

October 25, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



## MEMBER REQUESTS

### NARC Survey about Connected and Automated Vehicles

Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAVs) 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](mailto: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](mailto:erich@narc.org)).

## CONGRESS BRIEF

*Congress will return on November 13, after the midterm elections.*

### WRDA Signed into Law

On Tuesday, President Trump signed the *America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (S. 3021)*. The Senate passed the bill on October 10. The bill has several provisions that will help communities upgrade their water and wastewater systems.

## ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

### President Calls For Budget Cut

During an October 17 cabinet meeting, President Trump called for a 5 percent cut from each department. His request follows a Treasury Department and Office of Management and Budget report earlier last week that the deficit in fiscal year 2018 increased by \$113 billion to \$779 billion. During the meeting, the president also highlighted his sustained desire to cut regulations and his focus on reducing the time it takes to approve highway and roadway projects.

### New FHWA Executive Director

Tom Everett is the new executive director of FHWA. He replaces Cheryl Walker, FHWA's acting executive director since June 1, following the retirement of Walter "Butch" Waidelich Jr. in March 2016. Everett has previously served as the associate administrator for FHWA's Office of Infrastructure, a structural engineer team leader in FHWA's Office of Bridges and Structures, and director of the agency's Office of Program Administration.

### **NHTSA Directs Driverless Shuttle to Stop Transporting School Children in Florida**

Early this week, Transdev North America was directed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to cease operation of the EZ10 Generation II driverless shuttle, which transports school children in Southwest Florida. While Transdev is operating with temporary permission to test the driverless shuttle, its use as a school bus was not approved and presents a risk to public safety, according to NHTSA. Failure to comply with the directive could result in a civil penalty action, ultimately voiding the temporary import permission on the driverless shuttle.

## **REGIONS BRIEF**

### **SEMCOG Bike and Pedestrian Plan Implementation Report**

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) has, on an ongoing basis, followed up on adoption of their different plans with implementation, updating their members and stakeholders of their progress along the way. SEMCOG released a **printed implementation report** of their Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Southeast Michigan, and complemented it with a **video that highlights their progress**. Other materials SEMCOG has created to highlight this program's implementation progress include a presentation to their executive committee, a magazine article, **blog entry**, **interactive bicycle network map**, and social media. Reception to the implementation report has been very positive so far, and SEMCOG is confident that this reporting and engagement will help keep up the plan's momentum.

### **Survey: Americans Willing to Pay for Congestion Reduction**

A new public opinion survey from HNTB found that 61 percent of Americans think congestion is worse than last year, and 73 percent are willing to pay to reduce it. The survey also found that if the taxes and tolls are guaranteed to only be used for infrastructure, support increases to 82 percent. Almost half of those who are willing to pay think that tolls should be utilized rather than taxes. HNTB polled 1,011 Americans in September for the survey.

### **Interventions to Increase Active Travel to School**

The Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) has a new recommendation to increase active travel to school. The Task Force reviewed 52 studies and concluded that programs such as Safe Routes to School increase walking and reduce risks for traffic-related injuries. The CPSTF also recommends combined built environment approaches to increase physical activity. The proportion of students K-8 who bike or walk to school has fallen from 47.7 percent in 1969 to 12.7 percent in 2009.

### **The Secret Data Collected by Dockless Bikes is Helping Cities Map Your Movement**

Dockless bikes use a combination of GPS, 3G wireless connections, and solar power to transmit their location to providers and consumers. Providers, and the cities they partner with, have unparalleled access to rider behavior and are leveraging this knowledge to meet the needs of their consumers. In South Bend, IN, Lime is providing aggregate statistics on travel and heat maps showing where most riders occur in the city. South Bend used this data to paint drop-off areas for the bikes and is now hoping to use this information to plan for new bike paths and lanes. Lime is also working with cities to identify a format that makes it easy for them to pull data from multiple operators into their databases to analyze with their own tools.

## **JOBS**

***View full list of jobs!***

### **Executive Director**

Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Association of Bay Area Governments, San Francisco, CA

### **Comprehensive Resiliency Planner**

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Pinellas Park, FL

**Associate Transportation Planner**

Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Central Point, OR

**Principal Planner**

Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Central Point, OR

**Transportation/Community Development Planner**

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, Kelso, WA

**OPPORTUNITIES**

*View full list opportunities!*

**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.**

**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.

### **5th Annual Walkability Action Institute RFA Going Live Soon**

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) will be hosting their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Walkability Action Institute on April 22-25, 2019 in Decatur, GA. Next Monday, October 29, NACDD will open their request for applications (RFA) to offer eight interdisciplinary regional teams a chance to compete for travel assistance to attend the action institute. The teams must have a minimum of public health, planning, transportation, and elected official representation. Start forming your teams now – the RFA links and materials will be available soon!

## **CONTACT US**

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