



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

CONGRESS BRIEF

FAA Reauthorization Outlook

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) and Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman John Thune (R-SD) spoke last week about reconciling their reauthorization bills for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The omnibus includes language that extends FAA authorization through September, but the lawmakers would like to have FAA finished before the August recess. Both chairmen expressed that leadership decided the extension date of the authorization in the omnibus and that they would have preferred a shorter timeframe.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

EPA Plans to Ease Efficiency Rules

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reportedly concluded that the Obama-era standards to cut vehicle greenhouse-gas emissions are too aggressive. According to reports, the agency has completed a draft decision outlining the rationale for easing fuel efficiency regulations for model year 2022-2025 cars and light trucks. The California Air Resources Board, which paved the way for a national program, stated it had no input in drafting the decision. EPA has not determined what the new tailpipe-emission standards will be, but they are expected to weaken them, thus boosting sales of larger vehicles. This would challenge the Obama administration's enacted tailpipe rules, which were aimed at decreasing carbon emissions from cars and light trucks by boosting fuel economy to an average of more than 50 miles per gallon by 2025. A final determination is expected to be public by April 1.

App Helps States Recover From Natural Disasters

FHWA's *Mobile Solution for Assessment and Reporting* (MSAR) app replaces paper surveys and inspection reports required under the Emergency Relief (ER) and Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) programs after natural disasters. The app easily pinpoints photos of the damage on a map and was used during Hurricane Harvey in Texas. After the hurricane, FHWA's Texas division office, Texas DOT, and local public agency engineers used MSAR to make damage assessments and saved an estimated 17,000 hours of staff time by digitizing their work. The app was also used in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

FCC Ditches Reviews in 5G 'Streamlining'

Last week the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved a wireless infrastructure streamlining order intended to increase America's efforts in the race to 5G. The order exempts small cell deployments from federal historic preservation and environmental reviews. Only states and localities that have their own review processes in place can mandate them. After a failed attempt to delay the vote for more input from tribal nations, environmental advocates, and local government officials, Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel noted that streamlining 5G installation will not guarantee improved access to underserved communities, such as rural areas and urban deserts.

REGIONS BRIEF

Uber AVs Banned in Arizona

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey announced that Uber's autonomous vehicles (AVs) have been banned indefinitely after a fatal accident in Tempe. Ducey called the accident an "unquestionable failure" to comply with safety standards and said he expects public safety to be the top priority for operators in his state. A few weeks before the crash the state had approved the use of AVs without safety drivers. Other companies, such as Waymo and Mobileye, have since said that their technology would have seen the pedestrian and avoided the accident.

Integrating Economic Resilience in Performance-based Transportation Planning

This National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation publication looks at how incorporating economic performance into the planning process can help regions track progress and ensure projects align with their organization's goals. The guide introduces concepts of measuring progress and focuses on integration with the planning processes conducted by regional planning organizations. Highlighted organizations include the Brazos Valley Council of Governments.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Executive Director

MetroPlan Orlando, Orlando, FL

Business and Operations Manager

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Planning and Development Services Director

City of Winston-Salem, Winston-Salem, NC

Manager, Office of Travel Monitoring

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Leveraging the State Crash Report to Improve Responder Safety & TIM

April 3, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

This webinar will describe updates included in the 5th edition of the *Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria* and how FHWA is working with states to advance data collection. The webinar will feature two agencies that actively collect and analyze data and discuss how they derive value from the data to improve transportation incident management and responder safety. Webinar participants will be invited to share their experiences and ask questions.

EJ Analysis of the Impact of Tolling and Rate Changes

April 4, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

This FHWA webinar will feature a **guidebook** designed to assess the environmental justice implications of tolling or rate changes. Speakers will demonstrate how to use the tools included in the toolkit and will present two case study examples.

Fleets for the Future: Incorporating Electric Vehicles into Your Fleet

April 18, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Fleets for the Future (F4F) is a national U.S. Department of Energy-funded partnership, led by NARC, Clean Cities coalitions, and industry experts tasked with coordinating regional and national procurement initiatives to consolidate bulk orders of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and infrastructure. Please join the F4F team on April 18 to learn about electric vehicle (EV) opportunities available on the market today, how to assess the suitability in your fleets, and how incorporating EVs can reduce costs for your fleets. You can find the team's best practice guide for electric vehicle procurement on the **F4F website**. Q&A will follow the presentation.

TMACOG 50th Anniversary

April 26, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Join the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments members, staff, and partners at an open house to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the formation of their COG. Be sure to check out their **50th Anniversary video** too!

Inclusive Transportation Planning Grants

Proposals Due May 4

The Community Transportation Association (CTAA), National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), and the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts-Boston have announced the availability of a new round of funding for local inclusive planning projects. CTAA, with financial support from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, and in collaboration with other federal and national partners, is making available grants of up to \$35,000 each for up to 20 organizations for a six-month period. The new projects are expected to adopt inclusive strategies that fit their communities and build upon learning from previous projects. It is anticipated that the experience from these grants will add to the knowledge garnered from the previous project and help build recognition and support for inclusive planning across the U.S.

10th National Aviation System Planning Symposium

May 20 – 23, Anchorage, Alaska. Early bird registration closes April 6!

The National Aviation System Planning Symposium is a triennial event organized by the Transportation Research Board Committees on Aviation System Planning and Intergovernmental Relations in Aviation with the goal of assessing the state of the art in system planning, addressing current issues confronting the airport and aviation industry, and identifying research needs to inform the future research agenda for aviation system planning. The symposium brings together system planning consultants; airport and aviation system planners and managers; air carrier and other aviation industry representatives; federal, state, and local transportation planners and officials; and others interested in the future development of the aviation system and its role in the larger multi-modal transportation system.

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