



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 11-14, 2018
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Registration is Open!

*This is your last chance to lock in savings with early-bird registration fees!
Early-bird registration closes tomorrow, January 5, at midnight (ET).*

CONGRESS BRIEF

Shuster Announces Retirement

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) announced earlier this week that he will not seek reelection. He was term-limited in his chairmanship after this year, so a new chairman would have been chosen anyway. But this does represent the departure of a senior member of the committee, and the most vocal supporter of spinning-off the nation's air traffic control system to private operation. In the official release of his decision, Shuster indicated his desire to spend the next year focused on helping the president pass an infrastructure bill, rather than on his own reelection bid. Shuster barely survived a primary challenge from Art Halvorson two years ago, and Halvorson has already announced his intention to run again. If the Republicans hold the House in this year's elections, next in line to chair the committee are Representatives Jeff Denham (R-CA) or Sam Graves (R-MO).

Whither an Infrastructure Package?

The calendar has turned to 2018, and hopes are high in Washington for the release of an infrastructure package from the Trump administration. A principles document has been promised early in the year that outlines the administration's intent. While early rumors raise all kinds of red flags, there is little need to wrap our minds around them until they are put on paper. Even then, there is a very long way from such a document to a final bill. Below are a few questions surrounding the bill:

- Will Democrats play ball on a major legislative victory for the administration in an election year (an election year in which running against the president will be a very popular choice)? The Senate needs at least nine Democrats to move anything, so the process will have to be bipartisan from the beginning and Democrats are already complaining that they

- are being left out of initial conversations.
- How will the bill be paid for? The Highway Trust Fund is maxed out, so unless the bill contains an increase in fuel taxes or another way to raise revenue, any new spending will either add to the deficit or need to be offset.
 - Will the Freedom Caucus follow a tax bill vote – which significantly increases the deficit – with additional spending for infrastructure? Will they agree to an increase in fuel taxes?
 - Will this be a bill that locals can support? It has been described in various venues by White House officials as an “incentive” program that requires finding new local funding sources. Depending on how the bill is structured, this approach could make it challenging to garner enough support from local officials and other stakeholders to pass.

Join us in Washington, February 11-14, to hear USDOT Undersecretary for Policy Derek Kan outline the administration’s priorities, including an infrastructure package.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Administration Pulls Support from Tunnel Project

Last week, the Trump administration pulled support from an Obama-era agreement to replace one of the busiest rail tunnels in the nation, under the Hudson River between New Jersey and New York City. The Amtrak tunnel, which was badly damaged during Superstorm Sandy, would cost \$11 billion to replace and the federal government previously indicated that it would cover half. Some project supporters hope that this is a negotiating tactic on the part of the administration, and expressed optimism about reaching a final deal. New Jersey and New York recently released plans to pay for their portions of the tunnel project, which carry 80,000 passengers each day and create a major choke point in the busy east coast rail corridor. The project was previously delayed when outgoing New Jersey Governor Chris Christie scuttled a prior agreement for a replacement tunnel.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Associate Policy Analyst

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Senior Planner

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, Dayton, OH

Planner

East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, Anniston, AL

Senior Planner, Transit

Stanislaus Council of Governments, Modesto, CA

Senior Transportation Planner

Stanislaus Council of Governments, Modesto, CA

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Advancing Health Equity Webinar Series Part 3: Fostering Community Partnerships to Advance Health Equity

January 9, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

This **four-part webinar series** is built around the strategic practices outlined in the recently released ***Health Equity Guide*** by Human Impact Partners. Each webinar focuses on a **set of strategic practices** that health departments can take to pursue a wall-to-wall transformation of how they work internally, with communities, and alongside other government agencies. This webinar will discuss: Why fostering community partnerships is key to advancing health equity, how Kansas City shares power and space with community organizers to change policy, and resources to help your health department foster community partnerships to advance health equity.

Impacts of New Mobility Services on the Use of Other Travel Modes in California

January 17, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Emerging transportation services, such as carsharing and ride-hailing services, are quickly changing how people travel. This webinar will highlight new research from Dr. Giovanni Circella exploring the factors affecting the adoption of these new services, how frequently these services are used, and the effect these services have on the use of other travel modes, including public transportation and driving alone. Insights presented in this webinar come from an ambitious data collection effort funded by California DOT on the travel trends and lifestyle preferences of millennials and members of Generation X in California and their relationships with residential location, technology adoption, car ownership, travel behavior, and future aspirations to purchase a vehicle.

Performance Based Planning and Programming Webinar

January 25, 1:00 – 3:30 PM ET

FHWA and FTA speakers will provide an overview of the Performance Based Planning and Programming Requirements, along with implementation timelines. Peer Presenters will share how they are coordinating and collaborating with key partners such as state DOTs, MPOs, and transit operators on Performance Based Planning and Programming. The goal of the webinar is to share the latest information and best practices to ensure consistency nationwide when implementing these requirements.

Decision Support for Transportation Asset Management

January 31, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

FTA will host a webinar to review how two agencies use decision support tools to support Transportation Asset Management (TAM) efforts. The webinar will feature presentations from Debbie Swickard (grants manager, Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA)) and Daniel Holdsworth (budget analyst, Capital District Transit Authority (CDTA)) and will highlight, among other topics, using the TAM small provider tool and developing agency-specific decision support tools.

CONTACT US