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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

March 13, 2014

Transportation Thursdays

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ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

Administration Releases Budget Justification Documents:

Proposes to Change MPO Threshold: Last week, part one of the Administration budget rollout was announced, including top line numbers and some supporting information. This week, the Administration provided more detail with budget justification documents. This year's version starts to frame out the Administration's previously proposed four-year reauthorization bill, and contains some good policy: *an overall funding increase, dedicated freight program, and at least a modest increase in metropolitan transportation planning funding.* Though we are still going through the details, one thing did stand out: an

Michael Parks
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NARCSTAFF

Lindsey Riley
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Deputy Director

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Mia Colson
Program Analyst

Nathan Devers
Intern

Marcy Fritter
Office Manager

Taylor Markwith
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administrative proposal to increase the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) threshold from 50,000 to 200,000, with smaller MPOs either being grandfathered or dissolving. There is some question as to whether this is now the Administration's policy heading into reauthorization. We are working to chase down more details, and will provide those as they become available. Click **[HERE](#)** to read the justification documents.

U.S. DOT Holds Webinar to Discuss Proposed Safety Performance

Measurement Rulemaking: The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) today held a webinar to outline the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) regarding performance measures for safety, which was released last Friday. This safety NPRM is the first of many rulemakings that will be rolling out in the next several months, putting in place a national performance management framework to be implemented by states and MPOs over the coming years. The four proposed measures regarding safety contained in the NPRM are: number of fatalities; rate of fatalities (per 100 million VMT); number of serious injuries; and rate of serious injuries (per 100 million VMT). States are required to set one statewide target for each measure, and also have the option of setting separate targets for all of its urbanized areas and non-urbanized areas. The result could mean as many as 12 targets or as few as four.

After the states set targets, MPOs will have 180 days to set their own targets. MPOs must coordinate with their state in setting targets and determining how best to provide the data for the state to use in its own process. MPOs have two options when it comes to target setting: (1) establish their own numerical targets that will apply to the entire MPO planning area or (2) agree to support the state DOT targets in project selection and prioritization. It should also be noted that the safety targets apply to all public roads, not only those that receive federal aid highway dollars.

U.S. DOT will be holding a second webinar (covering the same information as today) on March 17. Register for the webinar **[HERE](#)**, and click **[HERE](#)** to read the entire NPRM and supporting documents.

Finally, be on the lookout for an upcoming webinar hosted by NARC to discuss the NPRM and gather your reactions to its contents.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

House Hearing: Oversight of U.S. DOTs Implementation of MAP-21 and FY15 Budget Request for Surface Transportation: The Subcommittee on Highways and Transit met yesterday, to receive testimony related to implementing the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and the fiscal year (FY) 2015 budget request for surface transportation.

Chairman Tom Petri (R-WI) highlighted the consolidation under MAP-21, project delivery reforms, performance management rules, and establishment of the Public Transportation Emergency Relief program. He also mentioned the President's budget which includes the first year of a four-year \$302 billion surface transportation reauthorization proposal that increases funding for the Nation's highways, bridges, transit, and rail systems. Congresswoman Eleanor Norton (D-DC) said failure to act on reauthorization would be a disaster.

Peter M. Rogoff, Acting Under Secretary for Policy Office of the Secretary at the U.S. DOT, confirmed what we have known and feared for some time: namely, that cash management measures may be implemented as soon as July if Congress does not act before then. He stressed that "the highway account of the trust fund is likely to dip below the critical \$4 billion funding level as soon as July and the transit account will fall below \$1 billion sometime in August."

Greg Nadeau, FHWA Acting Administrator; Therese McMillan, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Acting Administrator; Anne S. Ferro, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Administrator; and David Friedman, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Acting Administrator, all highlighted the President's FY15 budget request, making the case that their agencies are in need of the extra funding the budget contains. Click [HERE](#) to view the full hearing and to read written testimony.

REGIONAL BRIEF

Caltrans California Household Travel Survey: The results of this survey show that since 2000, the percentage of California residents walking, biking, or using public transportation on a typical day has more than doubled. Almost one-quarter, or about 23%, of household trips

statewide now involve non-car transportation. Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty said that “Californians are increasingly determined to get places on their own power, and Caltrans is determined to help them do that.” This data is important because it can be used to forecast future travel demands and allow planners to improve transportation to meet the needs of its citizens.

OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

New! NARC’s One-Stop Source for Grants and Webinars

Ongoing

Now, you can look to one place for our latest updates regarding grants, webinars, workshops, surveys, and conferences. This webpage will compile information from all three of our newsletters: *eRegions*, *Transportation Thursdays*, and *Development Digest*. Moving forward, these newsletters will only contain new information. Click [HERE](#) for the webpage where you can view the list of grants and events still open!

WEBINAR: U.S. DOT Safety Performance Measurement Rulemaking

March 17, 1:00PM – 4:00PM EST

On March 11, U.S. DOT published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the [Federal Register](#) as required by MAP-21. The NPRM proposes safety performance measures, State DOT requirements, and MPO requirements for establishing and reporting specific annual targets for fatalities and serious injuries for the purposes of carrying out the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The public is encouraged to review the NPRM and submit comments to the docket. The comment period closes on June 9. This webinar will provide 1) an overview of the approach to implementation of the safety performance requirements in MAP-21; and 2) details of the Safety Performance Measures NPRM. Click [HERE](#) to register.

SURVEY: Request for Information - Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment

Comments due April 12

U.S. DOT published a Request for Information (RFI) on the Federal Register for the Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program. The Department seeks comments and innovative ideas from the public sector, private sector, and academic communities concerning the connected vehicle pilot deployment program described in the RFI. Your input will be used to help refine the plans for one or more pilot deployments, which combines connected vehicle and mobile device

technologies innovations to improve traveler mobility and system productivity while reducing environmental impacts and enhancing safety. Click [HERE](#) to submit a comment and to view additional information.

WEBINAR: Talking Freight - Innovative Low Cost Freight Transportation Collaborations

March 19, 1:00 PM EST

Both private sector freight shippers, carriers, and public sector transportation agencies have worked to identify ways to increase the efficiency of the transportation system, specifically freight movement. To achieve these increased efficiencies, both private and public organizations have entered into public-private, private-private, and public-public partnerships that allow participants to gain greater benefits than they would individually. This webinar will provide examples of innovative low-cost solutions that benefitted the participants. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: AMBAG's Experience and Usefulness of the TMIP Peer Review Process

March 20, 2:00 PM EST

Under the Travel Model Improvement Program (TMIP), Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) conducted a peer review for its current Regional Travel Demand Model and future Model Improvement Plan (MIP). During the peer review all Regional Transportation Planning Agencies, Transit Agencies, Caltrans Executive Directors and their technical staff were invited to participate. TMIP Peer Review provided very specific assistance for our future Model Improvement Plan. Attendance is limited to 100 connections and is first-come, first-served. Click [HERE](#) to log on. Participant Passcode: 8344566.

CONFERENCE: NARC's 48th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 6-11, Louisville, KY

The Annual Conference and Exhibition is the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. Held annually in June, NARC's Annual Conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Additional information will be available in early 2014.

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