



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



CONGRESS BRIEF

New T&I Committee Members

Republicans and Democrats have announced new members of the House Transportation and Instructure Committee. On the Republican side, there are nine new members: Randy Weber (R-TX), Doug LaMalfa (R-CA), Bruce Westerman (R-AR), Lloyd Smucker (R-PA), Paul Mitchell (R-MI), John Faso (R-NY), Drew Ferguson (R-GA), Brian Mast (R-FL), and Jason Lewis (R-MN). The Democrats have five new members: Frederica Wilson (D-FL), Donald Payne (D-NJ), Alan Lowenthal (D-CA), Brenda Lawrence (D-MI), and Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA).

The House will return next week and one of Chairman Bill Shuster's (R-PA) priorities is FAA reform and the air traffic control privatization he fought for last year. The current FAA reauthorization expires on September 30.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Transportation Talk This Week

Vice President-elect Mike Pence **spoke this week** at the U.S. Conference of Mayors winter meeting in Washington, D.C. and relayed a message from the President-elect on transportation. Pence reaffirmed the administration's plans for a large infrastructure bill. He also said that Trump is committed to working with local governments for long-term funding solutions and helping mayors with the "serious challenges" they face.

At his confirmation hearing yesterday, Commerce Secretary-designate Wilbur Ross also **spoke about** transportation funding. Ross co-authored the Trump infrastructure proposal that focused on private funding, but assured senators yesterday that it is not the only solution and voiced support for public investment as well. Transportation Secretary-designate Elaine Chao also indicated support for federal funding in addition to private funding for infrastructure in her

confirmation hearing last week.

National Electric Vehicle Charging and Hydrogen, Propane, and Natural Gas Fueling Corridors

FHWA released this report detailing the 55 routes that were selected as alternative fuel corridors, as required by the FAST Act. The report includes maps of the designated corridors for each type of fuel and information on the goals and designation process. FHWA is also required to review designated corridors every five years to reach the USDOT goal of strategic deployment of alternative fueling infrastructure by 2020.

USDOT Announces New Federal Committee on Automation

The Federal Committee on Automation met this week for the first time to discuss the development and deployment of advanced technology, such as automated vehicles. The committee will help guide USDOT in future policy and regulations and is made up of 25 transportation professionals and experts. The co-chairs are General Motors Chairperson and CEO Mary Barra and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

2015 Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges, and Transit: Conditions & Performance

Last week FHWA and FTA released a joint report on the nation's transportation system, which identifies an \$836 billion backlog of unmet capital investment needs for highways and bridges and nearly \$90 billion for transit. The report also identified the need for \$26.4 billion annually to improve transit rail and bus systems. Overall, the report makes the case for the critical need of funding for infrastructure and calls for immediate action based on its findings.

USDOT Announces Vehicle-to-Infrastructure Guidance

Outgoing Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced new FHWA Vehicle-to-Infrastructure (V2I) guidance today, intended to improve safety and mobility by accelerating deployment. The guidance can help transportation agencies and tollway authorities understand what a decision to deploy V2I technology means for their region, prepare for emerging V2I and V2V technologies, and leverage federal-aid funds to deploy them.

Secretary Foxx Releases Beyond Traffic 2045 Final Report

The final report, *Beyond Traffic 2045*, was released earlier this month highlighting future transportation challenges and trends that will shape our transportation system. A draft was released in February 2015, and USDOT sought public comments through public meetings across the country and online feedback. *Beyond Traffic 2045* is yet another report documenting the essential need to invest in infrastructure and looks at population growth, increasing freight volume, and emerging technologies as key challenges. As a part of the report release, Secretary Foxx also designated 18 Beyond Traffic Innovation Centers across the U.S. to lead research on issues outlined in the report.

REGIONS BRIEF

Fleets for the Future Website and Best Practices

The Fleets for the Future (F4F) project, led by NARC and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities Program, has recently released four extensive **best practices** documents on alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) procurement. The guides, which are available on the new **Fleets for the Future website**, cover gaseous fuel and electric vehicle procurement, fleet transition planning for AFVs, and financing strategies for AFV procurement.

F4F seeks to achieve nationwide economies of scale for AFVs through aggregated procurement initiatives. Following the kickoff of the five regional procurements led by the regional council team members, a national procurement initiative will be spearheaded by the Mid-America Regional Council with support from NARC and several Clean Cities from around the country. The F4F national procurement will include a public and private fleet component with a national bid process and promotion of national AFV contracts. Visit the new website to learn more the program and download the best practices guides.

Smart Belt Coalition

This week Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan announced that they have formed the Smart Belt Coalition to work together on self-driving and connected vehicles. The coalition will work on a

strategic plan focusing on applying these technologies in work zones and testing them with commercial freight. The states hope to implement the plan, which may lead to developing similar regulations in the future. Members of the coalition include the transportation departments and transportation research entities in each state and their universities.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Economic Development Specialist

Puget Sound Regional Council, Seattle, WA

Quality Assurance Reviewer

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Transportation Planner

Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, UT

GIS Modeler

Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho, Meridian, ID

Principal Data Analyst

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Senior Planner

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

AirCheck Texas Inspector

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Systems Analyst

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Public Outreach Manager

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Principal Planner

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Senior Regional Planner

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

OPPORTUNITIES

[View full list of grants and events!](#)

Metropolitan Freight Transportation: Implementing Effective Strategies Survey

Open until January 26

This survey is being conducted for the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP Project 08106). 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.

Moving Toward Carbon-Free Transportation in the U.S.: What Now?

January 31, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

America must move toward a zero-carbon transportation system by mid-century if we are to do our share to prevent the worst impacts of global warming. The new year brings a wealth of opportunities for progress – from new models of electric cars and buses to renewed local activism for transit and active transportation – as well as new challenges and obstacles. Join Frontier Group for a review of the data and insights gleaned from two 2016 reports on decarbonizing

transport – A New Way Forward and 50 Steps Toward Carbon-Free Transportation – and for a discussion of what comes next.

Eco-Logical Community of Practice Webinar: How to Approach Your Transportation Environmental Needs Eco-Logically!

January 31, 1:30 – 3:00 PM ET

How do you mitigate for wetlands impacts when there aren't any banks available? How do you evaluate a planning area to identify important resources to avoid impacting and those you want to conserve? And, how can you work with agencies to make decisions to locate a wildlife crossing while not delaying your project? Join this webinar to learn about three different approaches to solving agency environmental needs for transportation programs "Eco-Logically" from: South Carolina Department of Transportation, North Central Texas Council of Governments, and the California Department of Transportation.

Introduction to EconWorks

February 2, 1:30 – 3:00 PM ET

This FHWA webinar will cover the background, features, and benefits of the EconWorks Case Studies and Wider Economic Benefits (W.E.B.) tools. The webinar will feature a presentation from the Indiana Department of Transportation and Purdue University on EconWorks in Use. As a SHRP2 Implementation Assistance Program awardee, Indiana DOT worked with Purdue University to apply both the Case Studies and W.E.B. tools to projects in their state. The presentation will include an overview and process of how they utilized the tools and conclusions and lessons learned.

Steps to Effective Target Setting for TPM

A new FHWA course, Steps to Effective Target Setting for TPM, is now available through the National Highway Institute (NHI). This two-day instructor-led course explains the elements of target setting and how to establish reasonable, attainable performance targets. Upon completion, participants will be able to explain the key steps and factors in target setting; set targets; identify coordination needs; identify key stakeholder roles; and identify effective communication strategies. The primary audience comprises program managers, planners, and engineers responsible for target setting and transportation plans at state DOTs, MPOs, regional transit agencies, and FHWA and FTA employees who provide oversight and assistance for target setting.

Hotel Block Closes Tomorrow! 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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