



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



CONGRESS BRIEF

Both chambers are on recess this week. The Senate will return next week and the House on April 12.

Short-term FAA Patch Signed

Yesterday, President Obama signed the short-term Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) authorization extension into law, giving Congress until July 15 to produce a longer-term bill. Two significant issues that will be key points of discussion include privatization of the air traffic control system in the House version and drone safety provisions in the Senate version (a result of recent **increase in drone sightings** reported by FAA).

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

State Maps for FAST Act NHFN Now Available

The FAST Act repealed the Primary Freight Network and National Freight Network from MAP-21 in favor of creating the National Highway Freight Network (NHFN). This network includes the Primary Highway Freight System, other interstate portions, Critical Rural Freight Corridors, and Critical Urban Freight Corridors. The NHFN is used to strategically direct federal resources and policies to improve the freight system on highways. National map and state maps are available.

States and MPOs are responsible for designating some portions of public roads. Guidance will be developed in accordance with the FAST Act section 1116 to provide information on the identification, designation, and certification of these corridors.

USDOT Announces \$266 Million Funding Opportunity to Improve Bus Service Nationwide

FTA announced this week \$211 million in grants for bus and bus facility projects, a discretionary program that was restored by the FAST Act, as well as \$55 million for their Low and No Emission bus program. Eligible projects include replacing, leasing, and purchasing buses and facilities. Direct recipients of 5307 funding, state DOTs, transit agencies, and tribes are eligible to apply.

USDOT to Release Regulatory Guidance on Self-Driving Cars

At a Bloomberg Government event this week in Washington, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx stated that NHTSA would issue guidelines for autonomous vehicles by mid-summer. Foxx discussed the importance of a cohesive federal framework to support the technology and prioritized putting regulations in place before making these vehicles available to the public.

Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton

NARC will highlight the 2016 presidential candidates' transportation and infrastructure positions.

Of the remaining presidential candidates, Hillary Clinton has laid out the most **detailed plan** for infrastructure. The ambitious twelve page plan broaches nearly every infrastructure issue, including ways to combat climate change by working with regions to create resilient infrastructure strategies, expand broadband, and support intelligent transportation system projects. Clinton proposes to improve freight by “initiating upgrades of at least the 25 most costly freight bottlenecks by the end of her first term.” To finance her plan, she would increase federal funding by \$275 billion over five years through business tax reform and create a national infrastructure bank to further increase funds. The bank would leverage its funds to support up to an additional \$225 billion in direct loans, loan guarantees, and other forms of credit enhancement. To use funds more efficiently, Clinton intends to create more merit-based competitive grants, streamline permitting, and support multimodal projects.

REGIONS BRIEF

Cincinnati Metro, Uber to Announce Partnership

Cincinnati is partnering with Uber to help customers fill the “first mile-last mile gap” in public transit. Metro buses will advertise codes for first-time Uber users and will encourage the community to use the service to get to and from bus stops and destinations beyond the system.

U.S. 36: Changing Commute Habits through Infrastructure, Incentives, and Education

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), Colorado DOT, and Regional Transportation District’s highly praised reconstruction project of U.S. 36 between Denver and Boulder is close to completion. The new corridor encourages and accommodates alternatives to single occupancy vehicle trips and serves as a great example of improving multimodal transportation through partnerships. The project added BRT stations, a bicycle path, bus rapid transit, and other features in addition to spearheading a successful marketing and social media campaign to help commuters become more comfortable and familiar with their new options.

Regional Coordination in Public Transportation: Lessons from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland

This new report from the Mid-Atlantic Universities Transportation Center looks at best practices for improving regional transit service through case studies in Europe, Washington, DC, and San Francisco. The study found that regional collaboration is a major factor for success in Europe and evaluated similarities and differences in funding, planning, and marketing structures.

NARC Webinar on the Safety Performance Management Measures Final Rule

Earlier this week, NARC Director of Transportation Programs Erich Zimmermann held a webinar outlining the Safety Performance Management Measures final rule – the first of three primary rulemakings regarding performance management and measurement – recently released by FHWA. He discussed changes in the rule and how this will affect our members. You can view his slides [HERE](#).

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Local Contact Agency Options Counselor

Triangle J Council of Governments, Durham, NC

Planner II – Housing & Community Development

Triangle J Council of Governments, Durham, NC

Planner II – Energy & Environment

Triangle J Council of Governments, Durham, NC

Small Business Development Program Analyst

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

OPPORTUNITIES

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

FHWA's STSFA Program Solicitation Webinar

April 1, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Get information and ask questions regarding the surface transportation systems funding alternatives (STSFA) program established by Section 6020 of the FAST Act Notice. The currently available Notice of Funding Opportunity is the first solicitation for the STSFA program seeking applications from eligible entities to provide grants to states to demonstrate user based alternative revenue mechanisms that utilize a user fee structure to maintain the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.

Call for Proposals: Community Indicators Consortium Impact Summit

Proposals Due: April 15

Conference: September 26-27, Washington, DC

The 2016 Impact Summit will focus on innovative efforts that are moving the needle on community well-being. Submit a proposal if your work has resulted in marked improvements in equity and sustainability or is part of a campaign, initiative, or activity that is transforming how indicators are used at the local, regional, or national level to navigate toward more equitable and sustainable communities. Proposals must address one of the following four areas: measuring well-being, connecting communities, impacting well-being, and sustaining their work.

Integrated Planning Survey

Respond by April 15

The AASHTO Standing Committee on Planning invites you to take a brief survey covering current and future planning activities at state DOTs, MPOs, and regional organizations. The insights and responses you provide will be used to develop a quarterly series of "Snapshot" publications. These snapshots are intended to highlight current practices, address trending topics, provide best practice examples, and act as a resource for planners, executives, legislators, and others interested in planning practices. Previous Snapshot publications can be found [HERE](#).

EPA Tools & Resources - C- FERST

April 20, 2:45 – 4:15 PM ET

EPA researchers are developing the Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Tool (C-FERST), an online tool that empowers communities to learn more about their environmental issues, gather information, and develop options for possible solutions. It includes maps and tables with data on sources of pollution, environmental concentrations, estimated exposures, and potential risks, demographics, and community characteristics. The tool also incorporates information about promising sustainable community solutions, structured community guides, local maps and reports, fact sheet, and links to other public health information sources and decision-making tools.

Infrastructure Week

May 16-23

Infrastructure Week includes events, media outreach, education, and advocacy efforts to elevate infrastructure as a critical issue impacting all Americans. The theme in 2016 – *Infrastructure Matters* – tells the story of what infrastructure means to Americans. It matters, in big ways and small, to our country, economy, quality of life, safety, and communities. See how you can participate [HERE](#).

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2016 National Association of Regional Councils, All rights reserved.

We are sending you this e-mail because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

National Association of Regional Councils
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305
Washington, DC 20002

[Add us to your address book](#)