

April 14, 2016 [View this email in your browser](#)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



CONGRESS BRIEF

House and Senate are in session.

Senate Nearing Completion of FAA Reauthorization

After weeks of deliberation, the Senate today voted 94-4 to invoke cloture on the FAA reauthorization. This limits debate on the bill and automatically rejects all non-germane amendments, several of which were threatening to hold up progress on the bill. Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman John Thune (R-SD) and ranking minority member Bill Nelson (D-FL) were hoping for final passage this afternoon, but the Senate has left town for the weekend and will take up the bill again Monday evening. There is a package of thirty or so agreed-upon amendments, but the fate of that package is unclear.

The Senate dropped an amendment by Sen. Dianne Feinstein opposing federal authority over local laws. The National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and National Association of State Aviation Officials each opposed the Senate provision that sought to pre-empt local laws.

While the House awaits the Senate package, its own bill remains on hold largely due to Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Bill Shuster's (R-PA) air traffic control privatization

proposal. The path forward on the House bill remains unclear at this point. The two sides have until July 15 to finalize a reauthorization, when the current extension expires.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

NARC FY17 Transportation Appropriations Letters

NARC sent a letter to both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees this week outlining priorities for FY2017 transportation appropriations. NARC urges Congress to fully fund the Capital Investment Grant program and the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program at levels recently reauthorized by the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act*.

U.S. Bike Sharing

The USDOT Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) released a new report looking at the 65 U.S. cities with bike share systems and their connectivity to public transportation. It shows that 86.3% of bike share stations are located within 1 block of public transportation, providing access to destinations beyond existing routes. The report gives details and statistics on types of public transit connectivity in these cities.

Republican Presidential Candidate John Kasich

This is the last in a series highlighting the 2016 presidential candidates' transportation and infrastructure positions.

Governor John Kasich (R-OH) takes a strong position on redirecting policy authority, funding, and responsibilities to states to manage infrastructure. The brief transportation plan on his [website](#) is part of an overall plan for “dismantling Washington and taking back our power, money, and influence.” He would downsize USDOT and give it the role of supporting states with research and safety standards. Kasich would also **decrease the federal gas tax**, leaving states to set their own rates based on their level of need. His larger plan includes an extensive energy section that approves the Keystone XL pipeline and supports alternative energy technology research, among other things.

REGIONS BRIEF

How Bike Trails Became Philadelphia Real Estate's Most Valued Amenity

The bike culture is just starting to heat up in Philadelphia, where more than 80 percent of people drive or carpool to work. New developments are listing how close they are to bike trails and easy access to public space is becoming being more desired by residents. Recent figures show that bike commuting in Philadelphia increased 237% between 1990 and 2014. This trend will continue with several new mixed-use developments located closer to paths. Additionally, the Philadelphia Streets Department recently received \$500,000 to upgrade and build protected bike lanes throughout the city.

Google to Test Self-Driving Cars in Arizona

Phoenix is the newest city to have autonomous vehicles on its roads. After Arizona Governor Doug Ducey issued an executive order last year supporting testing and operation of self-driving cars in the state, Uber and Google came to start testing. Google is currently testing how automobile sensors react to desert driving.

JOBS

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Assistant Director of Purchasing

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Los Angeles, CA

Executive Director

Florida Transportation Commission, Tallahassee, FL

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

China's BRT Development in the Last Decade

April 19, 9:30 AM ET

This presentation will give a brief overview of China's BRT development in cities over the last decade and will focus on lessons learned on the BRT corridor construction, infrastructure, and station design.

Briefing on Draft National TPM Implementation Review Survey

April 22, 2:00 - 3:30 PM ET

April 25, 2:00 - 3:30 PM ET

FHWA will review the purpose of the Draft National Transportation Performance Management (TPM) Implementation Review Survey. The webinar will provide an overview of the survey and why it is important in helping FHWA allocate resources to help with TPM implementation. There will be time for Q&A, an explanation of the public comment process, and a demo of the survey instrument. Learn more about it in the **draft survey and survey design report**.

Regional Models of Cooperation in Transportation Planning: Enhanced Data Sharing, Systems, and Tools

April 28, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Regional cooperation among MPOs, state DOTs, transit agencies, and their partners is increasing efficiency, improving transportation decision-making, and strengthening relationships. This webinar will feature the methods and tools that organizations use to successfully share data and collaborate across jurisdictional boundaries. State DOT and MPO presenters will describe the systems and how they are used to make data sharing and collaboration across boundaries work in their regions.

Transportation Research and Development Strategic Plan

Comments Due: April 29

FTA is requesting input as the USDOT Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology begins to develop a multi-modal, five-year *Research, Development, and Technology Strategic Plan* for USDOT as directed by the FAST Act. This plan will be the basis of the transportation research and development program.

Round 7: SHRP2 Implementation Assistance Program

Applications Due: April 29

The final opportunity to secure financial and technical assistance to implement products developed through the second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) is now open. Applications will be accepted from April 1 – 29, 2016, for Round 7 of the SHRP2 Implementation Assistance Program (IAP).

NARC Webinar! Partnering for Strong Economies: Regional Councils & Walkable Communities

May 5, 2:00 PM ET

Join NARC and America Walks for a webinar on how federal transportation funding is allocated through regional councils and how to access it for projects that promote walkable communities, including complete streets, safety efforts, and place-making. Attendees will explore two unique perspectives as we hear from a regional planner and an advocate who has worked to use the resources available from their regional council. Q&A to follow.

Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Program

Applications Due: June 3

The FAST Act established the advanced transportation and congestion management technologies deployment (ATCMTD) initiative. The initiative provides grants to eligible entities to develop model deployment sites for large scale installation and operation of advanced transportation technologies

to improve safety, efficiency, system performance, and infrastructure return on investment. FHWA will make five to ten awards not exceeding \$12 million each. Some of the eligible applicants include state or local governments, transit agencies, and metropolitan planning organizations representing a population of over 200,000.

CONTACT US

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