



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

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

Presentations Available!

CONGRESS BRIEF

Senate Confirms Three Transportation Nominees

The Senate confirmed three USDOT nominees on Tuesday, including Ronald Batory to lead the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Batory was formerly the president and COO of Conrail and worked for the Belt Railway of Chicago and the Southern Pacific Transportation Company. Also confirmed by voice vote were: Raymond Martinez to head the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and Adam J. Sullivan as assistant secretary of Transportation. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and other New York and New Jersey Democrats have held up these nominations since last summer to gain the president's commitment to fund the Gateway program, a rail improvement project in New York and New Jersey. After several months – and increasing pressure – Schuster relented and allowed the confirmations to move forward. He will continue his work to advance the project through Congress.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

At Long Last, Administration Releases \$200 Billion Infrastructure Package

On Monday, the White House released its long-anticipated “**infrastructure package**.” The *Legislative Outline for Rebuilding Infrastructure in America* would provide funding for an array of infrastructure projects – transportation, water, wastewater, Superfund, brownfields, and more. Though many of the headlines indicate that the package is worth \$1.5 trillion, the administration actually calls for a far more modest \$200 billion investment; state, local, and private sources would be expected to contribute the remaining \$1.3 trillion. The outline also contains detailed streamlining provisions to reduce the amount of time it takes projects to go through the federal approval process and creating a process where just one federal agency would take the lead on a project's review. Response to the release was mostly underwhelming.

Despite a wide variety of organizations, associations, and others calling for funding to secure the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund, the bill does not address the issue. Nor does the proposal contain a specific offset for the administration's proposed funding. For more

information, read [NARC's initial analysis](#) and [press release](#).

Trump Open to Gas Tax increase

President Trump met with lawmakers yesterday morning to discuss the infrastructure principles released earlier this week. In the meeting, Trump reportedly signaled that he would support a 25-cent gas tax hike, bringing it up several times during the meeting. This is not the first time he suggested his support of a federal gas tax increase, which could signal a real chance to help fund infrastructure and replenish the Highway Trust Fund. Based on conversations with the president, House Transportation and Infrastructure Leaders Bill Shuster (R-PA) and Peter DeFazio (D-OR) appear ready to work together to craft a proposal that supports a gas tax increase. Democratic and Republican leaders in the Senate have both opposed the idea.

FHWA Publishes Guidance on TPM Travel Time Metric Data Reporting to HPMS

The third performance measure regulation in the National Performance Management Measures requires state DOTs to submit performance metric and related data to the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) by June 15, 2018 and annually thereafter. The national travel time-based performance measures include the: Interstate Travel Time Reliability Measure, Non-Interstate NHS Travel Time Reliability Measure, Freight Reliability Measure, and CMAQ Peak Hour Excessive Delay Measure. FHWA released a document with information and guidance on complying with these requirements.

REGIONS BRIEF

NARC National Conference of Regions Coverage

Route Fifty covered two sessions during NARC's National Conference of Regions earlier this week.

The first was the opening panel on infrastructure during which the administration's infrastructure proposal was released. Attendees heard from Ed Mortimer from the Chamber of Commerce, Caroline Sevier from the National Governors Association, and Marcia Hale from Building America's Future regarding funding and improving infrastructure. *Route Fifty* **also covered** the keynote address by Dr. Daniel Kaniewski, FEMA's deputy administrator for protection and national preparedness. Find more coverage from our legislative conference on Twitter by searching the hashtag [#RegionsLead](#).

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Executive Director

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Senior Planner, Transit

Stanislaus Council of Governments, Modesto, CA

Senior Transportation Planner

Stanislaus Council of Governments, Modesto, CA

Data Scientist

Spokane Regional Transportation Council, Spokane, WA

OPPORTUNITIES

[View full list of grants and events!](#)

Designing Streets for All Ages & Abilities Cycling

February 20, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Streets that are safe and comfortable for all ages and abilities to bike are critical for urban mobility. Building bicycle infrastructure that meets the needs of more riders is essential for cities seeking to improve street safety, provide more equitable access to jobs and opportunities, and bolster local economies. Join this public webinar for an overview of the newest National Association of City Transportation Officials design resource, *Designing for All Ages & Abilities: Contextual Guidance for High-Comfort Bicycle Facilities*. Developed by cities, for cities, the document provides concrete guidance for matching bicycle infrastructure to streets and identifying common sources of stress that deter most would-be riders.

Wyoming Interstate 80 Connected Vehicle Pilot Project

February 21, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Wyoming, a large and rural state that often experiences extreme weather during the winter months, has begun a connected vehicle pilot project to better monitor and share roadway conditions in the state along Interstate 80, the state's primary east-west highway and truck corridor. Wyoming DOT (WYDOT) views the freight industry as an important consumer of information about road conditions on I-80. With truck volumes approaching nearly half of the total daily traffic on the roadway, WYDOT is working with national and local truck carriers to equip 400 trucks with connected vehicle technologies so weather forecasts and conditions can be shared directly to commercial fleet operators on the road as well as prior to the trip. This webinar will highlight the ways that state DOTs and freight carriers can work together to advance connected vehicle technologies while improving the quality of information available to trucks and fleet operators.

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 and practitioners in transportation and public health.

How to Design Public Engagement to Find Common Ground

February 28, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

When it comes to urban and transportation planning, motivated groups with competing demands often emerge in community outreach efforts. Join this webinar to learn how online community engagement can help find common ground to build a plan that citizens will support. Mark Evans from BartonPartners and Mary Young from Town of Westport will share their success in engaging the public to inform the *Saugatuck Transit Oriented Design Master Plan*. Find out how online engagement provided a fun and safe way for citizens to provide input without fear of reprisal from local insurgent groups. The result? A master plan that meets the common desires of the local community.

Improving the Resilience of Transit Systems Threatened by Natural Disasters

March 12, 1:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Is your agency looking for straightforward "how-to" practices for emergency preparedness and response? Learn how to prepare for the effects of a natural disaster or event, recover quickly, and return rapidly to providing the services that customers rely on to meet their travel needs in this two-hour webinar from the **Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP)**. The webinar will feature research from TCRP's recently published *Improving the Resilience of Transit Systems Threatened by Natural Disasters*, **Volume 1: A Guide**, **Volume 2: Research Overview**, and **Volume 3: Literature Review and Case Studies**.

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