



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



CONGRESS BRIEF

House Committee Passes MPO Coordination Rule Repeal Bill

After brief **remarks yesterday by the bill's sponsor**, Representative Dan Lipinski (D-IL), lead co-sponsor Representative Jason Lewis (R-MN), and Representative Elizabeth Esty (D-CT), the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed the MPO Rule Repeal legislation (**H.R. 1346**) by voice vote. There were no amendments and the vote was unanimous in support.

The next step will be to request that the House pass the Senate version of the bill, ideally on the suspension calendar (which means it won't even need a vote). Taking up the Senate bill at this point means that once it passes, the bill will be ready for the president's signature. If the House passes the House version, it would require additional action by the Senate to finalize. Thank you all for your assistance in getting this bill through - another major step completed!

Bill Forthcoming to Reform Permitting Requirements

Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK) stated this week that he has secured Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao's commitment to work on legislation to overhaul permit registration for federal projects. Sullivan hopes to have a bill that speeds up infrastructure permits before a major infrastructure package hits Congress. He claims the *Rebuild America Now Act* would not cut corners but allow federal funds to be used more efficiently.

APTA Legislative Alert - Capital Investment Grant Program

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) is urging action to support the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program. The president's fiscal year 2018 "skinny budget" proposal would phase out the CIG program, putting projects in the pipeline and future projects at risk. APTA is asking for organizations to call their senators and representatives to ask them to sign on to letters to support public transportation programs. You can find the Senate letter **HERE**, and the House letter **HERE**.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Does FAST Act Slow MAP-21 Project Delivery?

An audit from the USDOT Inspector General found delays in FHWA's implementation of MAP-21 project delivery provisions. Of 42 planned actions, only 27 have been implemented, but a large number require revision based on new requirements in the FAST Act. Nineteen of the planned implementation actions were delayed, including 4 out of 9 rules mandated under MAP-21. The audit also pointed to "low state participation" in some initiatives, including Section 1304, a program to promote innovative technology. USDOT agreed with the recommendations made by the Inspector General and stated that they will commit to implement all but the ones regarding innovative technologies, which require more time, by April 30, 2017.

USDOT 50th Anniversary Open House

Yesterday at USDOT Headquarters in Washington, D.C., Secretary Elaine Chao addressed a group of guests and employees in celebration of the department's 50th anniversary. She stated that the \$1 trillion infrastructure plan could include energy, water, broadband, and veterans hospitals, and stressed that private capital would be just one of the funding sources for the bill. Secretary Chao also emphasized safety, technology, and the potential for public private partnerships. NARC Executive Director Leslie Wollack and NARC Director of Transportation Programs Erich Zimmermann both attended the event to welcome the new secretary.

REGIONS BRIEF

MAG's 50th Anniversary Video Stories

To celebrate its 50th Anniversary, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) in Phoenix, Arizona is creating five videos, each covering a different decade in their history. Their latest installment covers 1977-1987 and includes interviews with former employees and regional leaders on their role in the region.

\$400M Funding for Transportation Projects Goes to Christie

Last week, state lawmakers in New Jersey approved \$400 million for transportation projects. Governor Chris Christie requested the additional funds in his annual budget address to pay for road and bridge work. The bill provides \$260 million for roads and bridges, and \$140 million for transit. NJDOT will specify which projects receive funding. This boost comes after a gas tax increase in the state last year, which was part of a larger deal to boost the transportation trust fund.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Business Analyst

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

JLUS GIS Specialist

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Bexar Aging Case Worker for Veterans Services

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Executive Director

Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, Savannah, GA

Alamo Service Connection Care Specialist – Local Contact Agent

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

OPPORTUNITIES

[View full list of grants and events!](#)

Deep Integration of Activity-Based Modeling and Dynamic Traffic Assignment, using CT-RAMP and Dynus-T

April 5, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

This webinar describes the development and application of a model system that integrates an Activity-Based travel demand Model (ABM) and Dynamic Traffic Assignment (DTA), taking maximum advantage of the disaggregate nature of both models. Rather than using skims, all interaction between ABM and DTA, including generating a list of vehicle trips by ABM for DTA and providing Level-of-Service (LOS) variables by DTA for ABM is implemented at the individual level without an aggregation bias. The model is being implemented at the Atlanta Regional Commission and Ohio State DOT. In the webinar, presenters will discuss details of the model structure, software set-up, equilibration strategies and convergence, as well as associated run times.

2017 NARC Awards

Nominations Due: April 28

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.

Route Fifty Navigator Awards

Nominations Due: June 14

The Navigator Awards seek to honor individuals and teams working either in or with state and local governments who have improved public sector services and the communities they serve. Route Fifty is now accepting nominations for the 2017 Navigator Awards across the following five categories:

- State and Local Executive Leadership
- IT and Data Innovators
- Agency and Department Leadership
- The Next Generation
- Government Allies and Cross-Sector Partners

Nominations will be judged based on three measurements: innovation, implementation, and outcomes. 50 finalists will be chosen across five categories and the 10 winners will be announced in a ceremony in Charlotte, North Carolina during the National League of Cities' annual City Summit.

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.

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