

October 18, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



MEMBER REQUESTS

NARC Survey about Connected and Automated Vehicles

Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAVs) are increasingly making headlines and will have profound impacts on transportation planning and the entire transportation system. NARC is conducting a survey to understand the needs, challenges, and engagement practices in considering regional priorities and varying stages of research and development in CAV technology. Please share your thoughts regarding CAVs from a regional perspective and let us know how we can best tailor our activities to your needs. **The survey should take approximately 6 minutes to complete and will close for responses on Thursday, November 8, 2018.** The survey can be found [here](#).

Please Connect Us with Your COG Lobbyist

Do you have a COG lobbyist here on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.? NARC is planning a meeting of COG lobbyists in early November, so we can connect with them and help them connect with each other on shared federal legislative priorities. Please send Erich Zimmermann an email at erich@narc.org with your COG lobbyist's contact information so we can send them an invitation to this upcoming meeting.

Needs, Requirements, and Qualifications of Federal Advocacy Services

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is requesting information from its peers on the creation of an RFP for federal advocacy services in Washington, D.C. SCAG would like to learn how other regional planning organizations have defined their needs, requirements, and qualifications of federal advocacy services. Please forward any example documents or other feedback to Erich Zimmermann (erich@narc.org).

CONGRESS BRIEF

The Senate packed up last Thursday and headed home to campaign ahead of the midterm elections, and the House adjourned well before that. Congress will return on November 13 for fifteen legislative days to either complete work or punt on a number of unfinished bills. On the transportation side, John Thune (R-SD) still hopes to pass the Senate's AV Start Act.

Regardless of the election outcome, both the Senate and House will have new transportation committee leadership in January. Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Chairman Thune (R-SD) is expected to become majority whip if Republicans hold their majority, which would put Roger Wicker (R-MS) as the most likely new Commerce chairman. On the Democratic side, Bill Nelson (D-FL) faces a tough election which could shake things up depending on who takes the Senate and his results.

In the House, Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) is retiring. Two republicans, Jeff Denham (R-CA) and Sam Graves (R-MO), are vying to replace him. If the House flips, ranking member Pete DeFazio

(D-OR) would become chairman. All of this will also change up the subcommittee leadership. Stay tuned after November 6 to see how the transportation committees take shape.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

RFC: The Impact of AV Technologies on Workforce

The USDOT Office of the Secretary is seeking comments on the scope of a congressionally-required analysis of the impact of automated vehicle technologies on workforce. The study will be conducted with the Department of Labor and will look at the potential pace of the transition in the transportation sector, training availability, issues of driver situational awareness in vehicles which may require operator re-engagement, the safety of truck platooning, and related traffic management. Comments on the scope are due November 5.

REGIONS BRIEF

Transportation at the Ballot Box Database

The Eno Center for Transportation is tracking the 255 transportation measures on ballots this November along with the 196 that have already been voted on in 2018. Twenty-five states have some form of transportation measure and most are for local roads. More than 72 percent of the measures are in Michigan and Ohio, which have routine property tax measures to generate revenue for local street maintenance. Eno will continue to update their database and look deeper at results in November.

Autonomous Vehicle Pilots Across America

The National League of Cities (NLC) has produced a municipal action guide report to educate cities on best practices and pilot programs, the current legal/regulatory structure, and how to move forward with autonomous vehicles. The report looks at case studies in several cities, including the autonomous shuttle pilot in Arlington, TX, AV efforts in Boston, MA, and Portland, OR's work with the private sector. NLC encourages city leaders to look at their own goals and build a consortium and engage the private sector to help absorb costs and use the expertise in their region. NLC also recommends using a phased in approach to help ease public concerns and educate city staff.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Public Outreach Officer

Broward MPO, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Lead Planner – Long Range Transportation Plan Coordinator

Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency, West Palm Beach, FL

Lead Planner – Transportation Improvement Program Coordinator

Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency, West Palm Beach, FL

Planner II

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, Dayton, OH

Transportation Planner

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, Albany, OR

OPPORTUNITIES

[View full list opportunities!](#)

NARC Webinar! Connecting the Region: Planning to Fulfill Your Regional Broadband Vision

October 23, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

Communities across America are increasingly recognizing the importance of regional collaboration in assessing their internet connectivity needs and planning for effective broadband deployment. Tune in to this NARC webinar, in partnership with BroadbandUSA, to learn more about the steps your regional council can take towards creating a strategy and action plan that fulfills your region's broadband vision. You will hear from two regional council leaders on how

their organizations developed their own regional broadband plans, some of the successes and challenges they encountered along the way, and where they are now in the implementation process.

NARC Webinar! NARC-LISC Opportunity Zones Webinar

November 15, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

NARC and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) will hold a webinar on the Opportunity Zones program on November 15. The presentation will provide an overview of the program, how it aims to attract private investment to underserved areas, and what to expect over the next phases of Opportunity Zone implementation. Wasatch Front Regional Council will also be featured, sharing their role in designating Opportunity Zones in Utah and potential opportunities this program presents for their organization and their region.

FTA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans Webinar Series

Bus Guidance and Template, November 1, 2:00 PM ET

PTASP Final Rule Frequently Asked Questions, November 15, 2:00 PM ET

Guidance on Using SSPPs to Develop an PTASPs, December 5, 2:00 PM ET

Following publication of two important new safety rules, FTA is hosting a **new webinar series** to provide technical assistance to transit agencies on the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Final Rule. The PTASP Final Rule requires certain rail and bus operators to develop safety plans to better manage their safety risk using Safety Management Systems. FTA's phase two webinar series runs from October 2018 through December 2018.

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.**

TMIP Webinar: New Era of Data, Tools, and Models for Transportation Performance Based Planning at ARC

October 22, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

The transportation world is changing rapidly, and big data is becoming increasingly accessible due to the rise of new technologies. The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is constantly reassessing its understanding of the transportation system and transportation projects' short and long-term performance. This presentation will cover the types of data, tools, and methods employed for various regional planning efforts as well for TIP project evaluation. ARC staff will provide examples of how different data tools and methods can make us more effective, as no one tool and data can answer all our complicated questions.

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.

Battery Electric Buses - State of the Practice

October 23, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

Many transit agencies are interested in understanding the potential benefits and challenges associated with the introduction and operation of battery electric buses (BEBs). TCRP *Synthesis 130: Battery Electric Buses* was recently produced to provide unbiased information for agencies to evaluate the deployment of BEBs. The goal of the study was to provide a critical and valuable

overview of the current state of practice regarding the deployment of BEBs (i.e., planning, service, operations, and maintenance). This webinar will present the findings and highlights from the synthesis. There will be an opportunity to ask questions of the presenters.

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.

CTPP PSAP Update on Small Geography Delineation Criteria and PSAP Participation

October 24, 1:00 -2:30 PM ET

This webinar will discuss the 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) block group and tract delineation criteria. CTPP data releases after the 2020 Decennial Census will no longer report by TAZ, but by block groups instead. Speakers will give an update on the process that was initiated to adapt to this change, including a discussion on how the new PSAP criteria will better enable us to align block group and TAZ boundaries to sustain the value of CTPP data for modeling and transportation planning and analysis.

Winning Strategies to Engage Diverse Communities in Safe Routes to School

October 24, 1:00 PM ET

Low-income communities and communities of color are more vulnerable to unsafe travel partly because of inequities in infrastructure and programming. By engaging diverse communities in Safe Routes to School, we can help change this. Join this webinar to learn about the importance and impact of meaningful community engagement in Safe Routes to School programs.

Smart Columbus Program Webinar: Smart Mobility Hubs

October 24, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

This webinar will focus on the Concept of Operations (ConOps) for the Smart Mobility Hubs and the System Requirements Specification (SyRS) 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 sixth in a series of webinars focusing on ConOps and trade studies developed as part of the Smart Columbus program, and the first to include the SyRS.

AVs and Safety

October 24, 4:00 – 4:30 PM ET

This Eno webinar will focus on AVs and safety and feature Mark Rosekind, former NHTSA Administrator and NTSB board member and now Chief Safety Innovation Officer at Zoox. Dr. Rosekind will share his unique perspective on how the federal government can strike the right regulatory balance between providing for safety while allowing the AV industry to grow and innovate.

Autonomous Vehicle Assignment and Routing in Congested Transportation Networks

October 25, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Ridesharing services have been growing since the start of network service companies in recent years and will be further enhanced with the deployment of autonomous vehicles in the future. When the daily trip request pattern is stable based on the steady population composition, economy, and city infrastructure in a long time period, one fundamental question is what the corresponding dynamic traffic condition will be if all vehicles are autonomous and can be dispatched in a centralized way. This presentation will discuss how to optimally assign the available vehicles from different depots to satisfy those stable trip requests, while considering the road congestion endogenously incurred by the interactions of those dynamically assigned vehicles.

Strategies for Accelerating Multimodal Project Delivery

October 31, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

To respond to growing demand for safe and comfortable places to walk and bike, agencies are focusing attention on developing multimodal transportation networks that serve all road users. As agencies work to deliver more multimodal transportation projects, they may encounter obstacles and barriers that delay or prevent their plans from being implemented. FHWA is preparing to release a workbook in late October to help assist agencies in identifying strategies to accelerate the delivery of multimodal projects. During this webinar, FHWA and project team members will provide a detailed look at the forthcoming workbook, which features strategies that agencies can use to accelerate project delivery and turn plans into projects.

Coordination with MPOs on TAM Plans and Activities

October 31, 2:00 – 3:15 PM ET

This webinar will focus on regional coordination on a group TAM plan sponsored by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and how asset information was used to support regional investment prioritization and target setting. The speakers will also discuss plans for continuing and improving coordination following the October 2018 deadline for the first TAM plan.

NPMRDS Quarterly Webinar

November 8, 1:00 – 3:00 PM ET

The National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) is the probe data that FHWA is using for passenger and freight analysis and making available to states and MPOs in support of the national transportation performance measures. During this webinar, FHWA and its contractors will provide an overview of the probe data set, demonstrate data applications, and respond to technical assistance questions. This webinar is open to USDOT, state DOT, MPO, academic, and private sector participants.

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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