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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

April 17, 2014

Transportation Thursdays

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ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx Launches Bus Tour: U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Anthony Foxx is currently on a week-long, eight-state bus tour called "Invest in America: Commit to the Future." He is promoting the President's four-year, \$302 billion transportation funding plan. Transportation reauthorization hearings are currently taking place in Congress, so the Administration is highlighting its own plan while pushing Congress to act faster. The tour will also highlight the looming Highway Trust Fund (HTF) crisis. The U.S. DOT recently moved up its projection of HTF insolvency to July. The funding shortfall would force state and local governments to cancel or delay infrastructure projects, because federal funding will not be as readily available as anticipated. To deal with this problem, part of the

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President's plan is to have a \$150 billion cash infusion into the HTF from corporate tax restructuring. Congress faces a September 30 deadline to approve a new transportation bill before the current legislation (*Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act*) expires, but must act sooner to stave off the looming July insolvency threat.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

Bipartisan One-Time HTF Revenue Solution Proposed: U.S. Representatives John Delaney (D-MD) and Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA) have called on Congress to issue a one-time revenue fix to the HTF while a longer term solution is being negotiated. The funding would be drawn from repatriated revenue, from transferring foreign earnings or returns on foreign investments.

REGIONAL BRIEF

OKI to Study Kentucky Route 536: The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) recently released details of a plan to study a 6.5-mile section of KY 536 designed to identify roadway alternatives, cost estimates, and commercial concerns. The state route runs through three counties, including areas of major growth in the region. Northern Kentucky residents have been vocal about fixing the corridor, and OKI is responding. The study will cost approximately \$300,000, and will be financed using local funds and federal grants. The study is scheduled to be completed in June 2015.

OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

Click **HERE** to view the list of grants and events still open!

WEB-BASED TEXTBOOK: U.S. DOT's Online Resource for ITS: The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) ePrimer provides transportation professionals with fundamental concepts and practices related to ITS technologies. This online resource can help practicing professionals better understand how ITS is integrated into the planning, design, deployment, and operations of surface transportation systems. The ITS ePrimer is both a stand-alone reference document for the practitioner as well as a text for education and training programs. Click **HERE** to access the textbook.

WEBINAR: Talking Technology and Transportation (T3) Connected Vehicle Basics

April 24, 1:00 PM ET

U.S. DOT speakers will introduce the *Connected Vehicle Research Program*; explain the concept, benefits and challenges of connected vehicles; describe the technology; and will conclude with information on how to get involved in the program. The three main components of the research program include: applications, technology, and policy/institutional issues. Speakers will also focus on how connected vehicles affect safety, mobility, and the environment. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: Sustainable State Transportation Funding and Spending

April 24, 2:00 PM ET

State legislatures are working hard to catch up on transportation investments after The Great Recession. In 2013, states looked at gas taxes, mileage-based fees, creative financing, local flexibility, and smart spending. This year is shaping up to be just as active, with bills under consideration in at least 35 states so far. Experts will share big-picture trends and details of these recent state efforts to keep transportation budgets sustainable and transparent into the future. Hosted by the National Conference of State Legislatures. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: Urban Consolidation Centers (UCC): U.K. Experience

May 6, 11:00 AM ET

The Volvo Research and Educational Foundations (VREF) Center of Excellence for Sustainable Urban Freight Systems will be sharing global best practice cases and real world examples of sustainable urban freight systems. Over the past 10 years a number of urban consolidation centers have been introduced in the U.K. They cover a range of industry sectors including: construction, retail, airports, and the public sector. This session will review past experience, discuss the impacts and performance of UCCs, identify the underlying factors influencing success, and consider the wider influences in terms of vehicle type and use. A summary of the chief lessons provided by the Japanese, Dutch, and U.K. experience with UCCs will be discussed. Click [HERE](#) to register.

GRANT: FY14 TIGER FUNDS

Application Deadline: April 28

The *Consolidated Appropriations Act* of 2014 appropriated \$600 million in Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funds for national infrastructure investments. FY14 TIGER funds are to be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. The application closes on April 28, but interested parties are encouraged to apply by April 25. Please be aware that you must complete the registration process before submitting an application, and that this process can take 2-4 weeks. Click [HERE](#) for details.

CONFERENCE: NARC's 48th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 8-11, Louisville, KY

The Annual Conference and Exhibition is the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. Held annually in June, NARC's Annual Conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Additional information will be available in early 2014. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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