



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



CONGRESS BRIEF

Senate is in session. House returns April 12.

FAA Reauthorization Update

The Senate is back in session this week and has started work on the FAA reauthorization bill. Similar to the process to pass the FAST Act, the Senate voted to take up a tax-related House-passed measure (**H.R. 636**) to use as the “shell” for the Senate FAA bill. Last night, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Chairman John Thune (R-SD) formally offered an amendment to strike the text of the House bill and replace it with the committee’s FAA bill. Senators have filed 58 amendments as of last night and Chairman Thune also brought up two amendments on aviation security and drone operators. The Senate is looking at amendments throughout the day today, but will not meet on Friday. Action will be held until next week.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

HSIP and Safety PM Final Rules

Last week, FHWA held a webinar on the new Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and Safety Performance Measures (Safety PM) final rules. Presenters discussed rule changes generally and MPO-specific changes in the Safety PM. MPOs will be required to establish performance

targets for each of the measures 180 days after the state and can either agree to support the state DOT target or create their own for the planning area. Coordination of target selection for 2018 will begin in 2017 and MPOs will need to report 2018 targets to their state DOTs by February 27, 2018. Please see the **webinar slides** and **recording** (including Q&A) for more information.

Guidebook for Developing Pedestrian and Bicycle Performance Measures

This new FHWA guidebook discusses how communities can measure bicycle and pedestrian investments and the data required. It provides several performance measures and examples of communities currently using the measures.

Incorporating On-Road Bicycle Networks into Resurfacing Projects

This FHWA report provides guidance for transportation agencies interested in integrating bicycle facilities into their resurfacing program. Guidance includes methods for fitting bicycle facilities onto existing roads, cost considerations, and case studies.

Republican Presidential Candidate Donald Trump

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

Donald Trump does not have a specific infrastructure plan on his **campaign website**. He has, however, indicated several times in his campaign that our infrastructure is crumbling and has described U.S. airports and trains as “third world.” Trump has stated that we do not spend enough money on infrastructure and references his previous building experience for helping fix the nation’s infrastructure problems. While his plan is unclear, he has brought attention to the state of our nation’s infrastructure while other Republican candidates have avoided the issue.

REGIONS BRIEF

Deadly Railroad Crossings Challenge States

Of roughly 128,000 public railroad crossings in the U.S., only a third of them have gates and flashing lights as safety features. While deaths at crossings have declined, there is still a need to improve technology and safety to stop these accidents from happening. Some advances include Google integrating the location of railroad crossings into its GPS services and states’ use of sensors to signal approaching trains of vehicles stopped at crossings. These accidents have some states pushing for bridges to replace grade crossings.

South Mountain Freeway to Include a Bike Path in Ahwatukee

Phoenix will soon have a new six mile multi-use path along the extension of the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway. The 15-foot-wide path, in the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) region, will replace the Pecos Road biking route through the Ahwatukee Foothills and will be used by bikers and pedestrians alike. MAG’s long-range plan includes a pedestrian bridge over Interstate 10 to enhance connectivity within the region.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Chief Executive Officer

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, Urbana, IL

Director, Housing Assistance Division

Central Texas Council of Governments, Belton, TX

Transportation Planner (Disadvantaged Program Experience a Plus)

Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fort Lauderdale, FL

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Achieving Multimodal Networks: Applying Design Flexibility and Reducing Conflicts

April 11, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

This FHWA webinar will present core concepts from the forthcoming report, *Achieving Multimodal Networks: Applying Design Flexibility and Reducing Conflicts*, which will highlight planning and design improvement opportunities to build connected bike/pedestrian networks and examples of design flexibility.

Updates on Off-Hour Delivery Pilots Part I: The Experiences of Sao Paulo, Brazil and Copenhagen, Denmark

April 14, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

The success of the Off-Hour Delivery (OHD) Program in New York City demonstrated the potential of freight demand management to reduce the externalities produced by freight activity in urban areas. The impacts included reduced congestion, more reliable goods movement, increased urban livability, and a better business environment. Following the success of the New York City OHD program, cities around the world have undertaken a number of pilot tests to analyze the potential of off-hour deliveries in their jurisdictions. In this webinar, results of two pilots will be presented: Sao Paulo, Brazil and Copenhagen, Denmark.

FTA's Proposed Award Management Requirements Circular Webinar

April 21, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

This FTA webinar will discuss the proposed *Award Management Requirements* circular (FTA C 5010.1E). This information sharing session will discuss the significant changes to the proposed 5010.1E circular, which is currently out for public comment through April 29. FTA will provide an overview of the proposed changes, explain how some of the proposed changes may impact FTA award recipients, and give direction regarding when, where, and how to comment on the document.

BTS Border Crossing and Transborder Data: A Regional Perspective

April 26, 1:30 -3:00 PM ET

This session will discuss not only how Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) data products are used for regional cross-border planning and analysis, but how BTS datasets can integrate and dynamically populate regional online research tools.

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