



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

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

Registration is Open!

Dear Members,

As you know, we have been working with the NARC staff to engage members in helping to develop the program agenda for the Annual Conference. **This survey** includes topics generated out of the brain storming session at the ED conference. Please take five minutes to give us your preferences so we can prioritize and structure the agenda. We would appreciate if you could complete the survey by Friday, February 2.

Thank you.

Harry Barley and Grace Gallucci

MEMBER REQUESTS

USDOT Requests for Comments Re: Autonomous Vehicles and Buses

USDOT currently has four requests for comments out related to autonomous vehicles and buses. NARC is beginning to look at drafting comments and is requesting member input and assistance. All four of the requests are summarized [here](#) with links to the full text. [Please review the notices and send your thoughts to Sarah Reed \(sarah@narc.org\) ASAP.](#) Sarah is specifically looking for:

- The most relevant requests that NARC should prioritize in the response;
- Whether your organization is drafting comments;
- Feedback to include in NARC's comments;
- And any other questions or suggestions!

To prepare for drafting comments, NARC will hold a conference call on Tuesday, February 6 at 3:00 PM ET. Please RSVP to Sarah (sarah@narc.org) to receive call-in details.

CONGRESS BRIEF

Republican Legislative Retreat

An Amtrak train taking lawmakers to the annual GOP retreat yesterday struck a garbage truck near Charlottesville, VA killing the driver and seriously injuring at least one other passenger. A few lawmakers received medical treatment, but none were seriously injured in the accident. Buses took the lawmakers and their families the rest of the way to West Virginia where the retreat will continue. The GOP uses the three-day meeting to plan their 2018 priorities and strategize for the mid-term elections. House Democrats will hold their retreat next week on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

State of the Union Lacked Infrastructure Detail

Transportation advocates were disappointed that no additional detail was revealed about the administration's infrastructure package during the president's 80-minute *State of the Union* address on Tuesday. President Trump called for Congress to pass a \$1.5 trillion package – up from the original \$1 trillion package but down from his \$1.7 trillion claim in a meeting with mayors earlier this month – and reaffirmed his desire for permitting reform. During the address, the White House **released a fact sheet** that confirmed most of the ideas in the leaked document from last week, including incentivizing state and local investments. In the upcoming budget release, the president is anticipated to seek significant funding cuts for transit and rail projects as an offset for its \$20 billion proposal for a new infrastructure program. Meanwhile, Congress will likely oppose cutting rail and transit to pay for a package, but remains unable to identify its own pay for. The latest from the White House indicates the plan will be delayed again because of the shutdown in January and will be shared in the coming weeks.

Additionally, lost among the discussion of the leaked outline of one portion of the administration's infrastructure package, a second leak provides **substantial detail about how it would streamline the current project review and approval process** at the federal level. This puts specifics behind what we already knew were some of the goals, including single federal point of contact, two-year decision-making timeframe as part of the NEPA process, and concurrent agency review. The document covers a broad range of issues, including compliance under federal clean air, water, and historic preservation regulations; changes to endangered species requirements; increased delegation to states; changes to the judicial review process; and several pilot programs.

Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Framework

This third edition FHWA manual is designed to help transportation agencies and their partners assess the vulnerability of transportation infrastructure and systems to extreme weather and climate effects. The manual provides seven steps to help MPOs, state DOTs, and others conduct a vulnerability assessment to identify ways to protect and preserve assets. Examples are provided for each step of the process with resources for additional information.

REGIONS BRIEF

Uber and Cincinnati Region Transit Agencies to Partner

The Cincinnati regions' public transit agencies and other local authorities are partnering with Uber to create the Cincinnati Mobility Lab. Uber hopes to build a partnership model for public and private entities and plans to share its data platform and launch studies to help with a strategic regional transportation plan. According to Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber officials, they will also work with Uber to make the region more attractive for employees by focusing on commuter challenges.

Kansas City Enters 'Phase 2' of Its Smart City Transformation

Kansas City has deployed more than 325 public access Wi-Fi points and 128 smart streetlights to collect data on a wide range of issues, including real-time traffic and the relationship between high-speed internet access and poverty. Kansas City is a lead anchor customer for the urban intelligence platform Xaqt, which distills the data kept in the Amazon Web Services cloud. Xaqt is also helping to identify vacant structures requiring frequent repairs and aging pavement to allow for preventative repairs rather than emergency fixes. Next steps for the smart city transformation include expanding Wi-Fi access points, smart water meters, and extending the existing streetcar line.

Commission on the Future of Transportation in the Commonwealth

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker signed an executive order last month to create an 18-member commission tasked with developing a range of scenarios anticipated between 2020 and 2040 and to make recommendations by December 1, 2018. The commission will focus on five key areas: climate and resiliency; transportation electrification; autonomous and connected vehicles, including ride-sharing services; transit and mobility services; and land use and demographic trends. Members of the commission include the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's Deputy Director Rebecca Davis and the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission's Executive Director Karen Sawyer Conrad.

2018 Top 100 Truck Bottleneck List

The annual American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) bottleneck report surveys 300 locations around the country to track the worst truck bottlenecks. Topping the list are junctions in Atlanta, GA; Fort Lee, NJ; and Chicago, IL, which all showed an even lower peak average speed by about five percent when compared to last year. The bottlenecks represent millions of lost hours spent in the worsening congestion across the country. ATRI's report comes amid a heightened discussion of the infrastructure package from the administration.

JOBS

Deputy Director

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, Albany, OR

Director of Community Development

Metropolitan Council, St. Paul, MN

Community and Economic Development Specialist

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, Albany, OR

Transportation Planner

Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization, Sarasota, FL

RFQ for Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative Planning Study Projects

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, Cleveland, OH

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Public Engagement that Counts

February 6, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Community buy-in is often the difference between a successful project and having to go back to the drawing board. Envisioning streets as shared spaces with all members of the community claiming equal share, requires a balance of strategy and action. Adopting a 'planning with' versus 'planning for' philosophy provides a constructive platform for public views to be combined with professional expertise and creates better outcomes. During this webinar, NACTO will delve into how NYC DOT is re-envisioning on-the-ground engagement through its Street Ambassadors Team; and how Minnesota DOT is putting real numbers behind community engagement, using data and cost accounting to expand outreach to traditionally underserved communities, and quantify the impacts that engagement has on the ground.

Transportation Planner Training Survey

Responses Due: February 14

The Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) is preparing to provide training opportunities during 2018 for transportation planners, including those at MPOs, RTPOs, and other planning organizations. CTAA's goal is to help transportation planners keep their skills sharp and up to date on multi-modal transportation system improvements. CTAA is leading this effort with the cooperation of partners at NARC, AMPO, and NADO. To tailor the training, please let CTAA know your thoughts via [this 12-question survey](#). Please forward this message to other colleagues and/or include in an agency-wide email/newsletter, as you think is appropriate.

Developing Regional Dashboards: West Michigan & Newaygo County, MI Case Studies

February 27, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Making data-informed decisions is becoming increasingly necessary in today's technology-driven world. Many individual organizations have begun creating their own dashboards to monitor metrics and impact, but broader regional multi-organizational initiatives are often left without a common set of shared metrics to track a region's progress. A coordinated measurement tool like a dashboard can solve this issue by bringing together data from multiple entities, such as private businesses, non-profits, community foundations, municipalities, and many others. These tools provide decision-makers easy access to a vast amount of data, streamlined into one simple dashboard. This webinar will discuss methods and strategies of building a coalition to develop regional dashboards, identify indicators, and develop the dashboard tool.

From the Ground Up: Built Environment Strategies and Support for Walkable Communities

February 27, 3:00 PM ET

The purpose of this webinar is to discuss how built environment strategies such as land development plans, policies, and zoning code reforms can support walkable communities —and the importance of collaboration between planners, transportation, and public health practitioners.

CONTACT US

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