



Draft Agenda Now Available!

Reminder! 2018 NARC AWARDS Nomination Deadline is May 1

NARC is accepting nominations for its 2018 Achievement and Leadership Awards, which will be presented at the Awards Gala Dinner during the **52nd Annual Conference and Exhibition, June 3-6, in Orlando, Florida**. Conference attendance is encouraged. 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. See **NARC Awards Nomination Guidelines** for details.

CONGRESS BRIEF

NARC and AMPO Oppose Lewis FAA Amendment

Representative Jason Lewis (R-MN) filed an amendment to the FAA reauthorization bill targeted solely at the Metropolitan Council in the Twin Cities. While the Metropolitan Council has a unique structure – the Governor appoints all board members, and elected officials and others serve on the Transportation Advisory Board – it is a structure that has worked for decades. Forcing the Metropolitan Council to re-designate based on a congressional decision in unrelated legislation would set a disturbing precedent and may slow or stop important infrastructure investments in the Twin Cities region. For these reasons, **NARC and AMPO sent a letter** to committee leadership opposing the Lewis Amendment. You can also read the **Metropolitan Council letter** opposing the amendment.

FAA Authorization Headed for the Floor

The House began debate today on *The FAA Reauthorization Bill of 2018 (H.R. 4)*. More than 100 amendments, including the Lewis amendment discussed above, have been permitted under the bill's rule. The bill, which would reauthorize FAA through FY 2023, also contains provisions related to disaster relief mitigation, including adding resiliency to the allowable uses of FEMA

hazard mitigation funding and allowing grants for infrastructure and economic development to be used for disaster mitigation. The House is aiming for final passage on Friday.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

TIGER Program Changes to BUILD

Last week, USDOT announced that the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) transportation grants will replace the existing TIGER grant program. The administration will continue to award a greater share to rural areas, including support for rural broadband. The Notice of Funding Opportunity for BUILD is \$1.5 billion. USDOT is hosting a series of webinars during the FY 2018 BUILD grant application process. A webinar on how to compete for BUILD Transportation Grants for all applicants will be held on Thursday, May 24; a webinar for rural and tribal applicants will be held on Tuesday, May 29; and a webinar on how to prepare a benefit-cost analysis for a BUILD application will be held on Thursday, May 31. Find additional information in the *Opportunities* section below.

2018 NOFO for Low- or No-Emission Program

FTA announced the availability of \$84.45 million for the purchase or lease of low- or no-emission vehicles. Eligible activities include bus purchases or leases; facilities construction, leases and related equipment; and rehabilitation or improvement of existing public transportation facilities to accommodate low- or no-emission buses. States, local governmental authorities, and tribes are eligible to apply. Proposals must be submitted by June 18, 2018.

2018-2019 Pilot Program: Extreme Weather Resilience and Durability

Following a call for applications earlier this year, FHWA selected eleven projects to address one or more of three areas related to deploying resilience solutions. The projects address integrating resilience and durability into agency practice, using available tools and resources to assess the vulnerability and risk of transportation projects or systems, deploying a resilience solution, and monitoring performance. MPOs and COGs selected include the Atlanta Regional Commission, Houston-Galveston Area Council, Mid-America Regional Council, Hillsborough MPO, Corpus Christi MPO, and Bi-State Regional Commission.

REGIONS BRIEF

NOACA Board Approves Over \$2 Million to Improve Livability

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) Board of Directors recently approved more than \$2 million for planning and implementation of projects aimed at improving livability and providing citizens with safe and reliable transportation choices. NOACA's Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) assists communities and public agencies in planning and implementing transportation improvements, providing more than \$13 million to improve quality of life in the region since 2006.

CA Gas Tax Repeal Initiative Qualifies for November Ballot

The approval of SB1 last April led to a 12-cent and 20-cent hike on regular and diesel fuels, in addition to increased vehicle registration fees in California. In response to these increases, a grassroots effort collected 900,000 signatures to get its repeal initiative on the November Ballot. The effort has received significant contributions from the California Republican Party as well as Republican members of Congress, including House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA).

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Graphic Design & Communications Coordinator

Michiana Area Council of Governments, South Bend, IN

Transportation Engineer

Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission, Steubenville, OH

Grant Administration Specialist

Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments, Salem, OR

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of opportunities!

NARC Webinar! Health and the Built Environment

Wednesday, May 2 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EDT

Increasingly, regional councils are implementing strategies that contribute to the public health of their residents. Among the issues being addressed are affordable housing, equity, water and air quality, smart growth, energy and climate change, food distribution, and so on. The three regions participating in this webinar -- the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, and Eastgate Regional Council of Governments -- have been working to mitigate the impact of the built environment on public health. Join our presenters as we explore the work they are doing and how their work is increasing the overall public health of their regions.

Relationship Between Transit Asset Condition and Service Quality

May 3, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

This webinar will review the final research products of TCRP E-11, *Relationship Between Transit Asset Condition and Service Quality*. The research provides transit agencies with guidance in relating asset condition to service quality to use for supporting capital investment decisions. The webinar will summarize elements of transit service quality, present a model for predicting journey time, with adjustments to account for service quality, termed Effective Journey Time (EJT). The webinar will also detail a set of calculation tools developed through the workshop for demonstrating the effects of changes in asset condition on service quality using the EJT model.

FHWA National Dialogue on Highway Automation: Introductory Webinar

May 8, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Automated vehicles offer potential benefits in safety but introduce uncertainty for the agencies responsible for the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the roadway infrastructure. FHWA is initiating a national conversation to better understand the implications of highway automation, facilitate innovation, and enable broader collaboration in this area. This National Dialogue on Highway Automation will commence with a series of meetings across the country to facilitate information sharing, identify key issues, and prepare the broader transportation community to safely and efficiently integrate automated vehicles into the road network. Input received during the National Dialogue will inform national research, policy, and programs and aid in the development of a national transportation community for automation. This webinar will provide an overview of the upcoming National Dialogue meetings, discuss ongoing and planned national initiatives in automation, and present top highway automation focus areas to be explored through the Dialogue.

State Freight Plans Web Discussion

May 14, 1:30 – 3:30 PM ET

The agenda will cover a review of the recent State Freight Plan development process, related to USDOT Guidance on State Freight Plans and State Freight Advisory Committees. The web discussion will include a presentation on using the National Highway Program funds and a discussion focused on the five critical areas: Freight Investment Plan Development Process; Bottleneck Analysis; Critical Rural and Critical Urban Freight Corridors; Performance Measures; and Freight Advisory Committees. The objectives of the upcoming web discussion are to address challenges, obstacles, opportunities, and best practices learned during the development of the State Freight Plans.

Road User Charge Pilot Programs: Examples of Regional Collaboration and Innovation

May 14, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

This webinar will provide an accessible introduction to road user charges (RUC) as a user-based alternative revenue mechanism for surface transportation. It will also highlight successful examples of collaboration, leadership, and public education from states working to build internal capacity and external support around this issue.

BUILD Grant Webinars

May 24, **How to Compete for BUILD Transportation Grants – All Applicants**

May 29, **How to Compete for BUILD Transportation Grants – Rural/Tribal Applicants**

May 31, **Preparing a Benefit-Cost Analysis for a BUILD Application**

For 2018 BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grants, USDOT is offering a series of special topic webinars that delve into various aspects of the BUILD application process. These webinars are a great resource for anyone considering applying to BUILD this year or those preparing a BUILD application, as the webinars come from the funding source and share the expertise of USDOT to prospective applicants.

CONTACT US

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