



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

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

Registration is Open!

MEMBER REQUESTS

KHCGCC Seeks Examples for TSA Security Audit Process

The Kokomo Howard County Governmental Coordinating Council (KHCGCC), the MPO in Kokomo, Indiana, is seeking examples and information from NARC member MPOs on Transportation Security Administration (TSA) security audits.

Has your MPO gone through the Baseline Assessment and Security Enhancements (BASE) process or have the documentation prepared for a TSA security audit? The types of documents KHCGCC are looking for as examples include: Continuity of Operations Plan, System Safety Program Plan, Standard Operating Procedures, Operating Instructions, Operating Rules, Business Recovery Plan, Training Records, National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) procedures, Threat & Vulnerability Assessments, Security Audits, and Regional Emergency Response Plans. Please send responses and questions to Erich Zimmermann, erich@narc.org.

Transportation System Resiliency

NARC has been asked to participate in a roundtable discussion focused on “Resiliency, Reliability, and Energy Infrastructure Planning.” Help NARC share your stories. How are you upgrading and preparing infrastructure (i.e. repairing/building more resilient roads, preparing for transportation fuel shortages, investing in alternative fuels, etc.)? What policies and programs are you implementing to support robust infrastructure investment, planning, and response (i.e. upgrading emergency plans, etc.)? Please send all relevant stories to Leslie Wollack, leslie@narc.org, by February 2.

CONGRESS BRIEF

Shutdown Ends

After a weekend shutdown, Congress came to an agreement Monday to reopen the government. Senate Republicans and Senate Democrats ironed out an agreement to get Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) legislation to the Senate floor before the new short-term continuing

resolution expires on February 8, the fourth continuing resolution to fund the federal government this fiscal year. The bill includes a six-year extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), but does not include disaster relief funds for Puerto Rico, raising the caps for defense and non-defense discretionary programs, nor permanent protections for DREAMers in the DACA program.

House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Introduces Ten Broadband Infrastructure Bills

Early last week, Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Chairman Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) co-wrote an op-ed announcing a series of upcoming bills related to nationwide broadband infrastructure. This action follows an **executive order issued by the president** on January 8 to streamline and expedite requests to locate broadband facilities in rural America. The ten bills were introduced in three buckets: **removing barriers to infrastructure build out**, **supporting innovation**, and **strengthening the public safety benefits that come with access to broadband internet**.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Leaked Document Previews White House Infrastructure Proposal

Earlier this week, a **document was leaked** that contains an outline of what *might* be contained in the long-promised White House infrastructure proposal. The document contains two major sections: "Funding Principles" and "Principles for Infrastructure Improvements." The document does not contain principles as much as a set of policy ideas and proposed regulatory changes, with varying degrees of detail. Read **NARC's brief analysis** for details.

Administration's Infrastructure Promises Increase

In a speech to mayors this week (which included a **smaller group of mayors** than originally anticipated), the president indicated he would release a plan that spurs \$1.7 trillion in infrastructure investment. No additional details were provided on how this figure would be achieved or how it would be paid for. President Trump noted the permitting process, promising to decrease the amount of time it takes to get a project under construction, and indicated they would work to fix the bidding process for projects. The president also suggested that the plan would be released a week or two after the State of Union address, which occurs January 30.

PM₃ Analysis Tools and Enhanced NPMRDS Datasets

INRIX and the University of Maryland Center for Advanced Transportation Technology (UMD CATT) Laboratory have created tools and additional datasets to simplify PM₃ target-setting, tracking, and reporting. The three available options provide a range of functions for analyzing the NPMRDS dataset and include access to a peer network user group. An **informational webinar** will be held February 14. See details in the "Opportunities" section below.

FHWA Provides Repair Funds to the U.S. Virgin Islands

Last week FHWA announced the release of \$6.5 million in "quick release" emergency relief funds for continuing repairs to roads and bridges in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Most of the funds will be used to restore traffic signal service and repair damaged intersections on St. Thomas and St. Croix. Total funding has reached \$14.5 million for emergency work in the U.S. Virgin Islands following Hurricanes Maria and Irma. funding for the U.S. Virgin Islands following Hurricanes Maria and Irma.

REGIONS BRIEF

Drivers May Pay \$11.52 to Enter Manhattan's Congested Areas

A new proposal from a panel created by Governor Andrew Cuomo would require drivers coming into central Manhattan to pay a \$11.52 daily fee. Vehicles entering the central business district between 6 AM and 8 PM would pay, with a higher fee for trucks and a lower fee for taxis and ride share. The plan would raise an estimated \$180 million and reduce traffic by 13 percent. Revenue would fund transit improvements on the city's decaying subway system. New York would be the first city in the U.S. to implement congestion-zone fees, following in the footsteps of London, Stockholm, and Singapore, which have experienced increased average speeds, greater mass transit use, and improved air quality.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Principal Planner – Manager of Project Programming

Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Transportation Section Manager

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, Albany, OR

Community and Economic Development Director

Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, UT

Executive Director

Indiana Association of Regional Councils, Indianapolis, IN

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Survey Participation Opportunity: Evaluation of Walk and Bicycle Demand Modeling Practice

As part of NCHRP Project 8-36C, Task 141, *Evaluation of Walk and Bicycle Demand Modeling Practice*, RSG and RAND are conducting a survey among MPO and DOT travel modelers across the country. Your participation is requested for this survey. The purpose of this survey is to provide a snapshot of the current “state of the practice” for modeling bicycle and pedestrian travel demand, as well as to get an idea of agencies’ interests and priorities for potential future model enhancements.

Spotlight on Renewable Transportation Fuels—Key Benefits & Market Availability

January 31, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

“Renewable fuel” is a buzzword increasingly heard throughout the transportation sector as news headlines tout renewable fuel procurement commitments from top fleets like UPS, Waste Management, LA Metro, the City of San Diego, Ruan Transport, and more. Market development for an array of renewable fuels—including natural gas, propane autogas, diesel, and hydrogen—has continued to accelerate as an emerging solution to help states achieve their air quality and climate objectives, sustainably manage organic waste streams, and create economic development opportunities. This webinar will cover: how these fuels are produced and estimated supply forecasts, how to financially benefit from the renewable and low-carbon value of renewable fuels, and tips on the best ways to contract for renewable fuels.

ATTRI Update, Webinar 4 - Safe Intersection Crossing Project

February 8, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

USDOT will host a webinar to provide an update on an Accessible Transportation Technologies Research Initiative (ATTRI) project on safe intersection crossing being developed by Carnegie Mellon University. Participants will hear directly from Carnegie about the successes and challenges of their safe intersection crossing initiative. This is one of six USDOT projects awarded this year to develop technology prototypes to improve mobility options for all travelers, particularly those with disabilities. This project intends to connect pedestrian travelers with disabilities to the traffic signal systems, and use this connectivity to develop assistive services for safe intersection crossing and increased dependent mobility.

INRIX and the UMD CATT Lab's PM3 Analysis Tools and Enhanced NPMRDS Datasets Overview

February 14, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Every state DOT and MPO has several new responsibilities with the May 2017 federal rule regarding congestion and freight system performance reporting requirements (PM3). FHWA has made the NPMRDS travel time dataset – created and delivered by the INRIX/UMD CATT Laboratory team – available to DOTs and MPOs at no cost. Still, there is much to do to translate this dataset to meet the PM3 reporting requirements. INRIX and the UMD CATT Laboratory have extended their partnership beyond generating NPMRDS datasets to offering tools and additional datasets that simplify PM3 target-setting, tracking, and reporting. Join this webinar to learn more

about the options available from INRIX.

Volunteer Engagement in Safe Routes to School

February 20, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Safe Routes to School programs across the country know that volunteers are the heart and soul of the movement providing support for walking and biking to school at all levels every day of the school year through all types of challenges and weather. But how do programs engage volunteers to ensure smooth running programs? Join this webinar to hear from practitioners who have developed successful volunteer engagement strategies to boost health and safety in their community through Safe Routes to School.

2018 USDOT Webinar Series: What's New in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Deployment

February 20, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

March 6, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

March 27, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

USDOT ITS Joint Program Office will host a new three-part webinar series highlighting the latest trends and developments in ITS deployment. To measure the deployment of ITS technology nationally, the USDOT's ITS Deployment Tracking Project surveys transportation agencies in the largest U.S. cities on a regular basis. The ITS Knowledge Resources Portal summarizes the benefits, costs, deployment levels, and lessons learned for ITS deployment and operations from over 20 years of ITS evaluation studies, research syntheses, handbooks, journal articles, and conference papers tracking the effectiveness of deployed ITS. The webinar series will provide an overview of these resources to support informed decision making on ITS investments, highlight recent additions to the survey, and solicit feedback from participants on how best to redesign the portal to improve its usability and value.

CONTACT US

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