



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

CONGRESS BRIEF

Wait and See on MAP-21

Congress needs to act before May 31st to keep the nation's transportation program functioning. One idea gaining traction is to punt the program until the end of July, so that Congress won't have to identify new funding. Funding for the program is expected to last until sometime in August, giving Congress an extra couple of months to finalize an authorization package. The timing produces an extra level of pressure, as Congress breaks for five weeks of recess in early August. The downside, of course, is that this new deadline is right in the middle of summer construction season, creating a high level of discomfort for transportation planners and project sponsors.

The idea of using repatriation – taxing the estimated \$2 trillion in corporate earnings currently parked overseas – is another hot topic of conversation related to reauthorization. The Administration has a proposal, and bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate. Leaders of the House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee, however, have balked at the idea of using repatriation solely for transportation. The significant windfall that repatriation could bring is viewed by some as the best source of revenue to produce once-in-a-generation broad-based tax reform. But tying the fortunes of the transportation program to something as monumental as tax reform is likely to keep advocates up at night.

Bipartisan Bill to Increase and Index Federal Gas Tax

The *Bridge to Sustainable Infrastructure Act (H.R. 1846)*, introduced by Rep. Jim Renacci (R-OH) and supported by a bipartisan group of seventeen co-sponsors, would index the federal gas tax for inflation in 2016 and again three years later as a short-term solution for fixing the Highway Trust Fund. Sponsors claim that the gas tax increase and indexing would generate enough revenue to cover two years' worth of transportation projects, giving Congress time to debate a more sustainable long-term solution to funding federal transportation projects.

REGIONS BRIEF

AARP Livability Index Tool

The **Livability Index** developed by AARP's Public Policy Institute measures the quality of life in American communities based on several livability aspects like housing, transportation, health, and economic opportunity. Through the interactive website, users can compare communities according to their personal livability priorities, and learn about actions to take to make their own community more livable.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Policy Analyst – Regional Economy

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Policy Analyst – Regional Land Use and Housing

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Transportation Planner/Analyst

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Supervisory Emergency Management Specialist (Mitigation)

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Accessible Transportation Technologies Research Initiative (ATTRI) Stakeholder Engagement: User Needs Assessment Workshop

April 30, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM ET

This USDOT public meeting will gather stakeholder input on the challenges faced by travelers with disabilities, older adults, and veterans. This information will be used to design, develop, and implement transportation technology solutions for travelers with disabilities through the ATTRI.

Pilots, Planes and Positives: General Aviation's Effects Across the Economy

May 1, 1:00 PM ET

General aviation (GA) contributes \$150 billion to our economy and supports 1.2 million American jobs. This National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee webinar will explore the cross-sector benefits of general aviation and how local communities and states can better work with general aviation groups to the advantage of all. There will also be a discussion on how the coming Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization will affect GA.

Technology and Innovation in Transport: A UK Perspective

May 1, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET

In this interactive webinar hosted by the National Transportation Center at the University of Maryland, United Kingdom DOT Chief Scientist Dr. Miles Elsdon will present a UK perspective on major external challenges facing transportation today, such as population growth and extreme weather, and will discuss the role of technology and innovation in developing future transport systems. Q&A with Dr. Elsdon and audience participants will follow the presentation.

A Look Into the Future of Movement Planning and Smart Cities

May 7, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM ET

INRIX, a global company providing Internet services and mobile applications to connect drivers with traffic-related data, will host this webinar to showcase and describe their innovative technologies that measure the movement of people. The technologies are designed for governments, so that they can use this data to make informed planning decisions.

Infrastructure Advocacy Day

May 13, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM ET or

May 13, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

Infrastructure Week is a grassroots movement, consisting of stakeholders and affiliates from all sectors, to deliver the message to Congress and the public to invest in the American economy through investing in American infrastructure. The Infrastructure Advocacy Day event during Infrastructure week will send a coalition of key influencers like mayors, state legislators, manufacturing executives, business owners, and other affiliates from across the country to speak directly with members of Congress on the reverberating impacts of long-term investment in infrastructure. Key influencers are encouraged to apply to participate.

Scalable, Data Driven Analysis

May 14, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM ET

FHWA's Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty will address the implications associated with big data related to topics like privacy and ethics, and will discuss smart cities and the trade-off considerations that should go into technology investment decisions. Participants will hear from RAND Corporation Information Scientist John Davis and Pardee RAND Graduate School faculty member Zev Winkelman, who both focus their work on Big Data analytics and cyber security.

Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets

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

This webinar calls upon local leaders and officials to take action in building support for walkable community design. From Secretary Foxx's office, Director of Safety, Energy, and Environment Barbara McCann will provide an overview of the **Mayors' Challenge**, USDOT's Action Plan, and the seven most common strategies mayors have employed to meet the challenge. Mayors from Wisconsin Rapids, WI; Memphis, TN; Hernando, MS; and Salt Lake City, UT will describe how their cities benefit from promoting pedestrian safety and alternative transportation.

FTA State of Good Repair Roundtable

June 3, 8:15 AM - 1:00 PM UTC

Transit agencies are welcome to participate in this FTA meeting to exchange practitioner experience with managing transit capital assets. Nearly sixty national experts are expected to attend. Registration closes May 1.

FHWA Notice of Funding Opportunity

Application Deadline: June 5

FHWA's Freight Office released a Notice of Funding Opportunity to award up to \$100,000 to two eligible Off-Hours Freight Delivery research projects.

NARC's 49th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 7-10, Raleigh, NC - **Early Bird Rate Extended to May 1st!**

Join the conversation on the latest in regional government at NARC's Annual Conference and Exhibition, hosted by the Triangle J Council of Governments. Events begin Sunday afternoon with two optional mobile workshops exploring Raleigh. Sessions will highlight innovations in transportation, digital technology, street design, the impact of changing demographics, economic development tools for regions, collaborating to reduce waste, economic transformation in the region, workforce, green infrastructure, and water resources.

CONTACT US

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