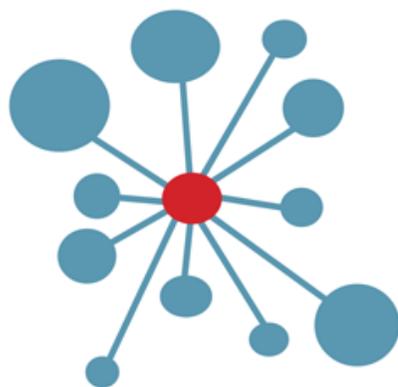


September 13, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



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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

Gearing Up for Reauthorization

The federal transportation authorization does not expire for another two years. But the time has arrived to begin outlining priorities that will lead to the development of policies we can take to Congress in the lead up to a new authorizing bill. In that spirit, NARC staff started meeting last week with national association partners to discuss reauthorization plans and reaffirm NARC's interest in working together on areas of common interest. During the process that resulted in the FAST Act, NARC and the rest of the Local Officials on Transportation (LOT) Coalition (National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and the National Association of Development Organizations) remained united and unwavering in our request that Congress increase the allocation of transportation dollars to local areas through the Surface Transportation Block Grant

Program. That relationship will be at the center of our strategy heading into the next reauthorization.

That said, last week's meetings allowed us to touch base with other associations that can be important partners in achieving our goals in the next bill. With the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), which represents the nation's transit providers, we discussed the importance of transit for many of your communities and the important role planning plays in making transit a reality, as well as the impact of emerging technologies on providing transit services in the future. Ensuring on-going and long-term federal support for transit is important for both organizations. With the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), which represents the nation's state departments of transportation, we talked at length about our common interest in robust transportation planning, the need for multimodal approaches to current challenges, and opportunities for states, regions, and local governments to work together successfully on things like performance measures, freight, and planning in general. Finally, our meeting with the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America), which represents cities, state DOTs, technology companies, and vehicle manufacturers, was an opportunity to discuss emerging technologies, how these can be best considered in the planning process, and opportunities to bring together NARC members and private interests.

Water Bill Agreement

The House earlier today unanimously passed a newly-agreed upon version of a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), sending the bill to the Senate for action. On Monday night, House and Senate members had announced an agreement on the bill. Earlier this year, the House passed a WRDA bill (**H.R. 8**) by a nearly unanimous vote. However, the Senate introduced a much different bill (**S. 2800**) and the two chambers could not come to an agreement. By passing a new bill, staff are hoping this version can pass both chambers quickly and eliminate the need to conference to iron out language differences. The water infrastructure bill requires re-authorization every two years and includes provisions and funds for safe drinking water, disaster relief, and water infrastructure.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

USDOT Announces \$586 Million in Airport Infrastructure Grants

FAA has awarded \$586 million for 217 airport infrastructure grants. USDOT Secretary Elaine Chao made the announcement as part of the Airport Improvement Program's total \$3.18 billion for airports across the country. These grants provide funding for improvements to infrastructure, safety, and equipment across 181 airports in 39 states.

USDOT Announces \$6.3 Million Funding Opportunity to Improve Access to Healthcare

FTA announced the availability of \$6.3 million in Access and Mobility Partnership Grants, competitive funds for transit coordination projects that improve non-emergency healthcare accessibility. Through this grant program, FTA encourages innovative partnerships between the healthcare industry and public transportation agencies for improved coordination. These partnerships support the needs of transit-dependent riders and improve options for people with limited transportation choices.

Pilot Program for Expedited Project Delivery

FTA is soliciting letters of interest for participation in the Pilot Program for Expedited Project Delivery. Up to eight projects will be selected that utilize public-private partnerships, are under an existing public transportation provider, and have a federal share below 25 percent. Letters of interest are due November 13, 2018 and should be no longer than 10 pages.

Local Transit Projects Hobbled as Trump Agencies Mum on Funds

Capital improvement projects across the country face uncertainty as the FTA, responsible for evaluating transit projects and distributing grants, has been slow moving to issue letters of "no prejudice." FTA has issued one-third of the letters compared to last year. The letters let public transit agencies know that costs incurred could be eligible for federal reimbursement allowing them to move forward with less risk. According to President Trump's administration and FTA officials, they are doing their due diligence to review the merits of grant proposals. Transit

advocates predict project delays and costly ramifications for taxpayers as a result of the slow decision-making.

REGIONS BRIEF

Driverless? Autonomous Trucks and the Future of the American Trucker

The U.C. Berkley Center for Labor Research and Education **released** a report this week that looks at the future of trucking jobs and how autonomous vehicles will shape the industry. The study argues that the declining quality of trucking jobs is just as big a concern as job loss. Driverless trucks are projected to eliminate some of the best jobs while creating low-wage jobs without benefits or a union. These new jobs would mostly be local driving and delivery. The report identifies six possible scenarios for driverless trucks with different job and environmental impacts. It also suggests new policies to benefit workers, including establishing a Trucking Innovation and Jobs Council.

Electrification Coalition Announced as Technical Partner for Climate Mayors Electric Vehicle Purchasing Collaborative

Earlier this week, Mayor of Los Angeles, and co-founder of Climate Mayors, Eric Garcetti, announced the launch of Climate Mayors Electric Vehicle (EV) Purchasing Collaborative. The Collaborative unveiled driveevfleets.org which allows municipalities to purchase competitively-bid electric vehicles and charging infrastructure from a single platform. To facilitate and accelerate the shift away from oil, Climate Mayors partnered with Electrification Coalition, which will provide technical assistance to cities as they transition to electric and clean transportation. This new initiative has grown from NARC's own **Fleets for the Future** grant project.

Public Transit Is Key Strategy in Advancing Vision Zero

Recent data analyzed by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) shows that metro areas with higher public transportation use experience lower fatality rates. These findings support the mission of Vision Zero, which seeks to eliminate all traffic-related fatalities and severe injuries. Increasing annual public transit trips per capita can make a significant impact in reducing traffic fatalities, and the research shows that the larger the city, the greater the reduction. Given the reinvigorated commitment to Vision Zero across the country, APTA recommends consideration of public transit as a safety strategy proven to reduce fatalities on roads.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Growth Management Intern

Puget Sound Regional Council, Seattle, WA

GIS Planner

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Portage, IN

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

OPPORTUNITIES

[View full list opportunities!](#)

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](#).

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission: Forces of Change and the Future of the Region

September 14, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM ET

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission is holding a public workshop on Forces of Change and the Future of the Region in preparation for their next long-range plan. Expert panels have been convened and surveys are being discussed in a workshop format that uses exploratory scenarios for table discussions in five topics: Economic, Technology, Environment, Funding, and Demographics. Also featured is Jason Beske, a keynote speaker, whose recent book *Suburban Remix: Creating the Next Generation of Urban Places* gives examples of how some communities have responded to changes through land use and transportation planning tools. SPC's **regional planning live session** coverage begins at 9:30 a.m.

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.

Using BCA and the TOPS-BC for Evaluating Freight and TSMO Strategies

September 19, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

This webinar will discuss the benefits of applying benefit-cost analysis to freight projects, including the recently added freight strategies for truck-only lanes, commercial motor vehicle compliance, truck parking information systems, and truck climbing lanes. The webinar will also provide an overview and tutorial on the Tool for Operations Benefit-Cost Analysis (TOPS-BC) tool. Speakers will discuss how TOPS-BC could potentially be used to conduct benefit-cost analysis on Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) or TSMO-related projects, including some freight-focused projects.

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.

Smart Columbus Program's Mobility Assistance for People with Cognitive Disabilities

September 26, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

The Mobility Assistance for People with Cognitive Disabilities (MAPCD) is one of nine Smart Columbus projects. This project's goal is to enable people with cognitive disabilities to travel more independently on fixed-route bus service. The project team includes City of Columbus staff, subject matter experts with the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) and Ohio State University (OSU), and participating individuals with cognitive disabilities. Use of the term "cognitive disabilities" was decided by subject matter experts at OSU and COTA to include clinical diagnoses of autism, Down Syndrome, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and dementia along with less severe cognitive conditions such as Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), dyslexia (difficulty reading), dyscalculia (difficulty with math), and learning disabilities.

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