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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

February 27, 2014

Transportation Thursdays

NARC LEADERSHIP

President

Hon. Penny Gross,
Supervisor, Fairfax
County, VA

Chair Jim Hassinger,
NARC Executive Directors
Council;
Executive Director,
Southwestern
Pennsylvania Commission

Hon. Fred Strong
Chair, Transportation
Committee
Board Member, NARC
and
San Luis Obispo Council
of Governments

Lyle Wray
Chair, Transportation
Committee
Executive Director, Capitol
Region Council of
Governments

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

ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

President Calls for More Spending, Regional Planning: In a speech in Minnesota yesterday, President Obama reiterated his support for a longer transportation bill with more spending, calling for a four-year bill worth \$302 billion (B). The speech itself was short on specifics, but the White House separately released a fact sheet that outlined the President's proposal in more detail. The proposal highlights an additional \$63B in funding to shore up the highway trust fund (HTF) – through a one-time transfer of “transition revenue” from “pro-growth business tax reform” – and a focus on “fix it first” projects.

Of the \$302B, the President would provide \$199B for highways and another \$7B for highway and road safety; \$72B for transit systems including light rail, street cars, and bus rapid transit; \$19B for dedicated rail funding, including \$5B for “high performance and passenger rail programs”; and \$9B in competitive funding, including \$5B for *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery* (TIGER) grants and \$4B to “incentivize innovation and local policy reforms to encourage better performance, productivity, and cost-effectiveness in our transportation systems.” He would also fund items under his *Ladders of Opportunity* initiative, including dedicated BRT funding for fast growing regions, workforce development opportunities, and a \$10B

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dedicated multimodal freight program. There is also a significant section focused on boosting efficiency and increasing return for taxpayers, including improved project delivery, incentivizing resilient communities, and increasing private investment.

The President also gave a nod to regional planning and local decision making. The White House fact sheet states: “The proposal includes policy reforms to incentivize improved regional coordination and strengthen local decision making in allocating Federal funding so that local communities can better realize their vision for improved mobility.” It remains to be seen how the President would implement this vision in policy, but it is a sentiment we can appreciate.

For much more detail, the White House fact sheet can be found **[HERE](#)**. Click **[HERE](#)** to access the statement from NARC’s President Penny Gross on this proposal, as well as the House Ways and Means proposal. More details are available in the Legislative Brief section.

President Obama & DOT Secretary Foxx Announce \$600M for Sixth Round of Tiger Funding: Yesterday President Obama announced that \$600 million (M) is being made available by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to fund transportation projects. The funding will be made through the TIGER Discretionary Grant Program for road, rail, transit, and port projects. “President Obama knows that transportation means opportunity for so many Americans,” said Foxx. “TIGER investments answer the President’s challenge to expand opportunity through a strong transportation system that connects Americans with a better way of life.” The 2014 TIGER program will place an emphasis on projects that connect people to jobs and schools, promote neighborhood revitalization and business expansion, and reconnect neighborhoods that are divided by physical barriers like highways and railroads.

See Opportunity Brief section for TIGER Application Process webinar opportunities.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

Do They Have the Ways and Means? The U.S. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman David Camp (R-MI) this week released an outline of broad based tax reform that would – among many other things – dedicate \$126.5B to the nation’s HTF, enough to provide for an eight year reauthorization. While this is a positive step, this amount would not

be an increase in current funding, but merely make up the gap between gas tax collections and current spending levels, which many believe represent an inadequate level of investment in the nation's infrastructure. More details of Camp's proposal are [HERE](#).

REGIONAL BRIEF

DC: Metro Hails Funding Commitment by Gov. O'Malley, Gov. McAuliffe, and Mayor Gray: Metro General Manager and CEO Richard Sarles on February 26 applauded an increased capital commitment of \$75M by Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, and District of Columbia Mayor Vincent C. Gray, saying that it marked an important down payment toward Metro's *Momentum* strategic plan to reduce crowding and add system capacity. The plan addresses growing crowding and outlines near-term goals for 2025, along with the steps that Metro must take to prepare for coming regional population and economic growth. The plan ensures that Metro never returns to a time when the system's tracks, escalators, trains, and buses are not maintained to today's safety and reliability standards. For riders, *Momentum* will mean more trains; reduced crowding; faster buses; brighter, safer, easier-to-navigate Metrorail stations; and improved customer information systems.

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. Click [HERE](#) to take the survey and view more information.

New! WEBINAR: TOD Housing Needs Analysis

February 28, 12:00 PM EST

As a part of an ongoing effort in the Washington region to preserve and provide affordable housing that is accessible via high quality transit, Prince George's County, the District of Columbia, and the City of

Alexandria collaborated on an analysis of housing needs in transit-oriented development (TOD) locations. This effort was funded by the Transportation Planning Board's *Transportation/Land-Use Connections Program* in 2012. The study presents a summary of the research, recommendations, and proposed framework that together comprise the TOD Housing Needs Analysis. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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.

New! WEBINAR: Streets As Places Part II: Making It Happen!

March 4, 3:00 PM EST

Sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty and *Project for Public Spaces*, this webinar will discuss how *Context Sensitive Solutions* and *Streets as Places* can help create great communities while helping transportation agencies reconnect with their customers and mission. *Streets as Places* is a concept that seeks to rediscover the idea that the streets we design have many purposes, besides mobility. Click [HERE](#) to register.

New! WEBINAR: Innovative Transportation Storm Water Management: Green Infrastructure in Road Projects

March 6, 1:00 PM EST

Roads can convey a variety of pollutants into our waterways and can increase the volume and velocity of storm water generated. Green infrastructure techniques are one solution that can be used to reduce and treat storm water runoff. This will include brief overviews about green infrastructure from FHWA and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and showcase two state transportation organizations committed to innovative initiatives to improve water quality and manage the quality and quantity of storm water runoff from road surfaces. Click [HERE](#) to register.

CONFERENCE: Freight in the Southeast

March 3-6: 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.

WEBINAR: Best Practices for Collaborating on Data Sharing and Data Analytics

March 6, 1:00 PM EST

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) would like you to join them for the next *Let's Talk Performance*. The ability to collect, store, access, and analyze data to use for transportation performance management decision making is an area of great concern for several of FHWA partners. This webinar will focus on sharing best practices being implemented in Texas, California, and Maryland concerning data collection, storage, and access, while also analyzing concerns related to the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) performance provisions. Click [HERE](#) to register.

GRANT: U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Announces Availability of \$24.9 Million to Put More Zero-Emission Buses into Service Across America

Deadline: March 10

The U.S. DOT's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the availability of \$24.9M 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.

WEBINAR: Eno Center's Public Private Partnership Training Course

Application deadline passed.

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: TIGER Application Process

March 12, 19, 26

U.S. DOT is offering a series of special topic webinars that delve into various aspects of the TIGER application process. These will be a great resource for anyone either considering applying to TIGER this year or actually preparing a TIGER application, as the webinars come from the funding source and share the expertise of DOT to prospective applicants. There are no registration, but SPACE IS LIMITED. Advance registration is required and available by clicking on the webinar topic listed below:

[March 12th – How to Compete for TIGER Discretionary Grants](#)

[March 19th – Preparing a TIGER Planning Grant Application](#)

[March 26th – Preparing a Benefit Cost Analysis \(BCA\) for a TIGER Discretionary Grant](#)

Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

WEBINAR: The Challenge of Transportation Planning for Resilience

March 11, 11:30 AM EST

Join William Lyons, principal technical advisor in transportation planning at Volpe, for his talk on Transportation System Resilience Extreme Weather and Climate Change. Lyons leads Volpe support for the FHWA and FTA on regulatory reviews of transportation planning by states and metropolitan areas. The projects involve multi-disciplinary teams and significant collaboration with transportation planning and operating agencies at federal, state, regional, and local levels. Click [HERE](#) to register.

GRANT: Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Funding Opportunity

Proposal Deadline: *April 2*

The Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, has launched a call for proposals. 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](#) to read the proposal letter and [HERE](#) for application details.

CONFERENCE: Ohio Conference on Freight

September 18-19, Hyatt Regency Columbus, OH

This conference addresses the reality that economic growth will increasingly depend upon or be at the mercy of our freight infrastructure. Key goals of the conference include: building professional capacity in all aspects of freight transport by disseminating best practices in supply chain and logistics; strengthening the ability of the public and private sectors to effectively plan, build, and maintain an efficient transportation network; examining and informing state and federal policies that support freight related economic development. Also, professional engineers can claim professional development hours [PDH]. For more information contact Christine Drennen, Conference Director (419.241.9155 ext. 119 or drennen@tmacog.org) or visit www.ohiofreight.org for more info.

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