



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



## CONGRESS BRIEF

### **The End is Near: MPO Coordination Rule Repeal Passes House**

The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation 417-3 to repeal the MPO Coordination Rule. House passage was the final step of the legislative process, and the bill now goes to the president for his signature. After marking up H.R. 1346, co-sponsored by Representatives Dan Lipinski (D-IL) and Jason Lewis (R-MN), in committee earlier this month, the House ultimately passed S. 496, titled *To repeal the rule issued by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration entitled "Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform"* and co-sponsored by Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Todd Young (R-IN), Richard Durbin (D-IL), and Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV). Passing the Senate version, which was identical to the House bill, prevents the Senate from having to act again.

Floor discussion of the bill occurred on Tuesday, with the vote held over until today. During that discussion, Representatives Jason Lewis (R-MN) and Hank Johnson (D-GA) both spoke in strong terms about why the rule needs to be repealed. Their remarks are available [HERE](#).

### **Short-Term Continuing Resolution Introduced**

Wednesday night, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) introduced a one-week continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government until May 5, 2017. The CR has to pass both chambers by midnight Friday to give lawmakers an additional week to settle on a final funding package. A government shutdown is unlikely, as leadership in both chambers are committed to passing a short-term CR.

## ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

### **Hopes Fading for Using Tax Reform on Infrastructure?**

The administration released a **one-page tax reform proposal** yesterday that does not specify money for infrastructure. The plan includes repatriation of overseas earnings, but does not state how the revenue will be used. This raises concerns that the revenue will be used to offset rate

changes and other provisions, and not as a source for funding infrastructure. Congressional transportation leaders previously indicated that they did not expect to see infrastructure in the plan, but in recent days optimism grew that it would be included. Trump's proposal is just the starting point for introducing a comprehensive tax reform package later this year, so changes are likely.

### **Automakers to Meet with Chao and Pruitt**

Yesterday, major automakers met with Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt to review the federal fuel efficiency standards put in place during the Obama administration. The president called for a review of these standards last month, as he plans to hold negotiations with automakers and the State of California – both of which are against rolling these new standards back. Yesterday's meeting was with the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers' board of directors, an organization that represents General Motors, Toyota, Ford, and other large automobile companies.

## **REGIONS BRIEF**

### **NOACA Gohio Commute**

Next month, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) will launch their new ridesharing and trip planning tool **Gohio Commute**. The new website and smartphone tool will help residents plan efficient and cost-effective routes while allowing users to log trips and earn rewards. NOACA held a workshop yesterday to introduce the tool to area businesses and organizations, showing them how to encourage employees to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips.

### **Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State: 2016 Preliminary Data**

This Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) report offers a first look at state-by-state trends in 2016 pedestrian traffic fatalities. GHSA estimates an 11 percent increase in total number of pedestrian fatalities in 2016, compared to 2015. The report shares strategies for reducing pedestrian fatalities and includes information on federal safety resources to help states.

### **Alphabet's Self-Driving Cars to Get Their First Real Riders**

Residents of Phoenix, AZ can now sign up for Google's Waymo service as part of an "early rider program." These initial users will be able to book the autonomous Chrysler Pacifica minivans for free after almost ten years of testing. This is Waymo's first step in changing their focus from research to consumer, and will study passenger experience and business model development with the deployment of their vehicles. The chosen passengers will initially ride in the passenger seat while employee testers will sit in the driver seat.

### **Infrastructure Week is May 15-19**

Infrastructure Week is a national week of education and advocacy to draw attention to the importance of infrastructure to our nation's economy, jobs, communities, and future. There are events all week in Washington, D.C. and across the country highlighting different aspects of infrastructure from autonomous vehicles to broadband. Your community can also plan its own event with help from an online toolkit. Please tell us what your organization is doing for Infrastructure Week! Send details to [anna@narc.org](mailto:anna@narc.org).

## **JOBS**

***View full list of jobs!***

### **Director of Planning**

Southern California Association of Governments, Los Angeles, CA

### **Director, Department of Financial Affairs**

Mid-America Regional Council, Kansas City, MO

### **Emergency Services Planner**

Mid-America Regional Council, Kansas City, MO

### **RFP: Electronic Transportation Improvement Program (eTIP) System**

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, Oklahoma City, OK

## **Grants Administrator**

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

## **Senior Director of Operations**

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

# **OPPORTUNITIES**

***View full list of grants and events!***

## **Resilience in Road Weather Operations**

May 1, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

In this FHWA webinar, three road weather and operations specialists will talk about how climate scientists and state DOTs work together to maintain operations that will be resilient to long-term weather changes. Registration is not required.

## **Noteworthy Practices of Public-Private Sector Collaboration in Freight Planning**

May 9, 11:00 – 12:30 PM ET

This webinar will focus on collaborations between the public and private sector, which help to create better freight planning outcomes in both the U.S. and European Union. Two case studies will highlight such collaborations: London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and Partnerships with Conexus Indiana.

## **NARC RFI! NARC Seeks Cooperative Procurement Partner for AFVs in the Private Sector**

Submission Deadline: June 2

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to facilitate a process to gauge interest from trade associations or other agencies that have a national membership base or the capacity to reach a national target audience to create a cooperative procurement program that includes alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). The target audience is private sector fleets, or the commercial market. The **Fleets for the Future** (F4F) project, led by NARC, currently includes a national-scale public sector procurement initiative for AFVs along with fleet services, parts, and equipment.

## **NARC EVENT! 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.

## **Infrastructure Carbon Estimator (ICE) Tool Webinar**

June 8, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

FHWA presenters will introduce and demonstrate FHWA's Infrastructure Carbon Estimator (ICE), a spreadsheet tool that estimates the lifecycle energy and greenhouse gas emissions from the construction and maintenance of transportation facilities. The Estimator requires limited data inputs and is designed to inform planning and pre-engineering analysis.

## **CONTACT US**

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