



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

Now Accepting Applications:
NARC
Achievement & Leadership Awards
NARC is excited to announce that submissions for the 2016 NARC Awards are now open.

CONGRESS BRIEF

Another Extension Likely for FAA

Since the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee passed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill out of committee on February 11 it has languished amid criticism over the proposal to privatize the nation's air traffic control operations. Members of both parties in both chambers have stated their opposition to privatization, buoyed by a Government Accountability Office **report** critical of the proposal. T&I Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA), however, has vowed to continue to push the idea and speak with members about the benefits. In the Senate, Commerce Committee Chairman John Thune (R-SD) hopes to have his own proposal ready soon. In the meantime, an extension past the current March 31 expiration will be required, with proposals of varying lengths being floated.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

New FASTLANE Freight Discretionary Grant Program

Application Deadline: April 14

USDOT recently released details of the freight discretionary program, a new funding source created by the FAST Act reauthorization. The *Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies* (FASTLANE) grant program, previously the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects program, is available to MPOs and others to fund freight projects that address major issues of national or regional significance. Most of the funding is for projects of \$100 million or more, but a portion of the funds is reserved for smaller projects. USDOT announced that the first round of funding will provide \$800 million. *See details later in this newsletter for webinars about the FASTLANE funding application process.*

Smart City Challenge Update

Seventy-seven cities have submitted applications for USDOT's Smart City Challenge, vying for the chance to receive \$50 million to implement their proposal. Although USDOT is not releasing application details until finalists are announced on March 12, several applicants have divulged information about their plans to local media outlets. They include ideas such as autonomous buses, Wi-Fi on public transit, and parking spot sensors.

Health in Transportation Corridor Planning Framework

A new FHWA framework is designed to help transportation agencies incorporate health into corridor planning studies. The guide includes step-by-step instructions and examples from state DOTs, MPOs, and local transportation agencies. FHWA is hosting a **webinar** on March 22 to describe the framework in more detail.

REGIONS BRIEF

ARC Finalizes Long-Range Blueprint for Success

Last month, the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Board of Directors approved the region's long-range plan to improve quality of life and ensure future success for the metro area. ARC's plan incorporates transportation, community development, natural resources, workforce development, and aging and health services to accommodate the projected increase of 2.5 million people in Atlanta and includes \$85.1 billion in transportation investments to maintain and expand the existing system.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

TMACOG President

Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, Toledo, OH

OPPORTUNITIES

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

TIGER Grant Webinars

How to Compete for TIGER Discretionary Grants - March 8, 1:30 – 3:30 PM ET

How to Compete for TIGER Grants – Rural and Tribal - March 22, 1:30 – 3:30 PM ET

On February 23, 2016, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced the availability of \$500 million for transportation projects across the country under an eighth round of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program. TIGER applications are due April 29, 2016. This is an explanatory webinar on how to apply for TIGER funding and is intended for all applicants.

2016 FASTLANE Grant Program Webinars

How to Compete for FASTLANE Grants - March 9 and 17, 1:00 – 3:00 PM ET

FASTLANE Grants: Preparing a BCA - March 10, 2:00 – 4:00 PM ET

The FAST Act established the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (NSFHP) program to provide Federal financial assistance to projects of national or regional significance. The FASTLANE program (see earlier article for more details) is authorized at \$4.5 billion for fiscal years 2016 to 2020, including \$800 million for fiscal year 2016. FASTLANE applications for 2016 funding are due April 14, 2016. This is an explanatory webinar on how to apply for FASTLANE funding and is intended for all applicants.

Fifth Safe Routes to School National Conference

April 5-7, Columbus, Ohio

Join the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission to learn how Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs across the nation are changing the habits of an entire generation of school children while improving the health and environment of numerous communities. The fifth national

conference will feature workshop sessions, mobile tours, inspirational presentations, and networking opportunities to help you start or expand your SRTS program. This event, which takes place every two years, will once again bring together the wide range of practitioners that are working at the local, regional, state, and national level to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to walk and bicycle safely to school.

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2016 National Association of Regional Councils, All rights reserved.