



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

Policy Change Announcement on Small and Custom Geography in CTPP

Following the release of the Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP) 2012-2016 dataset in early 2019, the Oversight Board to the CTPP Program announces that it will no longer include Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) and Transportation Analysis District (TAD) geographies in future requests for special tabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) data. Future CTPP special tabulation requests will include the standard census block group geography instead. To best adapt to this change, the CTPP Board urges travel demand modelers, MPOs, state DOTs, and anyone who uses CTPP data by census TAZ and census TAD to participate in the 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP), and through it, adjust their census block group boundaries to better align with their model TAZ geographies. For more information, contact Penelope Weinberger, AASHTO's transportation data program manager, at pweinberger@aaashto.org.

CONGRESS BRIEF

Shuster Drops Proposal to Privatize ATC

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (T&I) Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) announced Tuesday that he will end efforts to privatize the nation's air traffic control system. Shuster, who is not running for reelection, acknowledged that the reform principles did not reach the level of support needed to pass Congress and that he will work with Senator John Thune (R-SD) to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Senator Thune has said that FAA programs will likely be extended through the summer. Current FAA authorization runs through March 31.

Trump's Infrastructure Plan Timing Highly Uncertain

Yesterday House T&I Chairman Shuster said that it will be difficult to implement the president's infrastructure plan this year. Shuster hopes to pass a bill before August recess, but Congress may need to vote after the election in a lame-duck session. His comments follow doubts expressed by both Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and John Thune about Congress' ability to pass a bill this year. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao has focused her remarks on the efforts to eliminate regulations and streamline permitting, and has not spoken to a timeline for implementing the administrations' full proposal.

Upcoming Highways and Transit Programs' Long-Term Funding Hearing

The House Highways and Transit Subcommittee is holding a hearing, *Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Long-Term Funding for Highways and Transit Programs*, on March 7 at 10:00 AM ET. This hearing is a part of the 21st Century Infrastructure series, which have previously focused on rail, water, and Coast Guard stakeholders. Witnesses have not been announced.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Integrating Shared Mobility into Multimodal Transportation Planning: Improving Regional Performance to Meet Public Goals

This FHWA white paper provides a framework and examples to assist MPOs, local governments, and other transportation agencies in planning for shared mobility as a part of their multimodal

transportation system. The resource draws from 13 metropolitan areas, presents four models, and provides recommendations for exploring partnerships, modeling, and planning for shared mobility. FHWA highlights the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the Southern California Association of Governments, and other MPOs as examples of ways regional organizations are planning for transportation systems of the future.

REGIONS BRIEF

Self-Driving Bus Scores Big During Super Bowl Week

Eighty-four percent of the 1,300 riders in an autonomous electric-powered shuttle before the Super Bowl in Minneapolis said they look forward to this future mode of transportation. The one block trip was the first experience with a driverless vehicle for most riders, and more than 95 percent said they felt safe despite the lack of a driver. The shuttles carry up to twelve people at speeds no more than 12 miles per hour. The vehicles are being tested at the MnDOT road research facility for their usability during Minnesota's harsh winter. Due to popular demand and positive feedback, Hennepin County will hold another weekend of free rides in the autonomous shuttle on Earth Day in April.

Broward MPO Program Video

Broward MPO in Fort Lauderdale, Florida prepared a short video to highlight their Complete Streets and Other Localized Initiatives Program (CSLIP). The video explains the program and application process for receiving federal grants. Mobility hubs, traffic technology advancements, and intersection improvements are all acceptable projects for CSLIP funds, which are available to local governments, transit agencies, school districts, and other local and regional agencies.

Leading the State and Local Policy Agenda in 2018

A *Route Fifty* eBook highlights several important policy challenges for the second year of the Trump administration. The resource discusses housing, public safety, public health, and how state DOTs are preparing for the new world of transportation.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Travel Demand Modeler

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Detroit, MI

Transportation Planner

Calaveras Council of Governments, San Andreas, CA

Planner I

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Destin, FL

Executive Director

Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts, Frankfort, KY

Principal Planner

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Stateline, NV

OPPORTUNITIES

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

Bike-Ped Portal: National Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Archive

March 7, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

This project builds on the success of the National Institute for Transportation and Communities' first Pooled Fund project that created the first national bicycle and pedestrian traffic count archive, named Bike-Ped Portal. The next step for Bike-Ped Portal is to improve its usability for both data providers and data users, specifically transportation professionals. To improve usability, area transportation planners will be invited to participate in an idea gathering session to help design an "Explore Data Page." The purpose of this page is to allow transportation planners (data users) ready access to the non-motorized count data available in Bike-Ped Portal in a way that is

useful and attractive.

Energy-Efficient Adaptive Cruise Control for Electric Connected and Autonomous Vehicles

March 8, 1:00 – 2:15 PM ET

This presentation proposes an energy-efficient adaptive cruise control – called Energy-Efficient Electric Driving Model (E3DM) – for electric, connected, and autonomous vehicles (e-CAVs) in a traffic stream with mixed autonomous and human-driven vehicles. E3DM maintains high energy efficiency of regenerative braking by adjusting the spacing between the leading and following vehicles. Moreover, a power-based energy consumption model is proposed to estimate the on-road energy consumption for battery electric vehicles, considering the impact of ambient temperature on auxiliary load. Using the proposed energy consumption model, the impact of E3DM on vehicle energy consumption is investigated.

One Step on the Path to Walkable, Healthy Food Access

March 22, 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET

In too many neighborhoods, local stores do not carry fresh produce or other healthy options. Often, getting to places that offer healthy food is dangerous and inconvenient due to unsafe walking conditions and lack of access to public transit or private vehicles. Almost 20 percent of Americans experience significant transportation barriers to accessing healthy food. Cities, towns, and counties have a variety of policies and strategies available to help overcome those transportation barriers by promoting walkable, bikeable, transit-accessible food access. This webinar will share policies and strategies that consider the route, travel mode, and destination to improve safe, convenient, active transportation to healthy food options, a concept known as Safe Routes to Healthy Food.

Performance-Based Transportation Investment Webinar

March 28, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Under President Trump's infrastructure proposal, state and local governments would be responsible for covering most of the costs. To make the best investment decisions, policymakers will need to know how much a project will increase efficiency and boost the regional economy. This REMI webinar will discuss how to use economic impact modeling to evaluate the potential performance of transportation investments.

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