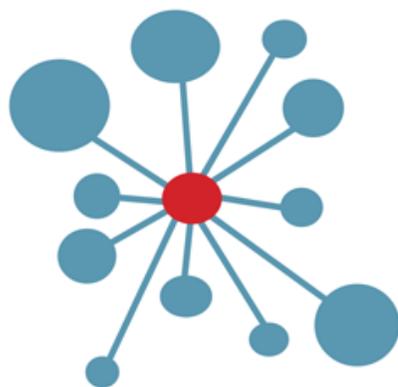


September 6, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



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september 30 - october 2
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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 at 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.

Regional City/County Managers Group

The Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) in Durham, NC is seeking information from others on if they host city/county manager regional meetings. If you do, TJCOG is interested in how often the group meets, how meetings are structured, and any other information about your group and how it operates that you'd like to share. If your region participates or hosts city/county manager groups or meetings, please contact Sarah Reed at sarah@narc.org.

CONGRESS BRIEF

Appropriations and FAA Deadlines Approaching

The "Big Four" Senate and House members on transportation spending – Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Jack Reed (D-RI) and Representatives Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) and David Price (D-NC) – met yesterday to discuss how to conference their FY2019 Transportation-HUD spending bills. Also on the docket was a discussion of their total allocation, which we learned last week is lower than expected and lower than last year's amount. Their hope is that it will be included in the next package of spending bills. More broadly, with no plans to get the final six appropriations bills completed, House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-NY) told reporters he expects a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government operating beyond September 30.

House and Senate leaders continue to discuss completing an FAA reauthorization before the

September 30 deadline. However, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman John Thune (R-SD) has yet to get a bill to the floor. An extension has not yet been discussed but could be included in a CR extending appropriations bills.

House Committee Leadership Seats

Many of the House's 21 Committee Chairs have reached their six-year Republican-enacted term limits. The Republican Steering Committee, a group comprised mostly of GOP leaders and regional representatives, decides the best candidate for each open chair seat (or ranking member depending on the November election results). In addition, the retirement of current-Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) ensures there will also be a new House Speaker regardless of which party wins the House in November. Five Republican members are vying for the appropriations committee, the most coveted role. The Transportation and Infrastructure committee has a two-way race to replace outgoing Chair Bill Shuster (R-PA): Sam Graves (R-MS) and Jeff Denham (R-CA).

Congress Directs More Money to MPOs

NARC and its local government association partners have urged appropriators and other congressional leaders to direct additional funding (beyond what the FAST Act provided) to the Surface Transportation Program (STP). We have sought more formula highway funds, through metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), directed to local areas and local decision-makers. As a result, Congress directed \$1.9 billion in additional funds to STP in FY 2018 and is poised to provide another increase in FY 2019. STP funding for MPOs in FY 2019 could be as much as 46 percent higher than FY 2017 and 18 percent higher than FY 2018 levels. NARC encourages our MPO members to reach out to their federal delegation to thank them for the increases in the STP program in FY 2018 and urge them to highlight the importance of additional funding in FY 2019.

House T&I Hearing: Innovation in Surface Transportation

Yesterday, the House Subcommittee on Highway and Transit held a **hearing** on Innovation in Surface Transportation. Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO) opened the meeting with **comments** regarding the investments, experiments, and partnerships communities have engaged in to improve the quality of their transportation systems through provisions in the FAST Act.

Panelists established testing, data collection, as well as automated and connected vehicle technology at the center of their current and future projects.

Randy Iwasaki, Executive Director of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, identified the challenges with government regulation as potentially limiting innovation and deployment, while procurement can lag real-time technological innovation. Shailen Bhatt, President and Chief Executive Officer of ITS America stated affirmatively that "the federal government has a role to play to ensure uniformity."

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

An Update to TMIP Transportation Modeling and Analysis Toolbox

The FHWA Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty (HEP) recently added three new reports to the Travel Model Improvement Program (TMIP) Transportation Modeling and Analysis Toolbox. The new tools provide further breadth of analysis and choice in forecasting to support data-driven and performance-based transportation planning.

REGIONS BRIEF

Former US Transportation Secretary to Chair New City Transportation Task Force

Ray LaHood, former USDOT Secretary and member of the U.S. House, has been tasked to chair a new task force made up of 10 to 20 individuals from both government and the private sector. Mayor Rahm Emanuel is assembling the task force to address emerging technologies in transportation including ride-sharing and autonomous vehicles. The task force will meet for six months and provide recommendations next spring.

Koch Network to Campaign against Proposed Hillsborough Transportation Tax

Americans for Prosperity, an organization largely funded by the Koch brothers, has established efforts to campaign against the 30-year, one percent sales tax plan in Hillsborough County, Florida that will appear this fall on the general election ballot. Proposed by the citizen's group, All for Transportation, the tax would raise about \$280 million per year to pay for transportation projects included in the area's long-range transportation plan. The proposed plan sets 45 percent

of the tax aside for the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority to improve bus and transit services. The remaining funds would be authorized for bridge improvements, pothole repairs, sidewalks, bike lanes, and projects to alleviate congestion.

Transportation Applications Exceed Funds Available

The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) has received 39 applications for the current round of Surface Transportation Block Grants (STBG). In total, applicants have requested about \$60 million dollars in funding, a number which far exceeds the \$14 million dollars available. This scenario speaks to the larger funding issue at hand in Ohio, which includes smaller alternative funding sources, intense competition for available dollars, and outdated revenue sources.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Procurement Coordinator

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Regional Planning Positions

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, Waterbury, CT

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

OPPORTUNITIES

[View full list opportunities!](#)

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.

Achieving Resilient Mobility Systems: Challenges and Opportunities

September 11, 4:00 – 4:30 PM ET

Transportation infrastructure in the United States is exposed to increasingly extreme weather events, and cities are trying to evolve to meet changing demands. But what does it mean for this infrastructure to be resilient to these shocks and stresses? 100 Resilient Cities defines resilience in mobility as the capacity for people and goods to get from A to B seamlessly, with a choice of modes, in a way that will contribute to an individual, community, or city's ability to survive, adapt, and grow in the face of stresses and shocks. Join us for a webinar to learn about the challenges and opportunities associated with the transportation sector becoming more resilient.

Reducing Rural Roadway Departure

September 12, 11:00 – 12:30 ET

September 13, 2:00 – 3:30 ET

This webinar will include a high-level overview of the Reducing Rural Roadway Departures Every Day Counts-5 initiative by FHWA. Local efforts will also be shared by Franklin County, Ohio and Thurston County, Washington. Both days are the same content.

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@lincolninst.edu. Registration is now open and can be found [here](#).

Build Back Better: State and Local Lessons on Long-Term Disaster Recovery

September 13, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

After disaster strikes a community, local governments must move quickly from short-term stabilization to long-term recovery. Simply ensuring that the community’s economy, housing market, health and social services, infrastructure, and natural and cultural resources return to previous conditions is difficult enough. However, true disaster recovery entails strengthening each of these institutions and guaranteeing they are more resilient to future disasters.

During this digital webcast, Route Fifty will explore what it takes to successfully recover, both in the short and long-term, from a disaster. From sustained executive support to effective program management, integrated pre-disaster planning to strategic flexibility, we’ll dive into the elements needed to build back better after disasters.

Smart Columbus Program: Event Parking Management

September 13, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Event Parking Management (EPM) is one of nine Smart Columbus projects that will focus on providing more parking information to the public, including prepayment for parking in available garages and lots in the downtown and Short North areas. The EPM will also show predictive analytics related to the availability of parking meters citywide. This webinar will focus on the Concept of Operations (ConOps) for the EPM 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.

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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