



ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

President Releases FY16 Budget: Earlier this week, President Obama released his funding plan for fiscal year (FY) 2016. The transportation budget provides \$94.7 billion for the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) in FY16, which represents the first year of a \$478 billion, six-year transportation reauthorization bill to provide long-term funding for highway and transit projects. The existing Highway Trust Fund would be replaced with a Transportation Trust Fund, to be subsidized with \$240 billion from gas tax revenue and \$238 billion from a new tax on the foreign profits of US corporations. As part of the transition to international business tax reform, the plan would impose a one-time transition charge of 14 percent on the untaxed foreign earnings that US companies accumulate overseas (the rate on future foreign earnings would be 19%; under both scenarios, the credit for taxes paid overseas is maintained). Proceeds would funnel to transportation. No increase in the federal 18.4-cent gas tax is proposed. Metro planning increases to \$320 million from \$314 million in FY15.

The Administration will be releasing a reworked GROW America proposal –expanding from \$302 billion over four years to \$478 billion over six years – with \$317 billion for highways, \$18 billion for a national freight program, and \$115 billion for transit. Additionally, the Administration proposes to shift a number of items usually paid with general funds to the trust fund account, including TIGER grants, Amtrak, high-speed rail, transit New Starts, and other items. Click [HERE](#) for NARC's preliminary budget analysis updated on Tuesday, February 2. Click [HERE](#) for the Administration's infrastructure fact sheet.

U.S. DOT Unveils 30-Year Transportation Report: Earlier this week, U.S. DOT released a draft report, [Beyond Traffic 2045](#), a long-term view of the nation's transportation system and how it will meet the nation's needs and goals. The report stops short of making specific policy recommendations, and instead examines demographic trends and their impact on people and freight movement. A final report will be released later this year. Click [HERE](#) to read the report, and [HERE](#) to provide feedback on this draft.

FTA Releases SGR Circular: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released final guidance to assist recipients of financial aid under the State of Good Repair (SGR) Grants Program. The circular provides instructions and guidance on program administration and the grant application process. Click [HERE](#) to read the full guidance.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

House Releases Rail Reauthorization: Today, the House Transportation Committee released a proposal to reauthorize the *Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act* (PRRIA). This appears to be the same bill that was introduced last year. It would reduce Amtrak funding by 40-percent and mandate that Amtrak carry out a business case analysis for all major procurements, among other changes. Click [HERE](#) to read the bill.

Blumenauer Reintroduces Bill to Increase Gas Tax: Yesterday, Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), with the support of leaders in the fields of transportation, labor, commerce, and construction, introduced HR 680. This bill, titled *Update, Promote, and Develop America's Transportation Essentials Act* (UPDATE), would phase-in a nickel a gallon tax increase over each of the next three years on gasoline and diesel. The bill has 24 co-sponsors, all are Democrats. Click [HERE](#) for the Congressman's press release.

MEMBERSHIP REQUEST

Please send responses to Anna Rosenbaum, anna@narc.org.

YVCOG - Annual Retreat for Elected Officials: Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) in Yakima, WA is interested in holding an annual retreat for their elected officials. Does your organization hold a yearly retreat for its elected officials, to educate them on services/programs offered by your regional council? If yes, how do you structure your retreat? How long does the retreat last? Do you pay for all expenses (hotel, food, etc)? How do you encourage attendance? Are you willing to share your agendas/handouts as an example?

OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

Click [HERE](#) to view the list of grants and events still open!

NARC CONFERENCE: NARC's 2015 National Conference of Regions

February 8-10, Washington, DC

Join your colleagues and register for the National Conference of Regions today! This conference is a forum for locally-elected officials and their regional councils to explore federal policy issues, and discuss NARC's legislative priorities for the 114th Congress. Click [HERE](#) for the conference webpage. Please note: The Silver Line Tour has reached capacity, and is sold out.

WEBINAR: Understanding the Future of Metropolitan Economies: Evaluating Local Policy Impacts with Modeling

February 9, 2:00-3:00PM ET or

February 10, 2:00-3:00PM ET

REMI will examine the methods and ideas behind modeling the economies of metropolitan regions, and discuss how economic modeling can simulate the impacts of policy changes, including the impacts on commuting, economic development, and tax revenue. REMI will provide an overview and training on their model, which can evaluate fiscal and economic policy down to the county or city level. Click [HERE](#) to register.

HEARINGS: House T&I on Transportation Reauthorization

PART 1: February 11, 10:00AM ET and

PART 2: February 26, 10:00AM ET

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will hold a full committee hearing in two parts, titled *Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill: Laying the Foundation for U.S. Economic Growth and Job Creation*. Click [HERE](#) for information on Part I; and [HERE](#) for Part II.

WEBINAR: Talking Freight Seminar: Analyzing Regional and Interregional Freight Movements and Infrastructure Investment Decisions

February 18, 1:00-2:30PM ET

This webinar will discuss freight movement patterns within large-scale metropolitan areas and between adjacent or nearby metropolitan regions, and assess infrastructure investment needs to address freight movement needs within and between those metropolitan areas. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

WEBINAR: Livability Principles at Highway Interchanges

February 26, 3:00-4:00PM ET

This webinar will highlight two highway interchanges that were designed to prioritize multiple modes of travel and network connectivity, to complement neighboring land uses, and to minimize their physical and environmental footprints. The College Drive interchange on New Jersey Route 42 in Gloucester Township incorporated small footprint surface ramps and a new street grid for future development. The Louisiana-Pearl light rail station, immediately adjacent to I-25 in Denver, improved intersection designs and now has one of the highest walk shares of the region's transit stations. Presenters will share best practices on stakeholder engagement, ramp and public realm design, and prioritizing multimodal safety and mobility in their projects. Click [HERE](#) for more information.