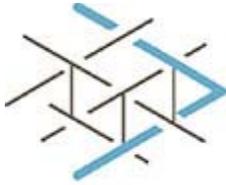


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

January 23, 2014

Transportation Thursdays

NARC LEADERSHIP

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Hon. Penny Gross,
Supervisor, Fairfax
County, VA

Chair Jim Hassinger,

NARC Executive
Directors Council;
Executive Director,
Southwestern
Pennsylvania
Commission

Hon. Fred Strong

Chair, Transportation
Committee
Board Member, NARC
and
San Luis Obispo Council
of Governments

Lyle Wray

Chair, Transportation
Committee
Executive Director,
Capitol Region Council of

[OPPORTUNITY BRIEF](#)

[ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF](#) [LEGISLATIVE BRIEF](#)

[REGIONAL BRIEF](#)

A graphic for the 2014 National Conference of Regions. It features a 3D arrangement of blue and red cubes, with a green globe integrated into the structure. The text '2014 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS' is prominently displayed in blue. Below this, the dates 'FEBRUARY 9-11, 2014' and location 'WASHINGTON, DC' are listed. At the bottom, the text 'REGISTER TODAY!' is written in red. The NARC logo and tagline 'Building Regional Communities' are also present in the bottom left corner of the graphic.

2014 NATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2014
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

NARC
Building Regional Communities

NARC Presents at Arizona Rural Transportation Summit: Last week, NARC Transportation Director Erich Zimmermann attended the Arizona Rural Transportation Summit in Prescott, Arizona. The event is organized by the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council, and this year hosted by the Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization. The event brings together elected and appointed officials, transportation planners, service providers, and engineers from across the state to discuss a host of issues central to the concerns of rural communities in Arizona. The focus of NARC's prepared remarks, during both the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council board meeting and as part of a plenary session, was the prospects and challenges of reauthorizing the surface transportation program that expires in September (presentation available [HERE](#)). During the keynote address, the focus was on general funding and specifically on the details of several transportation funding increases at the state level over the past year. Click [HERE](#) for the presentation.

Governments

Michael Parks

Chair, Transportation
Committee
Assistant Executive
Director, Brazos Valley
Council of Governments

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Autumn Campbell

Director of Community
Programs

Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Nathan Devers

Intern

Marcy Fritter

Office Manager

Bridget Gribbin

Intern

Taylor Markwith

Program Associate

Lindsey Riley

Deputy of
Communications

Anna Rosenbaum

Communications
Associate

Erich W. Zimmermann

Director of
Transportation Programs

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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.

OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

New! WEBINAR: 2014 DOT Civil Rights Virtual Symposium

February 4-6

Civil rights continue to be a responsibility of every Federal employee and external stakeholder. During this three-day online symposium, experts from across government will be speaking on current, forward-moving topics, broadening participants' perspectives on how civil rights are integral to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) mission and the everyday workplace. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to register. Registration will close on January 31st.

WEBINAR: National Performance Measures Research Data Set (NPMRDS) Hosted by FHWA's Office of Freight Management and Operations

February 5, 1:00 PM EST

NPMRDS is the probe data that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is using internally for passenger and freight analysis, and making available to states and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). This webinar will demonstrate how states and MPOs can use the data for performance measures. Click [HERE](#) to register, and [HERE](#) for more information.

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.

GRANT: U.S. DOT Announces Availability of \$24.9 Million to Put More Zero-Emission Buses into Service Across America

Deadline: *March 10, 2014*

The U.S. DOT's Federal Transit Administration announced the availability of \$24.9 million through its brand new Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Program that will put a new generation of advanced, non-polluting transit buses on the road in communities nationwide. The funds are intended to encourage more widespread adoption of reliable "green energy" buses into transit fleets. Click [HERE](#) for the announcement, and [HERE](#) for related information.

ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

Highway Trust Fund Ticker: U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has a new site that tracks the balance of the highway and transit accounts of the Highway Trust Fund. DOT projects the highway account will have a shortfall before the end of the fiscal year, when Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) expires. Click [HERE](#) for the ticker.

Peter Rogoff's Promotion: Federal Transit Administration head Peter Rogoff has been named to the number three post at the U.S. Department of Transportation. He will be DOT's Acting Under Secretary for Policy. Rogoff will need to be confirmed by the Senate for the post to become permanent. He will replace Polly Trottenberg, who recently left the job to be Transportation Commissioner in New York City under new Mayor Bill de Blasio.

FTA Publishes Circular 9030.1E—Urbanized Area Formula Program:

This is the final program guidance on the implementation of MAP-21 for FTA's Urbanized Area Formula Program. It will help recipients of Section 5307 funding to better understand and comply with changes brought about by MAP-21. Click [HERE](#) for a brief summary and [HERE](#) for the Circular.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

GAO Report, Federal-Aid Highways: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) could further mitigate locally administered project risks. Many local officials that the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) interviewed reported a variety of challenges experienced when administering federal-aid projects, but believe the benefits of federal funding for local infrastructure outweigh the challenges of complying with federal requirements. GAO was asked to review FHWA's oversight of locally administered projects and make recommendations. Read the summary [HERE](#) and the full report [HERE](#).

T&I Forms New Panel: The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (T&I) will have a new special panel that will look into public-private partnerships and what role they can play in transportation projects. The *Panel on Public-Private Partnerships* will be chaired by Republican Rep. John Duncan and Democratic Rep. Michael Capuano.

Potential Highway Trust Fund Hearing: Based on current spending and revenue trends, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) estimates that the Highway Account of the U.S. Highway Trust Fund will encounter a shortfall before the end of the fiscal year. Democrats on the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee have written Chairman Dave Camp asking for a hearing on the Highway Trust Fund and ways to fund it. Sixteen lawmakers wrote, "time is of the essence."

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

First-Ever High Speed Train to Connect U.S. And Mexico By 2018:

The proposed high-speed train would take passengers from San Antonio, Texas, to Monterrey, Mexico through the U.S. border city of Laredo in less than two hours. U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar, a Texas Democrat, and Texas Department of Transportation Commissioner Jeff Austin, as well as Mexican officials, presented the plan to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx. Mexico is ready to build, but the U.S. is still in a study phase of the project. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

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