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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

January 9, 2014

Transportation Thursdays

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OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

REGIONAL BRIEF

2014 NATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2014
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

 **NARC**
Building Regional Communities

Coming to DC for TRB? If you'll be in town for the Transportation Research Board (TRB) conference next week, let us know. We'd love the chance to say hello.

Your Chance to Weigh In: NARC is developing a slate of webinars and learning opportunities for members in 2014. If you have any pressing issues, areas of concern, or something you think is just plain interesting that we could expand upon and discuss as a group, please send your ideas to Erich Zimmermann, erich@narc.org. We still need more input from members, so please don't hesitate to offer your suggestions.

Governments

Michael Parks

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NARCSTAFF

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OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

FREE WEBINAR: Liability 201: Thinking Through Your Community's Safe Routes to School Liability Concerns

January 16, 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST

This Safe Routes to School National Partnership webinar, Liability 201, will review basic liability concepts and delve into the more detailed issues related to the implementation of walking school buses, bike trains, and remote drop offs. The expert panelists have agreed to field your questions ahead of time. If you have specific situations you'd like brought up, email them to dave@saferoutespartnership.org before January 14. Register [HERE](#).

WEBINAR: DOT Connected Vehicle Planning and Policy Stakeholder Workshop

January 16, 1:00 – 4:00 PM EST

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Intelligent Transportation System Joint Programs Office (ITS JPO) will conduct a free public workshop focused on soliciting input from transportation infrastructure owner/operators which would potentially deploy and utilize connected vehicle technologies on stakeholder needs for policies, guidelines, and tools in support of successful implementation. Although the target audience is state and local DOTs, transit agencies, and other infrastructure owners, the meeting will be open to other stakeholders in the connected vehicle community, national associations, and general public. Register [HERE](#).

WEBINAR: Reshaping Rural Highways for Livability

January 21, 3:00 – 4:30 PM EST

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty *and* Project for Public Spaces will focus this webinar on the U.S. Route 50 project in Virginia, to discuss how Virginia DOT and stakeholders worked together to balance the role of Route 50 as a major national highway with the reality that it is also the heart of the rural communities it binds together. Register [HERE](#).

GRANT: Projects to Improve Air Quality at Ports 2013 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Funding Opportunity

Deadline: *February 13, 2014*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) is soliciting proposals that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions in terms of tons of pollution produced by

diesel engines and diesel emissions exposure, from fleets operating at marine and inland water ports. Eligible diesel emission reduction solutions include verified emission control technologies such as exhaust controls and engine upgrades, verified idle reduction technologies, certified engine repowers, and/or certified vehicle or equipment replacement. Additional information can be found [HERE](#).

GRANT: Round 3 of the Implementation Assistance Program SHRP2

Deadline: *February 14, 2014*

FHWA recently released the recipients of [Round 2 grants](#) and announced the schedule for rounds 3 and 4. These grants are intended to help transportation agencies deploy new products developed under the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2). For additional information or questions, contact Carin Michel, FHWA SHRP2 Implementation Manager at goSHRP2@dot.gov or 410-962-2530. Click [HERE](#) to read the release about the upcoming rounds.

ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

Office of Inspector General, U.S. DOT's Top Management

Challenges for FY2014: A safe and well-managed transportation system is key for the U.S. economy and the quality of life for the traveling public. U.S. DOT provides over \$70 billion annually to fund a wide range of programs. Consequently, it is critical for the Department to provide rigorous stewardship of taxpayer funds while carrying out its mission. Click [HERE](#) for the full report.

Top Administration Officials to Attend North American International

Auto Show in Detroit: Next week, Vice President Joe Biden, U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx, U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, and U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker will attend one of the biggest exhibitions in the industry. This will be the first high-profile visit from Administration officials since September, and will be the first auto show since the government divested from General Motors (GM). Following the sale of the government's last GM stock, President Obama declared that "the American auto industry is back."

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

Committee Hearing to Launch Surface Transportation

Reauthorization Process: On Tuesday, Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) will hold the first hearing in the Committee's efforts to develop new legislation to reauthorize federal surface transportation programs. The federal programs were last authorized under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), which was signed into law in July 2012 and expires in September. More information about this hearing, entitled *Building the Foundation for Surface Transportation Reauthorization*, including testimony, additional background information, and the live webcast will be posted [HERE](#) as it becomes available.

Congress May Need Short-term Stopgap Spending Bill to Avert Government Shutdown: Congress could miss a January 15 deadline for final passage of a fiscal 2014 omnibus spending package due to policy disagreements. A draft of the final agreement will most likely not make it to House and Senate leadership until the weekend. Funding for the 2010 health care law, the Dodd-Frank financial regulatory overhaul, and abortion policy have complicated the discussions. Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD) acknowledged that the new target for submitting a draft to leadership is late this week or over the weekend.

Help Us Help You: NARC is currently conducting meetings with congressional staff on both sides of the Capitol, focusing on transportation-related committees at the moment. If you have something notable to discuss or push with your congressional member, please send it to Erich Zimmermann, erich@narc.org.

REGIONAL BRIEF

San Antonio, TX proposes a streetcar: San Antonio has proposed a 5.9 mile downtown streetcar system. U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx recently visited San Antonio where he received a briefing on the plans from local officials. Foxx noted that San Antonio is "probably the largest city in the country without some rail connection within its transit system". Federal officials will keep that in mind as they decide whether or not to help fund the project as federal funding was not promised at the time. The streetcar system is set to open in 2017.

PUBLIC MEETING: *In Response to Survey, ARC to Try New Style of Public Meeting on January 11.* The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is hosting a new style of informational gathering that will transform an

empty storefront in Downtown Decatur into a come-and-go public meeting. It's the pilot for an idea that stems from the overwhelming response to a community engagement survey this summer in which more than 2,000 people said they wanted more local, informal, innovative, fun, and online options. If successful, ARC will replicate this style of meeting during future outreach efforts all over the region. This gathering is part of the latest update to the \$61 billion Regional Transportation Plan. For more on the open house, visit [HERE](#).

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National Association of Regional Councils
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305
Washington, DC 20002

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