



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



CONGRESS BRIEF

Congress begins a two-week recess tomorrow. Upon their return, there will be four legislative days until the April 28 expiration of the current continuing resolution for the fiscal year 2017 spending bills.

CBO Cost Estimate of MPO Coordination Rule Repeal Bill

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) just completed its cost estimate of **H.R. 1346**. CBO found that under the rule, MPOs will incur administration costs to comply. Under the repeal bill, MPOs would save about \$80 million per year over the 2018-2021 period. The repeal bill can now go to the House floor.

FAST Act Implementation: State and Local Perspectives Hearing

The House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held its postponed FAST Act Implementation hearing on Wednesday morning with Oklahoma DOT Executive Director Michael Patterson; Dallas Area Rapid Transit President and Executive Director Gary Thomas; and Mayor Kasim Reed of Atlanta, Georgia as witnesses. The universal message was that federal investment is essential for transportation improvements; all expressed concern over the significant cuts proposed in the president's skinny budget. There was also strong support for local funding. House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) was late to the hearing because of a Republican meet and greet with Secretary Chao and almost fifty other members.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Transportation Conformity: A Basic Guide for State & Local Officials

This FHWA guide was prepared to help state and local officials understand transportation conformity and how conformity requirements relate to transportation investments in their communities. Specifically, the guide discusses implications of conformity on metropolitan transportation plans, transportation improvement programs, and transportation projects. The guide provides an overview of the major elements of the conformity process and provides answers to basic questions.

Former USDOT Secretary William Coleman Dies at 96

William T. Coleman Jr., who rose above racial barriers in court as a lawyer and served as the fourth U.S. Secretary of Transportation from 1975-1977, died last Friday. Mr. Coleman was the second African-American to serve in a White House cabinet position, and was appointed by President Gerald Ford. During his service, USDOT responded to significant changes in the aviation industry and increased demand for road safety. Prior to his service under President Ford, Mr. Coleman served in the Army Air Forces and attended Harvard Law School.

REGIONS BRIEF

Driverless Future: A Policy Roadmap for City Leaders

This new policy guide looks at the role public policy will play in shaping autonomous vehicle technology. It encourages cities to take action to maximize the benefits of driverless technology. The guide identifies six priorities for consideration, ranging from investing in public transit to encouraging adaptable parking.

Thousands of Current Uber, Lyft drivers Fail New Background Checks in MA

Massachusetts recently pulled 8,000 Lyft and Uber drivers from roads after reviewing criminal and driving records. They reviewed nearly 71,000 drivers who already passed reviews by the companies and rejected 11% under the new state system. The state program looks at an entire drivers past for serious crimes. The ride-sharing companies only look back seven years, which is why so many more drivers failed the state background checks.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Capital Programs Manager

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, Cleveland, OH

Manager of Strategic and Long Range Planning

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, Cleveland, OH

OPPORTUNITIES

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

Transportation at the Ballot Box: Tracking and Explaining Success

April 20, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

In an era of declining infrastructure coupled with limited resources for transportation spending, local and state governments are turning to the ballot box to fund transportation measures. The Center for Transportation Excellence has been tracking transit measures across the country since 2000. In 2016, the Eno Center for Transportation released a comprehensive Transportation Ballot Measures database covering all types of transportation across the country for the 2016 election. The Sustainable Cities Initiative at the University of Oregon recently built a comprehensive database of transportation ballot measures in California, Oregon, and Washington covering 2005-2015. These organizations will team up for a webinar to discuss lessons learned from building databases to track transportation ballot measures and describe characteristics of successful measures.

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.

Registration Open! 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.

2017 National Walking Summit

September 13-15, St. Paul, Minnesota

The National Walking Summit is the premier opportunity for community advocates, nonprofit representatives, government officials, and transit, health, and planning professionals to share best practices and stories, increase the visibility of key issues, build support for the walking movement, and create momentum for the work ahead. Attendees will explore the growing power of walking and how through the creation of vital and vibrant communities, we can bridge community divides and overcome existing disparities.

CONTACT US

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