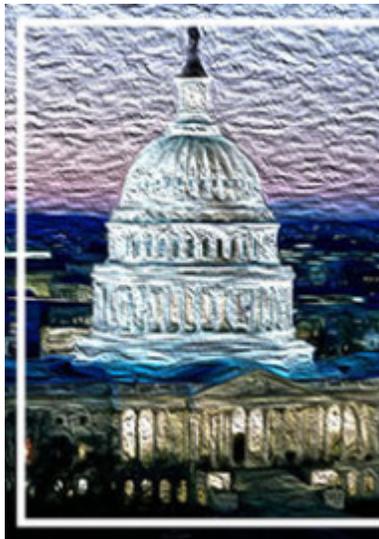


NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



2017 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 12-15
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

Heading to the TRB Conference in DC Next Week?

Erich Zimmermann, NARC's Transportation Director, will be there and would love to connect with members who are attending. Please send a message to erich@narc.org to let him know if you would like to get together.

CONGRESS BRIEF

Transportation in the New Administration

U.S. Transportation Secretary-designate Elaine Chao will have her confirmation hearing next Wednesday, January 11, with the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. Chao's confirmation process is expected to go smoothly and without controversy – it is one of several hearings that day.

With less than two weeks before President-elect Trump takes office, attention is turning from appointments to what will be accomplished during the new administration's first 100 days. While Trump's \$1 trillion infrastructure package has received a lot of attention, **top lawmakers say** this will not be an immediate priority. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) indicated that Congress will figure out the pay-fors before writing a proposal. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) indicated some reluctance to the idea of a large infrastructure proposal. In a letter to President-elect Trump, Peter DeFazio (D-OR) **urged the President-elect** to make a "down payment" on his commitment to infrastructure by making the \$9 billion balance of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund immediately available to dredge ports and inland harbors.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Secretary Foxx Exit Memo

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx released his *Cabinet Exit Memo* today, highlighting his time in office and record of progress. Foxx focuses on the advancements in technology, such as

automated vehicles and connected infrastructure, and ways USDOT has assisted in their deployment through the Smart City Challenge and Federal Automated Vehicle Policy. He emphasizes the importance of safety and ways USDOT has improved aviation safety, including drone policy, with the Federal Aviation Administration. The Secretary closes with his vision for the future: calling for better funding, continued focus on technology advancement, and using transportation to address economic inequality.

MPO Guidebook for Using Safety as a Project Prioritization Factor

FHWA released a guidebook to identify the state of the practice among MPOs using safety as a project prioritization factor. The guidebook includes six approaches and details potential criteria, analysis methods, pros/cons, data, and resource needs for implementing these approaches at basic, intermediate, and advanced levels. FHWA interviewed nine agencies including Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments and the San Diego Association of Governments.

What We Learned from the Smart City Challenge to Build Cities for the Future

Secretary Foxx and USDOT have created a lessons learned report with information gleaned from the 75 cities who applied for the Smart City Challenge to help local leaders innovate in their own cities. The report includes several data points from the first round of applications and an overview of the seven finalist cities' comprehensive applications. USDOT also put together an **interactive map** that links to information from the applications and other tools to analyze the seven finalist projects.

REGIONS BRIEF

Six Transit Launches to Watch in 2017

With a record number of transit ballot measures (totaling more than \$200 billion in funding) in the November election, Next City has outlined six transit projects opening in 2017 to keep an eye on. Their list includes New York City's 2nd Avenue Subway; an extension of bus rapid transit in Richmond, VA; and a light-rail extension in Charlotte, NC.

Greater Portland COG Receives Every Body Walk! Support

America Walks and the Every Body Walk! Collaborative announced the second round of Every Body Walk! Micro Grant awardees. The micro grant program provides funds that support grassroots efforts aimed at getting communities walking and creating safer, accessible, and enjoyable places to walk and be physically active. With support from partners, including WalkBoston, American College of Sports Medicine, and the TransitCenter, **22 projects will be supported in 2017**. The **Greater Portland Council of Governments** in Portland, Maine was selected to do their public service fund project.

Portland is Maine's largest and most diverse city – home to 66,000 people including a sizeable immigrant and refugee community. In 2015, Portland Public Schools began partnering with the local public transit provider, switching high schoolers from yellow busses to public busses. This project will maximize and sustain the benefits of student transit use by engaging youth as planners and civic leaders. Led by the Public Health in Transportation Coalition – a group of planners, public health practitioners, and active transportation stakeholders – this effort will involve students in implementing a bus stop placemaking demonstration project and developing recommendations for region-wide transit improvements.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Notice of Solicitation: RFQ No. 17-01

Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Transportation Planner

Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, Cincinnati, OH

Transportation Planner II

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, Kelso, WA

Associate Planner – Transportation

Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, Omaha, NE

Alamo Regional Transit Area Supervisor

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Services Coordination Mentor

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Discussion of FTA's Zero Emissions Research Opportunity

January 9, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

ZERO Application Deadline: February 21, 2017

FTA will provide information about their Zero Emissions Research Opportunity (**ZERO**). Last November, FTA announced the opportunity for nonprofit organizations to apply for funding to conduct research, demonstrations, testing, and evaluation of zero emission and related technology for public transportation applications. The webinar will review questions and answers to **inquiries they received** and provide time for follow-up questions. No advanced registration is required. Space is limited to 100 participants.

Moving to Access: Is the Current Transport Model Broken?

January 11, 9:00 – 11:00 AM ET

The Moving to Access initiative, a collaboration between Brookings's Metropolitan Policy Program and Global Economy and Development program, is an extensive, multi-year effort that seeks to inform and promote an access-first approach to urban transportation policy, planning, investment, and services. This event will bring together experts across three major disciplines—transportation, urban planning, and finance—to explore where these disciplines agree, where they diverge, and what policies could support a more accessible built environment. The event will feature a panel discussion with current metropolitan leaders, distinguished scholars, and a closing keynote dialogue with Secretary Foxx.

How MPOs use CMAQ Funding for Alternative Fuel Vehicle and Infrastructure Projects

January 18, 1:00 PM– 2:30 PM ET

Many types of projects are eligible for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program funding. Hear from two MPOs about using CMAQ funds for alternative fuel vehicle projects. Jim Stack from Genesee Transportation Council will describe partnering with a Clean Cities coalition to support the deployment of nearly 150 propane, compressed natural gas (CNG), and electric drive vehicles. By partnering with Genesee Region Clean Communities, the program benefited from a fuel neutral organization's knowledge about the new technologies and relationships with the private sector. Jeff Sheffield from North Florida Transportation Planning Organization will talk about hosting the North Florida Clean Fuels Coalition and the importance of alternative fuel vehicles in their region. By using CMAQ funds, they have installed electric vehicle charging stations, helped convert a county fleet to compressed natural gas (CNG), and purchased CNG conversion kits for sanitation trucks.

Metropolitan Freight Transportation: Implementing Effective Strategies Survey

Open until January 19

This survey is being conducted for the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP Project 08-106). The aim of this survey is twofold: 1) to determine why some metropolitan freight transportation (regional movement, distribution, last mile, etc.) strategies succeed in implementation and others do not, and 2) how various strategies may impact different freight stakeholder groups. Responses will provide valuable information about how government agencies can more effectively address the needs of freight stakeholders (e.g. federal govt., MPOs, shippers, receivers, carriers, etc.) in metropolitan areas.

Early-bird Rate Ends Friday! 2017 National Conference of Regions

February 12-15 – Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Ave NW Washington, DC

The National Conference of Regions is NARC's forum to determine key policy issues and a legislative agenda for the year ahead, targeting topics central to our members' missions and their

local elected officials' focus. Additional information will be available soon. Capitol Hill Day is the final day of the conference, February 15, 2017.

CONTACT US

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