



LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

Possible Joint Committee to Push for Highway Funding Fix: Last Friday, Representative James Renacci (R-OH) revealed that a working group of House, Senate, and outside expert members have been meeting quietly to brainstorm long-term sustainable transportation funding solutions. According to Renacci, the group is exploring mechanisms to keep the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) operable for the next ten years or longer without implementing a new mechanism for collecting revenue, despite opposition to raising the gas tax and the fact that the current gas tax no longer generates enough revenue to support the HTF. Click [HERE](#) for a full summary.

Commuter Benefit Parity Act: Sponsored by Representative Peter King (R-NY), the *Commuter Benefit Parity Act (H.R. 990)* was introduced to the House last week, in an attempt to equalize tax relief related to transportation costs incurred by commuters who drive to work and those who use public transit. The bipartisan legislation would cap the monthly fringe benefit of parking and transit to \$235 each, with the premise being that making public transit a cost-effective option would increase ridership and reduce traffic congestion. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Emergency Road and Bridge Funding: The Federal highway Administration's (FHWA) emergency relief program will distribute \$232 million to repair roads and bridges that have been damaged by recent storms. Click [HERE](#) for details.

West Coast Ports Slowdown and Resolution: Last week, over 30 West Coast ports faced a slowdown in productivity (i.e. docking, unloading, and distributing goods inland) due to a conflict between the Pacific Maritime Association, representing longshore workers, and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, representing dock workers. Congress has urged the President to invoke the *Taft-Hartley Act*, which would resume port operations while the union and association come to an agreement. Nearly a week later, ports are either shutting down or facing significant economic slowdown. Click [HERE](#), [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) for details.

ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

FHWA's Climate Change Adaptation Case Studies: FHWA's Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty teamed with the Georgetown Climate Center (GCC) to provide access to the GCC's series of case studies on climate change and resilience in the transportation sector. FHWA conducted its own pilot projects in North Jersey and Oahu to test their climate change vulnerability assessment model. Click [HERE](#) to access case studies and pilot test results.

REGIONAL BRIEF

Delaware Projects on Hold: Joining Tennessee and Arkansas, Delaware has announced postponement of infrastructure projects unless additional federal funding is forthcoming. Two factors have led to this announcement: the federal Highway Trust Fund faces near-term insolvency and Delaware faces a \$37 million decrease in its transportation department budget thanks to a cut made by the state legislature last year. Click [HERE](#) for details.

Oregon to Launch the First Per-Mile Charging System: In anticipation of launching its road usage charge program, the Oregon DOT has opened the program's official OReGO [website](#) to educate state drivers about the new law. The road usage charge is an alternative method to fund the maintenance, improvement, and expansion of Oregon's roads as revenue from the gas tax declines. The legislation authorizes the Oregon Department of Transportation to assess 1.5 cents per mile (as determined by a mileage reporting device and integrated vehicle software) and issue a fuels tax credit to up to 5,000 volunteer participants. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

The Future Expansion of DC and Baltimore Transit: The website Greater Greater Washington has created a graphic to illustrate how expanded rail in Maryland could link together existing transit networks to create a region-wide system that would alleviate transit congestion in downtown Washington. The expansion depends on the support of Maryland's new Governor Larry Hogan (R) and Maryland's budget situation. Click [HERE](#) for an infographic.

Five-Year Study on Senior Drivers: The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety directed \$12 million to a study that tracks the driving behavior and health of 3,000 senior drivers. Conducted by Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, the study will attempt to clarify the relationship between aging and driving safety, as well as guide community decision-makers in their efforts to mobilize their aging populations. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

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

WEBINAR: U.S. DOT SRI Gap Analysis

February 24, 1:00PM ET – Click [HERE](#) to register.

February 25, 3:00 PM ET – Click [HERE](#) to register.

The Smart Roadside Initiative ([SRI](#)) is a project that examines the potential for advanced technologies to improve the safety and mobility of commercial vehicles. Sponsored by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, this webinar will discuss key findings and recommendations from the deployment of specific technologies in the SRI project. Then they will identify gaps that could hinder the application and efficiency of such technologies at state and federal levels.

HEARING: President’s Budget Request for Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Programs

February 25, 10:00 AM ET

Click [HERE](#) to tune in.

WEBINAR: U.S. DOT DMA Series

February 26, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

FHWA ITS/Mobility Engineer James Colyar will present the DMA-ATDM Analysis, Modeling, and Simulation Testbed Project, which aims to evaluate the system-wide impacts of individual and combinations of DMA applications and ATDM strategies. Colyar will highlight testbed efforts from Chicago, Dallas, Pasadena, Phoenix, and San Mateo. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: America Walks’ [Ten First Steps Toward Walkability](#)

March 9, 1:00 PM ET

Mark Fenton, Adjunct Associate Professor at Tufts University and long-time public health consultant, will address common concerns over the design, cost, and effectiveness of walkable community programs by citing expert experience from across the country and providing tools for change. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: “Let’s Talk Performance” Series – Fundamentals of Transportation Data Management

March 10, 2:00–3:30 PM ET

Hosted by the Federal Transit Administration and FHWA, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission and Virginia Department of Transportation will showcase how they overcame obstacles to develop transportation data programs and manage that data to evaluate their performance. Click [HERE](#) to register.