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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

March 20, 2014

Transportation Thursdays

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ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

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

Measurement Rulemaking: The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) held a webinar last week to outline the notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) regarding performance measures for safety, which was recently released. 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 metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) over the coming years. The four proposed measures regarding safety contained in the NPRM are:

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Chair, Transportation
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Assistant Executive
Director, Brazos Valley
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number of fatalities; rate of fatalities (per 100 million vehicle miles traveled - 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.

Click **[HERE](#)** to read the entire NPRM and supporting documents. Click **[HERE](#)** for recordings of two webinars held last week that discuss the proposal safety rule in detail. **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

WRDA Bill Expected to Move by the End of April: Differences between House and Senate versions of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) have been resolved. After each Chamber passed a version of the bill last year, negotiators ran into significant trouble when trying to bridge the gap. This new agreement allows an authorization bill to be brought forward in the near future. Michael Toohey, President and CEO of Waterways Council Inc., said “they should have WRDA done after April 30.” Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA) said that the committee would return to the usual schedule of doing WRDA bills every two years after this.

REGIONAL BRIEF

SH 360 - Plano, TX: Congestion on one of America’s most congested roadways will soon be eased thanks to an agreement that will allow drivers to travel more efficiently on State Highway (SH) 360. The North

Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) Board of Directors approved two agreements with the Texas DOT and the Regional Transportation Council to develop, finance, and construct the SH 360 project in Ellis, Tarrant, and Johnson counties. NTTA will operate the toll road once it is complete. Construction could begin as early as 2015 with an estimated completion in 2018. Click [HERE](#) for full details.

OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

Click [HERE](#) to view the list of grants and events still open!

NOMINATIONS: Looking for a Few Good... Transportation Champions of Change

Deadline: March 27

On May 13, U.S. DOT and the White House Office of Public Engagement will host a Champions of Change event on "Connecting Transportation and Ladders of Opportunity. Selected Champions will be individuals who have provided exemplary leadership to ensure that transportation facilities, services, and jobs help individuals and their communities connect to 21st century opportunities. A champion's work may include transportation projects, services, or advocacy across any mode of transportation. If you know someone making a difference, help share their achievement by nominating them as a White House Champion of Change today! It's a great way to recognize someone making a difference in their community, and a great way of inspiring other problem-solvers and innovators to continue pursuing their work. Click [HERE](#) for additional information, and [HERE](#) to nominate.

WEBINAR: LoNo Program

March 27, 1:00 PM EST

Due to heightened public interest in the Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment (LoNo) Program Notice of Funding Availability, the Federal Transit Administration will conduct an online webinar for all interested parties. There will be an opportunity to submit questions online during this event. For additional information, contact Sean Ricketson, sean.ricketson@dot.gov. Click [HERE](#) to join the webinar. Audio dial in number: 888-684-8852, participant code: 4302549.

WEBINAR: TRB's SHRP 2 Community Visioning and Performance Measurement Products (C08 and C02)

April 1, 2:00 PM EST

This webinar will summarize SHRP 2 Projects C08: *Linking Community*

Visioning and Highway Capacity Planning and C02: Performance Measurement Framework for Highway Capacity Decision Making. Project C08 produced an interactive vision guide to assist practitioners in better integrating transportation decisions with social, economic, and environmental considerations. Project C02 developed a capacity performance measures web resource that allows users to both browse individual planning factors and generate a report with a set of measures that are relevant to a given project. Both tools have been incorporated into a beta web portal known as "Transportation for Communities - Advancing Projects through Partnerships" (TCAPP). TCAPP will be re-launched at a future date as "PlanWorks" by FHWA. Click [HERE](#) for additional information. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: U.S. DOT's Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program

April 30, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM EST

The U.S. DOT will host a free public meeting and webinar on the progress, products, and next steps of the Connected Vehicle Pilots Program in Washington, DC. The purpose of the meeting is to inform private sector stakeholders on upcoming opportunities and seek input from public sector implementers as they prepare to integrate emerging connected vehicle and mobile device technologies into operational practice. The meeting will provide information on the organizing principles and preliminary schedule of the Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program. In addition, the meeting will provide a summary of challenges identified in the RFI and facilitate further discussion with stakeholders regarding the most salient challenges. Contact Carlos Alban, calban@itsa.org, for more information. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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