

September 27, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



Register Today for NARC's Executive Directors Conference!

Join NARC, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, and your peers in Cleveland, Ohio September 30 – October 2 for a not-to-be missed opportunity to learn about ideas and best practices from your colleagues and other experts around the nation. Registration for NARC's 2018 Executive Directors Conference (EDC) is now open [here](#). Conference sessions and the room block will be at **Metropolitan at The 9, Autograph Collection**. See our most recent conference agenda draft [here](#).

NARC Board Members (and those who manage travel for Board Members), don't forget to **RSVP [here](#)** for both the Board Retreat and Dinner. The Board Dinner will begin after 6pm on Tuesday, October 2nd and the meeting will end before 2pm on Wednesday, October 3rd. Please plan your departure flights accordingly. If you have any questions about logistics, please reach out to Marcy Fritter at marcy@narc.org.

CONGRESS BRIEF

FAA, WRDA Continue Moving

Last night, the House passed a bill (**H.R. 302**) to authorize the FAA through September 2023 in a 398-23 vote. The bill was negotiated by the House and Senate in a pre-conference and the text was released last week. *Editorial note: this process should raise some concern for major legislation moving forward. A transportation reauthorization, for example, negotiated in this manner would likely leave many stakeholders on the sidelines while an agreement is reached between principals on Capitol Hill.*

The final bill, which authorizes the FAA for five years (the longest authorization since 1982), is a collection of various priorities, including \$1.7 billion for communities damaged by Hurricane Florence, reauthorization of National Transportation Safety Board, and more. The Chamber of Commerce expressed disappointment that the bill does not include more funds for the Airport Improvement Program or raise the maximum allowed passenger facility charge. However, the Chamber did urge passage of the bill. The House also passed an extension of current FAA authority through October 7, given that the Senate is unlikely to pass the full bill before authorization expires on September 30. The full bill is expected on the floor next week, as is the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) which has already passed the House.

Appropriations Updates

Yesterday, the House cleared a mini-bus package that includes spending bills for Labor-HHS-Education and a continuing resolution for Transportation-HUD, DHS, and all other agencies, giving lawmakers until December 7 to resolve unfinished appropriations bills. The president has signaled that he will sign the bill to avert a government shutdown.

House Appropriations Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) and Senate Appropriations

Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) have reopened discussion - between the two chambers on a four-bill package that includes fiscal 2019 Agriculture, Transportation-HUD, Interior-Environment, and Fiscal Services spending bills. Other members of the committees however are not optimistic that the conferees could reach an agreement on the package. If this does not pass, these four bills would join the Homeland Security, Commerce-Justice-Science, and State-Foreign Operations bills that have also not been taken up. These seven bills would likely be pushed off until the lame-duck session.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

USDOT Announces Grants to Modernize and Improve Bus Infrastructure

FTA will award \$36.2 million in grants to improve safety, reliability, and mobility for bus transit riders through the FTA's Bus and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program, supporting replacement, rehabilitation, and procurement of buses, related equipment, and facilities. Of 339 eligible applications, FTA will award funds to 107 projects across the country.

Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council

Alex Herrgott has been picked to head the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council. Herrgott was previously with the Council on Environmental Quality and Senator Jim Inhofe's (R-OK) office. He will replace Acting Executive Director Angela Colamaria. The council was created to coordinate permits across 15 departments and federal agencies.

More Americans Telecommute Than Take Public Transportation

The U.S. Census Bureau has estimated that 8 million workers work primarily from home. That makes telecommuting the second-most popular way to get to work behind driving – exceeding the number of those who use public transportation for the first time. While the number of those telecommuting has risen substantially over the last three years, the number of American workers using public transportation has remained mostly flat over the last ten years. Several factors are contributing to this increase in telework, including: companies encouraging employees to telecommute, advances in technology, and costs saved by not driving or using public transit.

REGIONS BRIEF

SANDAG Partners with WAZE Carpool to Celebrate National Rideshare Week

In partnership with the SANDAG iCommute Program, Waze Carpool is offering free carpool rides in San Diego County for the first week of October in celebration of National Rideshare Week. Waze Carpool matches drivers and riders traveling in the same direction, encouraging commuters in the San Diego region to try carpooling at no cost. Waze Carpool and SANDAG hope to demonstrate the ease with which people can carpool, save time and money, as well as alleviate traffic and stress on the environment.

Regions Celebrate PARKing Day

Several NARC members – including the San Joaquin Council of Governments, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, and North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority – participated in PARKing Day. On the third Friday of September, PARKing Day participants convert parking spaces into temporary public parks to bring awareness to urban park areas and call attention to the need for more urban open space. To see pictures from events held across the nation, follow the Twitter hashtag [#parkingday](#).

AASHTO Annual Board Meeting Updates

James J. Tymon **was selected** as the sixth executive director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) at their annual board of directors meeting this week. Tymon, AASHTO's chief operating officer and director of policy and management, will take over when Frederick "Bud" Wright retires on December 31. He previously served as staff director of the House Highways and Transit Subcommittee and as senior advisor to Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA).

AASHTO also **selected their new president and vice president** at the board meeting earlier this week. Carlos Braceras P.E., Executive Director of the Utah Department of Transportation, will serve as president and Missouri DOT Director Patrick McKenna will serve as vice president. Braceras' three emphasis areas will be "workforce development, reauthorization of current surface transportation legislation to include funding, and policy reform, all while 'communicating

transportation's vital role' in American life." The emphasis on workforce development will focus on attracting and training a highly-skilled workforce that is prepared for the new challenges in transportation.

Best Place for Self-Driving Semis? I-5 in Washington and Oregon, Report Says

INRIX published the 2018 Automated Freight Corridor Assessment, determining the most productive corridor for self-driving trucks is Interstate 5, a 687-mile freeway stretching through Washington and Oregon. Using four criteria to assess freeways, INRIX considers volume of existing freight, congestion, freeway length, and incident rates. The data could help companies reduce freight movement costs with the availability of autonomous vehicle technology on future routes.

Push to Reverse Gas Tax, End Bullet Train Could Signal GOP Strategy

Republicans in California have thrown their support behind measures that would impact future transportation-related projects and funding in the state, at least in part as an attempt to rally conservative voters to the polls. On this year's ballot is Measure 6, which asks voters if they want to repeal a 12-cent gas tax hike which was approved last year. Further, Republicans hope to retain conservative momentum into 2020 by targeting the state's high-speed rail project which has experienced setbacks and cost growth. California Republicans' 2020 Strategy also includes a measure which would amend the state Constitution to require all fees related to transportation be exclusively appropriated to transportation projects, not the general fund.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Executive Director

El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization, El Paso, TX

Transportation Planner – Transit Program Manager

River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization, Daytona Beach, FL

Transportation Engineer/Transportation Planner

Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, Omaha, NE

Assistant/Associate Planner

San Joaquin Council of Governments, Stockton, CA

Transportation Programs Manager

Benton-Franklin Council of Governments, Richland, WA

OPPORTUNITIES

[View full list opportunities!](#)

2019 Environmental Excellence Awards

Application Deadline: September 28

This biennial program was developed by FHWA to honor partners, projects, and processes that excel in meeting growing transportation needs while protecting and enhancing the environment.

While working in partnership with states, organizations, businesses, and individuals, FHWA encourages environmental stewardship and increased awareness of the successes that can be achieved by incorporating environmental excellence into our everyday work.

Walk into Action: Walking and Walkability Policy Issues

October 10, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

At the national, state, and local level, walking advocates can use their voice, and their vote, to support policies, programs, and candidates that support healthy, active, and engaged communities. Learn about how you can use your voice and your vote to support walking and walkability by engaging communities and elected officials on a variety of intersecting issues. This webinar assumes some knowledge of issues related to walking and walkability.

Questionnaire Regarding Access Management

Responses requested by October 12, 2018

The Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) is seeking information from transportation agencies, researchers, and consultants on current practices used to measure the value of access management recommendations at the small project, corridor, and program levels. Cost/benefit methods for other transportation actions that could be adapted for access management projects are also of interest. This short scanning questionnaire is part of National Cooperative Highway Research Program Project 25-47: How to Measure and Communicate the Value of Access Management, led by CUTR at the University of South Florida, along with Texas A&M Transportation Institute.

Access and Mobility Partnership Grants Informational Webinar

October 16, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Access and Mobility Partnership Grants seek to improve access to public transportation by building partnerships among health, transportation, and other service providers. This program provides competitive funding to support innovative projects for the transportation-disadvantaged that will improve the coordination of transportation services and non-emergency medical transportation services. This informational webinar will provide interested applicants with an overview of the program history and purpose, applicant eligibility, eligible projects, local match requirements, proposal content, and project evaluation criteria. Time at the end of the overview is allotted for questions and answers from participants.

EDC-5 Regional Summits

The objectives of the Every Day Counts (EDC) Regional Summits are to: facilitate dialogue, encourage creative thinking, and celebrate a shared vision for new opportunities. These Summits are an integral component of the EDC model, bringing together transportation leaders and front-line professionals responsible for the development and delivery of highway projects. The Summits provide transportation professionals the opportunity to learn about the 10 innovations promoted through EDC-5, exchange ideas with their state, local, and industry counterparts, and provide feedback to FHWA on the support and resources needed to adopt the innovations. The summits will be in **Baltimore, MD, Albany, NY, St. Louis, MO, Portland, OR, and Orlando, FL.**

Scenario Planning RFP for Impactful Projects

Proposals due: October 23

The Consortium for Scenario Planning is announcing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify and fund impactful scenario planning projects to improve the state of scenario planning practice. The Consortium's goals include expansion of professional capacity to apply scenario planning to rural and urban planning work, increased user base of scenario planning across both process-based and data/technology-based approaches, and strengthened and scaled-up professional network for scenario planning. Questions regarding the RFP should be submitted by 5 pm EST on Friday, September 28, 2018, and proposals should be submitted via the online form by 5 pm EST on Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Late questions or proposals will not be accepted.

FTA Joint State Safety Oversight and Rail Transit Agency Workshop and Training

October 23 – 25, Washington, DC

The workshop will focus on effective rail transit system safety and current oversight responsibilities. The workshop will also promote the exchange of information between attendees and FTA's Transit Safety Oversight, Headquarters, and Regional Offices, as well as other Federal agencies, regarding new programs and requirements to strengthen rail transit safety oversight. Contractors supporting the State Safety Oversight program and rail transit agencies are also invited to attend.

2019 TRB Annual Meeting Resiliency Tabletop

January 13, 2019, Washington, DC, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

This exercise will assemble fifteen multi-disciplinary teams at the Annual Transportation Research Board (TRB) meeting in Washington, DC. Each team will have representatives in each of the following groups: economics and commerce, infrastructure, emergency management, government transportation entities (all levels), and government non-transportation entities. During the 4-hour exercise, each team will collectively complete a workbook to stimulate a recovery from a freight disruption that affects local communities, regional economies, and national supply chains.

CONTACT US

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