



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

Congress Finalizes FAA Extension

This week the House approved the Senate version of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) extension. The bill will now go to the President's desk with one week left before the current authorization expires. This extension authorizes aviation taxes and FAA programs until July 15, giving lawmakers more time to hammer out a long term bill and debate privatizing the air traffic control system, which was proposed as part of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee bill.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Cost Effectiveness Tables Summary

FHWA released the cost-effectiveness tables for a range of Congestion Management and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) eligible project types. These tables, created under MAP-21 guidelines, are intended to help states and MPOs reduce on-road vehicle emissions and traffic congestion with their CMAQ dollars.

Transportation Alternatives Program Performance Management Guidebook

This FHWA guidebook for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) was created to help state DOTs and MPOs implement performance-based approaches for the program. The guidebook includes an overview of the principles of performance-based planning and management, FHWA's seven-step performance-based planning framework, a discussion of how to implement performance management with limited resources, and a step-by-step roadmap for creating a performance-based planning and programming approach. It also includes examples of performance measures and programs. TAP was renamed the STP Set-Aside program in the FAST

Act but the guidebook still applies to this program.

FHWA Announces \$60 Million in Grants for New Program

FHWA announced \$60 million in grants for the new Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Program this week. The program is intended to improve transportation safety, performance, and efficiency through technology improvements. MPOs may apply for awards that can be used for projects that use real-time traveler information, traffic data collection and dissemination, and other intelligent transportation system technologies.

Republican Presidential Candidate Ted Cruz

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

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) does not have a specific transportation or infrastructure plan as part of his campaign. Instead, [his website](#) focuses on removing government excess, stating that he will cut departments such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He would also cut the New Starts Transit Program and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants, among 23 other agencies and programs. His website says that he would approve the Keystone Pipeline and “other similar infrastructures.” Cruz has routinely supported bills that reform highway funding and move authority of highway programs to states. He is currently a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and voted against the FAST Act in December.

REGIONS BRIEF

Feds, Public to Hear Plan to Reduce Rail Congestion Around Chicago

Next month the plan for a proposed 278-mile rail line to bypass Chicago and reduce rail congestion in the region will have its first hearing. The \$8 billion rail line, designed by Great Lakes Basin Transportation, could accommodate up to 110 freight trains per day that must currently travel through Chicago to reach their destination. The new line would connect with major railroads and help accommodate the projected traffic growth in the region. However, the project faces many financial and environmental challenges and lacks support from groups such as Union Pacific.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Transportation Planning Specialist

Benton-Franklin Council of Governments, Richland, WA

Contract Business Loan Services or Salaried Loan Officer

Benton-Franklin Council of Governments, Richland, WA

Contracts and Procurement Analyst

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

RFP: Mountain Accord (Phase II) Transportation Consultant

Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, UT

Transportation Administration Manager

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Senior or Associate Transportation Planner

Lane Council of Governments, Eugene, OR

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

NARC WEBINAR! USDOT's Final Safety Performance Rule

Please join NARC for a member webinar outlining the Safety Performance Management Measures final rule – the first of three primary rulemakings regarding performance management and measurement – released recently by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The final rule contains some important changes from the proposed rule and several responsibilities for metropolitan planning organizations. FHWA will host a **webinar** on April 1, 2016 at 11:30 AM ET to discuss the requirements of the HSIP and Safety PM Final Rule and answer questions.

Webinar Series on GreenSTEP/RSPM Models, Final Session

April 7, 2:00 – 4:00 PM ET

GreenSTEP is an open-source model developed at Oregon DOT to enable state planners and policy makers to analyze the effects of alternative strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector. This webinar will focus on the new VisionEval modeling system that the GreenSTEP model and related models will be ported into, explain the thinking behind the VisionEval modeling system, and review the major components.

SSO Final Rule Webinar

April 12, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

FTA's Office of Transit Safety & Oversight will discuss the State Safety Oversight (SSO) final rule. The SSO rule replaces rules that have been in place for twenty years and significantly strengthens State Safety Oversight Agency's authority to investigate accidents and oversee a rail transit agency's implementation of its System Safety Program Plan and Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan.

Regional Models of Cooperation -- Enhanced Data Sharing Systems and Tools

April 28, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Regional cooperation among MPOs, state DOTs, transit agencies, and their partners is increasing efficiency, improving transportation decision-making, and strengthening relationships. This webinar will feature the methods and tools that organizations use to successfully share data and collaborate across jurisdictional boundaries. State DOT and MPO presenters will describe the systems and how they are used to make data sharing and collaboration across boundaries work in their regions.

Rural Transit Agencies: Apply Now for 2016 FTA Administrator's Award

Nominations Due: May 15

Any local rural transit provider receiving assistance under Section 5311 may be nominated for FTA's Administrator's Award for Outstanding Public Service. Transit providers will be judged on their success in improving the mobility of Americans in rural areas and providing better access to jobs, health care, and other community services. Nominations must address how transit systems create connections for riders, particularly in low-income communities, as well as veterans, seniors, youth, and disadvantaged populations.

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