



CONGRESS BRIEF

Congress is on recess and will return to work on April 24. The current continuing resolution, which provides funding for much of the government, expires on April 28.

Letters on the Hill

Representatives Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and Peter DeFazio (D-OR) sent a **letter to Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao** last week encouraging her to work with Congress on infrastructure funding. They directly referenced her comments at USDOT's 50th Anniversary Celebration where she stated, "The problem is not money. It's the delays caused by government permitting processes that hold up projects for years, even decades, making them risky investments." The representatives discouraged Chao against more streamlining and emphasized the critical importance, and lack, of federal funding.

Nine senators signed onto a letter last week to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (THUD) chairman and ranking member supporting connected and automated vehicle technology. The bipartisan signees specifically requested funding for the USDOT-designated proving grounds to help develop this technology safely.

Last Thursday, **Representative Richard Neal (D-MA) sent a letter** to the chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, Kevin Brady (R-TX), about maximizing the benefits of infrastructure funding. Neal highlighted the lasting economic benefits and job creation fueled by infrastructure funding, citing data from the Treasury Department and a private analysis.

TIGER grants also received support last week – **42 senators signed onto a letter** to the Senate Appropriations THUD Subcommittee chairman and ranking member. TIGER has awarded \$5.1 billion to 421 projects since its creation, and was eliminated in the fiscal year 2018 budget blueprint. The letter calls for its inclusion in the subcommittee's FY2018 appropriations bill.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Trump Taps Lyft Executive for Transportation Post

The White House said last week that the president plans to nominate Derek Kan as undersecretary of transportation for policy. Kan is the general manager of Lyft in Southern California and was previously policy advisor to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. He currently serves on the board of Amtrak. If confirmed, he would oversee executive and congressional directives for Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, such as the self-driving car guidance.

REGIONS BRIEF

Preparing for the Silver Tsunami by Mentoring The Next Generation

Over the past few months, Broward MPO hosted students from three local high schools for "Think Like a Planner" workshops. These innovative and engaging sessions help introduce students to the world of transportation planning and learn about potential careers in the industry. In these workshops, students examined the Cypress Creek Mobility Hub and broke into groups to brainstorm about making the area safer for all modes of transportation, especially for those who walk, bike, and take transit. The students presented their ideas as a proposal to a three judge panel made up of transportation professionals and board members.

The idea for the "Think Like a Planner" workshops came out of Broward MPO's *Strategic Business Plan*. Students benefit by learning about career opportunities and the basics of transportation planning, and the MPO gets to teach the students about the work the agency does and increase awareness of the MPO's goals and mission.

CMAP Launches Alternative Futures Initiative

As part of the ON TO 2050 comprehensive plan development, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is **conducting intensive public engagement** around "alternative futures." The agency will be seeking feedback on climate change, walkable communities, innovative transportation, constrained resources, and economic development through kiosks, videos, and workshops across northeastern Illinois. CMAP will be using the residents' feedback while developing ON TO 2050 to plan for its 8.5 million residents.

Metropolitan Centers: Evaluating Local Implementation of Regional Plans and Policies

The National Institute for Transportation and Communities released a report, *Metropolitan Centers: Evaluating Local Implementation of Regional Plans and Policies*. The report examines the influence that regional visioning has on local planning as well as the opportunities and constraints facing MPOs. It explores in depth the Denver region and the Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, region and their visioning strategies. Free registration is required before downloading the report.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Transportation Planner

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, Kelso, WA

Web Specialist II

Maricopa Association of Governments, Phoenix, AZ

Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordinator

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, Albany, OR

RFQ No. 17-02: Audit Services

Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Program Coordinator Multimodal and Livability

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, Oklahoma City, OK

Transportation Engineer IV

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Washington, DC

Transportation Engineer II

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Washington, DC

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Accessibility and Smart Scale: Using Access Scores to Prioritize Project

April 18, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

State Smart Transportation Initiatives' (SSTI) most recent webinar looked at emerging tools and data for measuring accessibility, and ways of operationalizing these measures in planning, project evaluation, equity analysis, and design. Putting these measures into practice can present its own challenges, but interested agencies do not need to reinvent the wheel. Virginia's Smart Scale requires transportation projects to be scored based on six criteria -- including accessibility -- to qualify for funding. Over the past several years, VDOT, Renaissance Planning Group, Citilabs, and SSTI have worked to improve the methods and processes for measuring accessibility and scored hundreds of proposed projects. Join this webinar to hear how they worked together to score projects for accessibility.

Freight and Land Use Travel Demand Evaluation

April 19, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Freight industry and planning practitioners face multiple challenges in the field, particularly in freight travel demand analysis. FHWA's Office of Operations is undertaking an effort to identify the best ways to provide practitioners with improved freight travel demand analysis tools to address these challenges. The technical tools and approaches needed to appropriately address freight travel demand are changing to reflect the evolving nature of freight demand itself and the needs of the practitioners responsible for using freight travel demand evaluation tools to inform sound investments in projects and programs across a variety of site, local, statewide, and nationwide scales. This webinar will feature an interactive discussion between speakers and participants on these challenges and potential solutions.

Smart Mobility, Smart Cities and the Columbus Smart Cities Challenge

April 26, 2:00 -3:00 PM ET

Join the Association for Commuter Transportation to hear the latest from Columbus, Ohio, the winner of the 2016 USDOT \$40 million Smart City Challenge. Columbus's winning vision laid out initiatives that embodied several TDM goals, including improving access to jobs through expanding mobility options; connecting residents to safe, reliable transportation for all; and developing a more environmentally-sustainable transportation system.

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.

NPMRDS Quarterly Webinar

May 4, 1:00 – 3:00 PM ET

The National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) is the probe data that FHWA is using internally for passenger and freight analysis and making available to states and MPOs. FHWA and its contractors will provide an overview of the probe data set, demonstrate data applications, and respond to technical assistance questions. This webinar is open to USDOT, state DOT, MPO, academic, and private sector participants.

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.

CONTACT US

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