



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

GROW AMERICA 2.0

The Administration released an updated version of its reauthorization proposal, the *Generating Renewal, Opportunity, and Work with Accelerated Mobility, Efficiency, and Rebuilding of Infrastructure and Communities throughout America Act* or the GROW AMERICA Act. This bill would provide \$478 billion for a six-year reauthorization (just under \$80 billion per year), paid for with the Administration's proposal to collect taxes on corporate earnings that are currently parked overseas. This proposal includes a substantial increase in annual federal spending for transportation, including a 79 percent increase in transit spending and a 29 percent increase in spending on highways and roads. In addition to [NARC's analysis](#), USDOT also released a series of [state-by-state fact sheets](#) about the bill.

New Round of TIGER Announced

Pre-Applications Due: May 4 (required)

Final Applications Due: June 5

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx today announced \$500 million in available funding for transportation projects across the country under a seventh round of the highly successful Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program. USDOT will host a [TIGER summit](#) at its headquarters on April 16, and a [series of webinars](#) to assist applicants on a number of facets of the process.

CONGRESS BRIEF

Ryan Considers Short-Term Highway Bill Extension

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) insists that any significant transportation funding beyond a short term extension of the current bill must be part of a larger corporate tax overhaul package. Since such a major tax reform package would take months to construct and be adopted by Congress, he began working with Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) to identify how to fund a short term extension of the existing legislation.

Blue Dog Democrats Request Hearing on Infrastructure Package

In a letter to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Ranking Member Sander Levin (D-MI), fifteen members of the [Blue Dog Coalition](#) requested a hearing to examine a long-term bipartisan solution to the looming Highway Trust Fund insolvency.

REGIONS BRIEF

Georgia Bill to Increase Transportation Spending

The Georgia State legislature passed the *Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (HB 170)*, which commits at least \$900 million in transportation infrastructure spending by the state in addition to potential revenue generated by tax increases contained in the bill. Such provisions include: an increase in the state gas tax, which is indexed to fuel efficiency and inflation; establishment of a \$5 per night tax on hotel overnight stays; elimination of the electric vehicle tax credit; and a highway impact fee for heavy-duty trucks based on weight class.

Regional Councils Selected for SHRP2

FHWA and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) announced their selections for Round 5 of the **Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2)**. Of the twenty-one transportation organizations whose proposed projects were selected for implementation and technical assistance, five of them were regional councils, councils of government, or MPOs, including: Atlanta Regional Commission, Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho, Denver Regional Council of Governments, High Point Urban Area MPO, and KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission.

The Huntington, WV-KY-OH urban area was designated a Transportation Management Area (TMA) following the 2010 Census. Following that designation, KYOVA completed a Congestion Management Process (CMP), based on a performance-based prioritization process established in their Metropolitan Transportation Plan. KYOVA will use their SHRP2 grant to establish a process that conforms to national and state standards, is easily repeatable, and coordinates with available data and data gathering practices. Successful implementation will streamline its workflow, not only in future plan development but in everyday operations. The multi-state nature of the urbanized area combined with its recent upgrade to TMA status will enable this area to serve as a model for many other regions interested in this process.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Rehab

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Columbus, OH

Specialist

Principal

Puget Sound Regional Council, Seattle, WA

Planner

Active

Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, UT

Transportation

Planner

Transportation

Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, UT

Planner

Engineer

OPPORTUNITIES

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

2015 TIGER Webinar Series

Various dates

USDOT will hold a number of webinars about the latest round of TIGER Grant Awards to help applicants through the process. Registration links are not yet available, but the first webinar will take place on April 8, and more information can be found at the link above.

The Transportation Clock is Ticking: Impacts, Risks, and Solutions

April 9, 12:30-2:00 PM ET

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute and the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) will hold a briefing to discuss the economic repercussions of federal transportation funding uncertainty. The briefing features an expert panel of speakers including APTA's President and CEO Michael Melaniphy; Mayor of Normal, IL Chris Koos; Manager of Congressional and Public Affairs for the US Chamber of Commerce Drew Preston; and Representative Earl Blumenauer's Legislative Assistant Paul Balmer. This event is in conjunction with *Stand Up for Transportation Day*, and will be available to the public as a live webcast.

Integrating Climate Adaptation Efforts across State, Regional, and Local Transportation Agencies

April 9, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

The National Center for Sustainable Transportation and the Policy Institute for Energy, Environment, and the Economy at University of California-Davis will host a webinar to discuss the challenges and opportunities that transportation agencies face in addressing climate adaptation. Dr. Lisa Aultman-Hall and Jonathan Dowds from the University of Vermont will present a planning framework, and representatives from three state DOTs will offer perspective on the impacts that extreme weather events have made on their transportation systems.

Building the Bridge: Solutions to the Infrastructure Crisis

April 14, 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM ET

The Century Foundation will host a conference to revitalize public discourse on the structure of infrastructure investment, sources of revenue, and means for project prioritization. Expert speakers will offer their perspectives and solutions to the infrastructure crisis.

P3 Technical Assistance Award Program

Applications Due: May 29

The Eno Center for Transportation announced its new technical assistance award program aimed at improving understanding of public-private partnership (P3) development. Award winners will receive a one-day summit for decision-makers to learn about P3 financing, P3 program best practices, keys to developing P3-supportive legislation, and methods for partnering with the private sector. Award winners will also receive a training session for their project implementation staff, as well as up to three weeks of follow-up support.

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