



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

Movement on FAA Extension, Reauthorization

The Senate today passed an extension of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization, pushing off expiration until July 15. This sends the extension back to the House, which had previously extended the program for the same duration but extended the bill's tax provisions through March of next year. Both chambers have until March 31 to beat the current expiration of the program. Earlier this week, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation approved their long-term FAA reauthorization bill. The bill included 50 en bloc amendments and moved quickly to a final vote. The full Senate may take up the bill as early as April, when they return from a two-week recess.

Hands Off: The Future of Self-Driving Cars

On Tuesday, representatives from Google, General Motors, Lyft, Delphi, and Duke University testified before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation about federal regulation of the self-driving car industry. The witnesses urged Congress to take the lead before a patchwork of state laws complicates innovation. Lyft and General Motors also discussed their plan to roll out autonomous vehicles in the ride-sharing app as a way to introduce and expose the public to the vehicles. Dr. Mary Cummings, Director of Duke Robotics and the Humans and Autonomy Laboratory, cautioned Congress that the technology is not yet ready for wide-spread use and cited cybersecurity and privacy concerns as major reasons we should not rush to deployment.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

HSIP and Safety PM Final Rules Published

FHWA published the **Highway Safety Improvement Program** (HSIP) and **Safety**

Performance Management Measure (Safety PM) Final Rules in the Federal Register this week. The *HSIP Final Rule* updates and clarifies the existing HSIP program requirements, and the *Safety PM Final Rule* implements specific safety performance management requirements for carrying out the HSIP. The Safety PM Final Rule also includes the **process for MPOs** to establish and report their safety targets in relation to the state targets. Attend the webinar (listed below) for further detail.

Notice of Funding Availability for TIFIA

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx encouraged states and cities last week to submit letters of interest for direct loans, loan guarantees, and standby lines of credit through the *Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act* (TIFIA). The FAST Act authorizes \$1.4 billion over five years for the TIFIA program and added flexibility and a streamlined review process to make it easier for applicants. A wide range of projects large and small are eligible for TIFIA credit assistance.

Smart City Challenge Announces Finalists

Secretary Foxx announced seven Smart City Challenge finalists last weekend at the South by Southwest conference in Austin, TX. The finalists, chosen from 78 applicants, are Austin, TX; Columbus, OH; Denver, CO; Kansas City, MO; Pittsburgh, PA; Portland, OR; and San Francisco, CA. **Each finalist** will receive \$100,000 to dive deeper into their proposal and the winning city will be announced in June.

Democratic Presidential Candidate Bernie Sanders

For the next several weeks, NARC will highlight the 2016 presidential candidates' transportation and infrastructure positions.

Senator Bernie Sander's (D-VT) transportation and infrastructure plan calls to **"revolutionize our electric and transportation infrastructure."** According to his website, Sanders' two major construction investments would include high-speed rail for both passengers and cargo and electric vehicle charging infrastructure in an effort to move beyond oil dependency. He wants to make communities more walkable and increase biking and public transit as preferred modes of transportation. His broader transportation plan stems from legislation he introduced in January 2015. The *Rebuild America Act* would invest \$1 trillion over five years and includes investing \$78 billion per year for eight years in the Highway Trust Fund. The bill would also help increase access to broadband internet. While he has not introduced a formal plan for his campaign, this bill contains significant federal investment in the nation's transportation system and other infrastructure.

REGIONS BRIEF

Driving Towards Driverless: A Guide for Government Agencies

This newly released WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff guide is intended as an overview to help government officials prepare their jurisdictions for driverless vehicles. It includes a section on local, regional, and state government recommendations for actions as well as basic background information on the issue.

Bike Trails Ride Into the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission Region

Small changes in the Northwestern Indiana region are bringing a newfound popularity of biking and hiking along with economic development. The region is looking towards other successful projects, such as the Monon Trail in Indianapolis, as they begin to expand their trail system.

Shared Mobility and the Transformation of Public Transit

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) released a study exploring ways in which public transportation can work with and co-exist with technology-enabled mobility services. The study found that people who use shared modes, such as bikesharing, carsharing, and ridesourcing, are more likely to also use public transit and own fewer cars. APTA's study also found that Uber and Lyft rides are more likely to replace car trips rather than public transit trips.

Lastly, the study provides recommendations for transit agencies and other local and regional agencies to promote useful cooperation between public and private providers.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Services Coordination Mentor

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Transit Planner

Michiana Area Council of Governments, South Bend, IN

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Framework for Better Integrating Health into Transportation Corridor Planning

March 22, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

FHWA Office of Planning, Environment, and Reality developed the *Framework for Better Integrating Health into Transportation Corridor Planning* to help state DOTs, MPOs, and local transportation agencies incorporate health considerations into their corridor planning processes. The framework offers a step-by-step process for agencies to follow that encourages them to think holistically about health impacts made by corridor planning decisions. Attend this webinar to learn more about this framework.

What the U.S. Can Learn from International Efforts to Improve Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

March 24, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

Countries around the globe are employing new and innovative techniques to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and access. This webinar will review designs, operational measures, performance, and prioritization practices that are helping other countries provide safer, better-connected bicycle and pedestrian networks.

The ADA and Vehicles

March 30, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

This FTA session will discuss ADA requirements as they relate to vehicles. It will address topics such as vehicles acquisition standards, accessibility considerations, and equivalent facilitation - covering material from chapters 4, 5, and 11 of the *FTA ADA Circular*.

HSIP and Safety PM Final Rules Overview

April 1, 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM ET

FHWA will detail updates to the HSIP and Safety PM Final Rules, program requirements, and the process for MPOs to establish and report their safety targets in relation to the state targets.

Surgeon General's Call to Action - Walking as a Practice

April 14, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

April's America Walks webinar will take a closer look at the **Walking as a Practice** report released in January. The report outlines four categories that identify how individuals and organizations are engaging in the practice of walking.

CONTACT US

