



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



CONGRESS BRIEF

Infrastructure Plan Timing Clues

This week, Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney said an infrastructure plan is not likely until the fall. This echoes the president's stated intent to complete other legislative priorities – namely an Obamacare replacement and tax reform – before addressing infrastructure. Mulvaney expects that infrastructure will come up after the August recess. In regards to paying for the plan, Mulvaney referenced the budget blueprint where the administration is taking money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and USDOT to use for a larger infrastructure plan (editors note: this intention was not made clear in the budget release itself, as far as we can tell). Mulvaney's timeline may be optimistic given the battles that lie ahead, including the debt ceiling increase, fiscal year 2017 spending bills, fiscal year 2018 spending bills, and the Supreme Court nomination in the Senate.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) said at an Axios event in Washington this week that he wants a plan before next spring and the 2018 midterm elections. Shuster expressed excitement that the president's skinny budget endorsed the corporatization of the air traffic control system as part of the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, an issue Shuster has supported for well over a year.

DeFazio Infrastructure Funding Bill Introduced

In an effort to encourage new ideas **about** for transportation funding, Ranking Member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Peter DeFazio (D-OR) introduced ***Investing in America: A Penny for Progress Act*** (H.R. 1664) this week. The bill would direct the Treasury Department to issue \$500 billion in bonds through 2030 to pay for highway and transit projects. Each bond would be repaid at the end of its 30-year term, using revenues from indexing the gasoline and diesel user fee beginning in 2017. The gas tax would increase by **about** 1-cent per year and would be capped at 1.5-cents. DeFazio emphasized the importance of public investment

and has spoken with White House infrastructure advisor D.J. Gribbin **about** the proposal and need for this kind of investment.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

New Effective Dates for Final Performance Rules Announced

The administration has released new effective dates for two performance final rules issued at the end of 2016: (1) the Assessing Pavement Condition and Bridge Condition for the National Highway Performance Program and (2) the Assessing Performance of the National Highway System, Freight Movement on the Interstate System, and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program. Both will now be effective on May 20, 2017. The original effective date was February 17, 2017 which had been pushed to March 21, 2017.

REGIONS BRIEF

Health Risks in Noisy America

A new map from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) shows that nearly all Americans risk exposure to potentially harmful levels of vehicular and aviation noise. From Appalachia to California, 97% percent of Americans hear traffic to the tune of 35 to 50 decibels. The World Health Organization's Night Noise Guidelines recommend keeping exposure to night sounds under 40 decibels to avoid health risks from sleep disruption such as obesity and depression. BTS plans to release future maps that include sounds related to train and maritime travel.

A Transportation Planning Guide for Local Leaders

The TransitCenter has produced a handbook on steps that local elected officials can take right now to improve the transportation systems in their cities. The guide includes tips and tricks like leveraging "quick-build" techniques to improve street safety and building alliances with local organizations to produce results. It is intended for local elected officials less involved in local transportation issues.

NARC Request: Brownfields Success Stories

Has your region benefited from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields grant program? NARC has been asked to submit a statement to the record by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee ahead of their hearing on reauthorizing the Brownfields program. We are hoping to include success stories and best practices from members to highlight the importance of this program. Please contact Sarah Reed, sarah@narc.org, with any information or questions.

2017 NARC Awards

NARC is accepting nominations for its 2017 Achievement and Leadership Awards, which will be presented at the Awards Gala Dinner during the 51st Annual Conference and Exhibition, June 4-7, in Monterey, CA. The awards provide an excellent opportunity for winners to promote their successes to a larger audience, as well as share best practices with their partners and peers. The nomination deadline is April 28th.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Director, Planning and Regional Services Division

Central Texas Council of Governments, Belton, TX

JLUS Project Coordinator

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Educational Outreach Coordinator

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

Grants Coordinator

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

Regional Transportation Director

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Operationalizing Accessibility: Part 1 - Tools and Practices

March 30, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Planners and transportation professionals are moving toward measures of accessibility to describe how well a transportation system lets people meet a variety of daily needs like getting to work, shopping, and socializing. As useful as these measures can be, data and technology have just recently made them widely available and easy to use. That leaves many key questions **about** operationalizing them. SSTI, Renaissance Planning Group, and Citilabs are working throughout the U.S. to develop tools, standards, and practices needed to operationalize accessibility measures in different applications, including: planning, project evaluation, equity analysis, and design. This work has also led to the development of two distinct measures representing both work and non-work accessibility. This is part one of a two part webinar series.

Regional ITS Data Sharing

March 31, 10:00-11:00 AM ET

Public agencies are planning, developing, and deploying capabilities to capture, integrate, and manage data generated from connected and automated vehicles, mobile devices, advanced roadside technologies, and other sources. Few early deployers of advanced ITS technologies are prepared to share real-time data outside local jurisdictions while protecting privacy and proprietary interests as needed. Ariel Gold, ITS Joint Program Office (JPO) data program manager, will discuss ITS data sharing between local jurisdictions, the importance of extensibility and replicability, and the application of these engineering and design principles to data systems. She will also discuss the role of the ITS JPO Data Program in supporting adoption of these methods.

The Transit-Walkability Collaborative: An Inter-Modal Strategy for Creating Strong Neighborhoods

April 18, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

This webinar will include presentations and discussion from several members of the Transit-Walkability Collaborative, a partnership that aims to promote the benefits of walkable, transit-rich communities; to bring together transit and walkability advocates at the local, state, and national level; and to identify and implement programs and policies that simultaneously expand walkability and transit services in communities across the U.S. The webinar will highlight the release of a fact sheet providing critical data to support walkability and transit advocacy, and the launch of a national survey designed to collect information **about** existing local collaborations.

NARC Webinar! Tapping into the Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities Program

April 20, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

Are you facing challenges related to brownfields? Would you be interested in learning how you can receive free assistance from brownfield experts? Through funds provided by EPA, the Technical Assistance to Brownfield (TAB) communities program **provides free assistance** to local, county, regional, state, and tribal governments, as well as not-for-profit entities. The TAB program provides a range of assistance, including: guidance on developing grant proposals, prioritizing brownfield sites, interpreting site characterization results, explaining clean-up technologies, navigating regulatory programs and requirements, layering funding and financing options, engaging the community stakeholders, and much more. Join NARC and the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) to learn how your community can access this benefit. The webinar will provide examples of how NJIT has assisted hundreds of communities, and will give you information on how you can tap into the TAB program.

Details Available! 51st Annual Conference & Exhibition

June 4-7 - Monterey, CA

Join NARC and the California Association of Councils of Governments for NARC's 51st Annual Conference and Exhibition, which focuses on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education.

CONTACT US

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