



**DON'T MISS OUT! There's Still Time to Register to Join Your Colleagues in Orlando.**  
*Hotel Block Cutoff is Tomorrow, May 11 at 5:00 PM ET!*

If you still need to book a room, please note that the NARC hotel block at the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista has sold out. You can still reserve a room by the Friday deadline by contacting the Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista directly on their voice line: 844.482.8444.

If you make a reservation at this new location, please notify Marcy Fritter at [marcy@narc.org](mailto:marcy@narc.org) so she can move you into the filled room block in the event that we have cancellations. If you wish to cancel or make changes to your existing registration, also reach out to Marcy Fritter at [marcy@narc.org](mailto:marcy@narc.org).

Please see our **draft agenda** for session information.

## CONGRESS BRIEF

### Rescissions Request Sent to Congress

The president sent the anticipated \$15.4 billion rescissions request to Congress on Tuesday, and Congress has 45 days to act on the request. The administration has indicated that this will not be their only request. Almost half of the request comes from two accounts in the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP). On the transportation side, \$279 million from mostly old or dead USDOT programs are included in the request:

- \$85 million – Surface Transportation Priorities account dedicated to earmarks
- \$45 million – Appalachian Development Highway System account, which was eliminated as a standalone program in MAP-21
- \$48 million – Miscellaneous Highway Trust Funds account for highway projects
- \$53 million – High-Speed Rail and Intercity Passenger Rail

- \$46 million – Formula Grants account, which preceded the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund

### **FAA on the Way**

Senate Commerce Chairman John Thune (R-SD) told reporters the Senate will vote to reauthorize FAA before the July Fourth recess. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has placed the bill on the calendar under the Rule 14 process, which bypasses the committee. The House and Senate are working to reconcile their bills ahead of the Senate vote.

### **America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018**

The latest *Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)* was introduced on Tuesday by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The bill sets policy guidelines for some U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects and activities in addition to other infrastructure programs that focus on dams, harbors, inland waterways, and environmental restoration. The committee plans to hold a markup hearing for the bill later this month. The National Association of Counties (NACo), the National League of Cities (NLC), and the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) have all endorsed the bill.

## **ADMINISTRATION BRIEF**

### **National Dialogue on Highway Automation**

FHWA launched a National Dialogue on Highway Automation this week. The program includes five upcoming workshops hosted around the country concerning different areas of highway automation. FHWA plans to include a broader range of stakeholders to inform FHWA's role in automation and national research, policy, and programs to aid in the development of the technology. The Launch Workshop will be in Detroit, Michigan on June 7. The first issue workshop, which will focus on policy and planning, will be in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania June 26-27.

### **UAS Integration Pilot Program Participants Announced**

Ten state, local, and tribal governments have been selected for the USDOT Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration Pilot Program. These pilots involve working with FAA and private sector participants to explore the integration of drones in national airspace. The program will last two and a half years, and the participants will "collect drone data involving night operations, flights over people and beyond the pilot's line of sight, package delivery, detect-and-avoid technologies, and the reliability and security of data links between pilot and aircraft." State DOTs that were chosen are North Carolina, North Dakota, and Kansas as well as the cities of San Diego, California and Reno, Nevada. FAA received 149 proposals for the pilot program.

### **Strategic Transit Automation Research Plan**

FTA has published its final *Strategic Research Transit Automation (STAR) Plan*. The STAR Plan outlines an FTA research agenda for transit bus automation over five years and provides a framework for the transit industry to pursue transit bus automation. Additionally, it defines activities in the areas of enabling research, integrated demonstrations, and strategic partnerships. The plan focuses on stakeholder engagement, knowledge transfer, and technical assistance to ensure that complementary work being done by the public sector, private sector, and academia is effectively communicated and leveraged.

## **REGIONS BRIEF**

### **Texas to Link Bullet Train and Amtrak's Interstate Passenger Network**

Amtrak and the developers of Texas high-speed rail have reached an agreement to allow passengers to use Amtrak's reservation system to buy tickets for travel on both systems. The Texas Bullet Train will provide a direct connection between Amtrak and the high-speed stations in Houston and Dallas. When working together, this will allow for rail connections across the state. FRA is currently working to complete a final environmental study of the train's 240-mile route.

### **Court Case to Force Air Quality 'Do-Over' for Certain Transportation Projects**

A recent federal court ruling may require transportation agencies in 82 areas in 24 states to re-examine their air quality models. The D.C. Circuit Court ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency exceeded its authority when it made the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards the only air quality rules that transportation projects were required to meet. The court's verdict will

require areas that are in attainment under the 2008 ozone standard to "re-do" their air quality models to ensure they are also in compliance with the less stringent 1997 standards. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) expects the projects will be able to re-comply because the 2008 standards are stricter than the 1997 standards but estimate it could take months or years to demonstrate conformity under the 1997 standard. FHWA and FTA have released guidance based on the ruling, which includes halting FHWA metropolitan plans and FTA transportation improvement program (TIP) updates and amendments that involve "non-exempt" projects, among other recommendations.

### **ITE's Transportation and Health Initiative**

The Institute of Transportation Engineers' (ITE) latest journal focuses on the safety of active transportation. Last year, the ITE International Board of Directors chose transportation and safety as a key focus area and developed a Task Force dedicated to furthering the discussion and action within the space. The Task Force recently adopted an action plan designed to promote awareness and provide resources for transportation professionals.

## **JOBS**

*[View full list of jobs!](#)*

### **Transportation Planner**

Calaveras Council of Governments, San Andreas, CA

### **Planner**

Atlanta Regional Commission, Atlanta, GA

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

*[View full list of opportunities!](#)*

### **Putting P3s to Work in the U.S.**

May 16, 10:00-11:30 AM ET

Public-private partnerships (P3s) can bring private sector innovation, expertise, and capital to projects, helping communities across the U.S. modernize their transportation, water, and other infrastructure systems. Yet the U.S. continues to lag in using P3s compared to its international peers. The U.S. also has an estimated \$2 trillion in unmet infrastructure needs. Join the Bipartisan Policy Center as they hear from both American and international experts on how to capitalize on private sector interest in U.S. infrastructure, foster increased investment, and protect the public interest. The event will be webcast on the event page.

### **Talking Freight: Best Practices in Industry and Government Coordination for Developing Truck Parking Solutions**

May 16, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Truck parking availability is one of the major issues facing both the trucking industry and transportation-focused governmental agencies. In many locations around the U.S., particularly near large metropolitan areas and along major truck route corridors, there is a significant shortage of available truck parking at certain times of the day, particularly during overnight hours. This USDOT webinar will discuss some of the various truck parking coordination efforts taking place between trucking and truck parking industry stakeholders and state, regional, and local government stakeholders to identify and develop truck parking solutions. Many of those solutions have been identified by the National Coalition on Truck Parking's State, Regional, Local Government Coordination Working Group.

### **TIGER Is Now BUILD. Other Changes You Need to Know.**

May 18, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

The State Smart Transportation Initiative will host Beth Osborne, who ran the first five rounds of TIGER at USDOT and is now the Vice President of technical assistance at Smart Growth America, for a webinar on the BUILD program. She will discuss changes to the program, what USDOT will be looking for in applications, and how to make your proposal as competitive as possible.

### **BUILD a Better Transportation Grant Application: Leverage Economic Development Impacts**

May 22, 2:00 – 2:30 PM ET

TREDIS offers many tools to help you meet the benefit-cost analysis requirements set forth by USDOT for BUILD grants and to expand your analysis and application narrative to show how your project contributes to the economy, generates tax or toll revenues, and leverages public and private investment. This webinar will detail the services TREDIS provides. The content of this webinar is suitable for DOTs, MPOs, and consultants looking to enhance their grant applications with expanded analysis options.

### **There's A Walking App for That**

May 22, 2 PM ET

While many people are talking about how technology will influence the shape of our cities and what we define as walkability, what about the technology that will influence how we walk as a physical activity? Today, apps are available to track steps, plan routes, and even provide tunes for the trails. Hear from three experts working to bring technology to one of the most common forms of physical activity on what's out there, what's coming, and how it can make walking more safe, accessible, and fun! This webinar is intended for our more experienced advocates as well as those just getting started on the walking path.

### **NARC Webinar! Fleets for the Future: Best Practices for EV Charging Infrastructure**

May 31, 12:30 – 1:30 PM ET

Fleets for the Future (F4F) is a national project team of regional councils, Clean Cities coalitions, and industry experts tasked with coordinating regional and national procurement initiatives to consolidate bulk orders of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and infrastructure. Please join the F4F team to learn about electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), using telematics for infrastructure planning, and best practices for education and technology. There will be time for Q&A following the presentation.

## **CONTACT US**

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