropriations bill, work together through a conference committee to reconcile their differences, and pass the final version through each chamber. A short-term continuing resolution is a near certainty to avoid a federal government shutdown.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Advanced Bus Technology Projects

Funding for 52 projects in 41 states was provided by a portion of the \$84.45 million in grant funds through the FTA Low-or No-Emission (Low-No) Grant program. These grants support the purchase or lease of hybrid or battery electric buses and their related infrastructure. The **average**

grant size this year, according to the Eno Center for Transportation, is \$1.624 million. This is higher than last year but significantly lower than during the Obama years when fewer grants were awarded at higher amounts under this program.

TravelWorks Integrated Models

The Strategic Highway Research Program 2 (SHRP2) provided implementation assistance over the last few years to four pilots and one lead adopter to explore advanced integrated travel models. These models can offer a more detailed representation of system dynamics (scheduling, queuing, traffic control) and can be used to address pricing, management, and operations strategies for both highways and transit. The four pilots included the Atlanta Regional Commission, Baltimore Metropolitan Council, Puget Sound Regional Council, and Metropolitan Transportation Commission. The lead adopter project was with the San Diego Association of Governments. The projects have been evaluated in this report.

REGIONS BRIEF

Integration of Roadway Safety Data from State and Local Sources

This Transportation Research Board (TRB) report documents the ways transportation agencies are collaborating with local agencies to integrate and maintain data. This information can help inform how transportation agencies tackle the challenge of facilitating access to and integrating data from a variety of sources.

Governors Staying Ahead of the Transportation Innovation Curve

The National Governors Association (NGA) released this policy roadmap as a part of the 2017-18 Chair's Initiative by Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval, *Ahead of the Curve: Innovation Governors*. The report discusses seven strategies for governors and dives into concerns and benefits of various transportation technologies such as autonomous vehicles, electrified transportation, and ride-sharing. Opportunities for action are highlighted under each strategy.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Grants Compliance Officer

NYC Department of Transportation, New York, NY

Emergency Medical Services Director

Cleveland County, Shelby, NC

Deputy Director/Chief Financial Officer

Denver Urban Renewal Authority, Denver, CO

Director of Regional Planning

Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, NV

Transportation Planner

Calaveras Council of Governments, San Andreas, CA

OPPORTUNITIES

[View full list 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 wdate 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.

Innovative and Emerging Broadband Technologies: Providing Economical Alternatives for Rural Broadband Access

September 19, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

BroadbandUSA's next Practical Conversation webinar will discuss new, emerging, and innovative wireless technologies currently being tested and/or deployed to address rural broadband challenges.

Placemaking in the Burbs

September 19, 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET

This webinar will look at challenges this suburban community in Newcastle, WA (and many others) face and how this project's recommendations helped address them. Presenters will walk through existing conditions and challenges in this suburban environment, the impetus for this project, details on the public outreach process that engaged a wide-range of community members, the effort's final recommendations, and lessons learned.

CONTACT US

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