



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

REMINDER! Early Bird Rate for NARC's 49th Annual Conference & Exhibition Ends Tomorrow!

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

FHWA Bicycle-Pedestrian Count Technology Pilot Program

In an effort to support data-driven community planning and investment decisions, FHWA will provide grants to ten MPOs to purchase counting equipment to collect better bicycle and pedestrian activity data. The ten MPOs participating in FHWA's Bicycle-Pedestrian Count Technology Pilot Program will also receive technical support in counting activities. Lessons learned will be available to the public upon completion of the pilot program early next year.

Foxx Announces Ladders of Opportunity Pilot

USDOT's Ladders of Opportunity Program examines the transportation infrastructure choices made at the federal, state, and local levels and how they can impact community vitality and create employment opportunities. Secretary Foxx announced the launch of a Ladders of Opportunity Empowerment Pilot Program called **LadderStep**, which will provide **technical assistance** to seven cities to help them foster sustainable economic development through transportation projects.

NIST Draft Community Resilience Guide: Feedback Needed

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) released a draft of its **Community Resilience Planning Guide for Buildings and Infrastructure**, a tool designed to lead communities through a step-by-step action process to keep natural and industrial mishaps and hazards from inflicting disastrous consequences, and to ensure that buildings and infrastructure systems can support social needs especially during disaster recovery. NIST requests **public feedback** through June 27 on the draft guide. They anticipate releasing the official guide in the fall.

CONGRESS BRIEF

Short-Term Funding Extension Likely

In the first acknowledgement by House leaders that Congress will not meet the May deadline for a long-term transportation bill, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy told reporters this week that Congress would likely pass a short-term extension of the program. McCarthy suggests that a short-term extension would give Congress more time to find funding for the program when the current funding expires. USDOT warned that it will reduce reimbursements for transportation programs as early as June if Congress does not specify new funding for the program. For the past several years, transportation tax revenue flowing into the highway trust fund is \$13 billion less than actual federal transportation spending, requiring Congress to supplement the program. If Congress does not want to use Treasury funds to make up the different between tax revenues and expenditures, they will need to find another source of funds to continue transportation spending at current levels

or impose major cuts, as threatened by USDOT.

House Appropriations Released THUD Bill

The House Committee on Appropriations released the FY 2016 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) funding bill, which includes funding for USDOT. The bill allocates a total of \$55.3 billion in discretionary funds to USDOT, the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies, which represents a \$25 million increase from current spending. While the Federal Aviation Administration, the Maritime Administration (MARAD), and various transportation safety programs throughout USDOT would benefit from an increase in funding allocation set forth in this bill, other grant programs and agencies like the Federal Railroad Administration and FTA would suffer a severe cut in allocated funding compared to FY 2015. House THUD Subcommittee Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) explained the decreases in allocations as “cutting wasteful programs” and supporting “critical infrastructure and housing needs by focusing on core operations.”

REGIONS BRIEF

Birmingham to Launch Electric-Assist Bike Share

The Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham announced the launch of the city’s first bike share this fall, with a quarter of the 400-count bicycle fleet using electric-assist technology. The electricity provides pedaling assistance in hilly terrain, mainly outside of the downtown area. Birmingham was able to initiate the program with a \$2 million Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) federal grant.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Associate Planner

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Columbus, OH

Travel Demand Modeler/Transportation Planner

Fresno Council of Governments, Fresno, CA

Director of Transportation

East Texas Council of Governments, Kilgore, TX

Planner/Research Analyst

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

Director of Planning Services

Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, NV

Regional Planner

Michiana Area Council of Governments, South Bend, IN

Executive Director

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

OPPORTUNITIES

[View full list of grants and events!](#)

FHWA Climate Resilience Pilot Results

May 5, 2:00 – 4:00 PM ET

In this FHWA webinar, representatives from Minnesota DOT, Michigan DOT, Iowa DOT, and FHWA’s Western Federal Lands Highway Division will present results and lessons learned from their climate change resilience pilot projects.

SHRP2 Implementation Assistance Program: Round 6

May 6, 11:00 AM ET - WISE: Work Zone Impacts and Strategies Estimator Software (R11)

May 6, 11:00 AM ET - PlanWorks (C01)

May 7, 11:00 AM ET - Pavement Solutions

May 13, 2:00 PM ET - Utility Solutions

FHWA will host this webinar series to introduce new SHRP2 Solutions capacity, renewal, and reliability products available in the sixth round of its Implementation Assistance Program (IAP), which helps selected MPOs deploy the products. Following this introductory series, applications for the IAP will be accepted from May 29 through June 26, 2015.

Transportation Planning Information Exchange: Public Involvement

May 7, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

FHWA's Office of Planning and FTA's Office of Planning and Environment are sponsoring this webinar to introduce the benefits of online public involvement for transportation agencies, explore the range of online public involvement tools, and provide case studies demonstrating planning situations in which each tool can be used. Q&A will follow presentations provided by MetroQuest, Pennsylvania DOT, and Hillsborough MPO.

Infrastructure Week

Reminder! May 11-15

Infrastructure Week 2015 is a **series of events** across the country to raise awareness of the lack of investment in American infrastructure. In an effort to move policymakers and the public to address the needs of deteriorating American infrastructure, a coalition of business executives, labor leaders, and elected officials from over sixty national and regional infrastructure and transportation advocacy **affiliate organizations** will make the case that America's neglected infrastructure negatively impacts our lives and livelihoods.

Freight and Sustainable Communities Policy Forum

May 12, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM ET

The National Center for Sustainable Transportation (NCST) and the Center for Environmental Research & Technology at the University of California Riverside will provide an overview of the expanding role of freight transportation in the economy, environment, and communities of the Southern California region. Participants will engage with leaders in the field who will discuss trends, challenges, and opportunities related to jobs and the economy; environmental and public health; urban form and community design; and traffic impacts.

CONTACT US