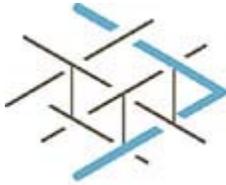


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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

February 13, 2014

# Transportation Thursdays

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### [OPPORTUNITY BRIEF](#)

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

[REGIONAL BRIEF](#)

## OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

**SURVEY: Brenda Bustillos: Doctoral student, The University of Arizona:** Brenda is recruiting transportation professionals with experience in the transportation planning and modeling community who are willing to complete a short online survey that takes approximately 20 minutes. The collected data from this survey will support her dissertation research at the University of Arizona. The goal of the survey is to provide information to better understand this community by getting to know individual's social networks. If you have any questions or need clarity, contact Brenda at [bibustil@email.arizona.edu](mailto:bibustil@email.arizona.edu). Click [HERE](#) to take the survey and view more information.

**GRANT: Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Funding Opportunity**  
*More Information will be coming this month*

The *Health Impact Project* is planning to launch a call for funding proposals this month. Grants will support HIA demonstration projects and the development of HIA programs integrating health in decision-making. HIA help to identify and address likely benefits and risks of a decision made in a field outside of the health sector. Eligible organizations include nonprofits, state, local and tribal agencies, and educational institutions. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and

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**HERE** for details concerning the application process.

## **GRANT: Round 3 of the Implementation Assistance Program SHRP2**

Deadline: *February 14, 2014*

The Federal Highway Administration (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 410-962-2530/410-962-2530. Click **HERE** to read the release about the upcoming rounds.

## **New! WEBINAR: National Transit Institute's NTD Rural Reporting Overview and Clarification Report Year 2013**

*February 18, 2:00 PM EST*

This webinar will review the National Transit Database (NTD) 2013 report year changes for non-urbanized area reporters and discuss issues relating to program changes related to the new Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) bill. A Federal Transit Administration (FTA) representative will discuss the updates and answer questions relative to these issues. This webinar is intended for NTD reporters already familiar with the NTD's functionality and reporting process. Click **HERE** to register.

## **New! WEBINAR: FHWA Office of Freight Management, Talking Freight**

*February 19, 1:00 PM EST*

Within transportation planning, one area of increasing focus is megaregions. According to America 2050, megaregions are closely clustered metropolitan areas that share "interlocking economic systems, shared natural resources and ecosystems, and common transportation systems." FHWA will provide a detailed, transportation-focused overview of the megaregion concept. It will also provide both public and private sector-focused perspectives on the challenges and opportunities associated with freight transportation movements within and between megaregions. Click **HERE** to register. Click **HERE** for additional information.

## **WEBINAR: Building a Sustainable Workforce in the Public Transportation Industry**

February 19, 2:00 PM EST

The Transportation Cooperative Research Program Report 162 provides a guidebook that addresses contemporary issues in workforce development including recruitment, retention, training, professional capacity building, and public transportation image management. Click [HERE](#) to register for this overview.

**WEBINAR: Dynamic Truck Routing for Mobility and Productivity**

February 19, 2:00 PM EST

Trucking industry stakeholders are invited to hear industry experts discuss how using dynamic truck routing applications can improve fleet efficiency and mobility. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is developing a system that would combine many data sources into one easily accessible site. The "Freight Advanced Traveler Information System" is a freight-specific information collection and dissemination system that will include data related to road construction, traffic congestion, predicted travel times, truck stop information, and route restrictions. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**WEBINAR: Bicycle Safety Education**

February 20, 2:00 PM EST

Join the Safe Routes to School National Partnership as they talk about the important components of bicycle safety curricula and help attendees think through decisions about their programs. Next, there will be a chat with Safe Routes to School Education experts on various types of bicycle safety that can be taught in the classroom. Plus, tips and tricks for programmatic success. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**WEBINAR: America Walks: Using Crosswalk Laws as a Framework for Pedestrian Safety**

February 25, 2:00 PM EST

When someone gets hurt or the police are urged to "do something," it is the traffic law that governs what can be done. Pedestrian law advocate and lawyer Ray Thomas (Portland, OR) will present an overview of the nation's crosswalk laws. Ray's presentation will give attendees a better understanding of the legal framework that supports each pedestrian's rights. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**New! WEBINAR: Eno Center's Public Private Partnership Training Course**

Application Deadline: February 26

March 10 – April 4

The Eno Center for Transportation has created an interactive online public-private-partnership (P3) course. This 40-hour, four-week course will prepare mid- and senior-level managers to navigate the capital expansion and rehabilitation process in the P3 context. This course is conducted online, but features interactivity with other students and course mentors. Each week has a distinct lesson plan and assignments, although most course activities are flexible or available on-demand. The course fee is \$3,000. Click [HERE](#) to register. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

**New! WEBINAR: Transportation and Livability, What's that Really Mean for Rural Transportation Systems?**

*February 28, 12:00 PM EST*

This webinar is designed to challenge transportation researchers and policy makers to consider the nature and severity of problems in the rural transportation system, where livability means something quite different than simply travel choices and “destinations close to home.” Dr. Aultman-Hall will review the rise of livability as a concept in federal transportation policy between 2009 and 2012 and discuss lessons learned, specifically barriers that must be overcome, for both non-metropolitan and rural areas. Click [HERE](#) to register. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

**CONFERENCE: Freight in the Southeast**

*March 3-6, 2014; Tampa, FL*

The Institute for Trade and Transportation Studies, a regionally-focused organization that works on trade and transportation issues in the southeast, is holding its annual trade conference and might be of interest to the area's metropolitan planning organizations and other transportation planners. On the first night, there will be a working dinner with discussion on “Integrating local and statewide freight planning efforts.” For more information, click [HERE](#) or contact Bruce Lambert at [bruce@ittsresearch.org](mailto:bruce@ittsresearch.org).

**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.

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## ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

**President Has Clean Debt Ceiling Increase:** Earlier this week, both the House and Senate passed identical versions of a “clean” debt ceiling increase that will allow the government to pay its bills for more than a year, until March 2015. In the House, which passed the bill on Tuesday by a vote of 221-201, Majority Leader John Boehner (R-OH) relied on heavy Democratic support, garnering only 28 Republican votes in favor. The Senate approved the bill on Wednesday along party lines, 55-43, but drama in that chamber arose when Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) insisted on a procedural vote take place that required sixty votes for passage, and therefore needed Republican support to pass. In the end, twelve Republicans voted in favor of advancing the bill to a final vote. This is the first time since 2009 that a ‘clean’ extension – free of unrelated policy or spending provisions – has been approved.

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## LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

**U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) Holds Hearing on MAP-21 Reauthorization:** The U.S. Senate EPW Committee held a hearing yesterday on the reauthorization of MAP-21 and the economic impact of maintaining federal investments in the nation's transportation infrastructure, including the Highway Trust Fund's (HTF) solvency. "It is critical for our nation to continue investing in our aging infrastructure. Therefore, preserving the Highway Trust Fund needs to be our number one priority in this committee, in other committees, and in the Senate and the House," said U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.). President and Chief Executive Officer Thomas Donohue of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce urged the U.S. Senate to identify ways to maintain and increase transportation infrastructure investment. "The chamber believes that Congress should maintain a user-fee based Highway Trust Fund to support a strong federal role and enable multi-year funding commitments by the federal government to states and metropolitan planning organizations," he said in a prepared statement. "Raising user fees to cover the [trust fund's] shortfall and allow for increased investment should not be dismissed." American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) President Mike Hancock claimed that the impending insolvency of the

HTF poses a threat to state budgets, the construction industry and overall economy. In January, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced that the fund's Highway Account is likely to run out of money in August.

**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](mailto:erich@narc.org).

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## REGIONAL BRIEF

**San Diego/Baja California - Construction Starts on SR 11 to Ease Border Congestion:** San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and Caltrans broke ground December 10, 2013 on a major project to build a new freeway and eventually a new port of entry in Otay Mesa that will cut border wait times and boost crossborder trade. Currently, all border crossings between the San Diego area and Tijuana are congested, with border wait times routinely exceeding two hours. Border traffic congestion and delays cost the U.S. and Mexican economies an estimated \$7.2 billion in gross output and more than 62,000 jobs in 2007. In addition to economic loss, border congestion is also detrimental to air quality. "This is a big step toward eventually building a fourth port of entry in the San Diego region," SANDAG Chair and Santee Councilmember Jack Dale said. "The innovative new crossing will make it possible for commercial and private vehicles willing to pay a toll to get across the border in a secure way and quickly, cutting congestion and giving a big boost to our local and state economies."

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