



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



**Reminder!**

Early-Bird registration for NARC's 50th Annual Conference & Exhibition closes tomorrow!

**CONGRESS BRIEF**

*Congress is in session.*

**Overview**

In its third attempt, the Senate aims to get back on track to pass the FY2017 funding bill and return to so-called “regular order” rather than pass last minute omnibus bills to avoid end of the fiscal year deadlines. This afternoon, the Senate cleared the last procedural hurdle and voted to approve the FY2017 Energy-Water appropriations funding measure after dropping a controversial amendment impacting the US –Iran nuclear arms deal.

Up next will be the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies budget bill, which currently includes another controversial provision requiring a 34-hour break from driving after 73 hours of work. The change modifies language contained in the 2016 THUD bill and could hold up debate on the legislation. Lawmakers may try to include money to combat the Zika virus, as well.

Also in appropriations, the **Senate subcommittee agreed** to let the U.S. Department of Homeland Security shift funding to help TSA manage long summer airport lines.

On the House side, the FAA bill has made no further progress and Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) is continuing to stick to his goal of privatizing air traffic control.

## **ADMINISTRATION BRIEF**

### **Pursuing Equity in Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning**

FHWA released a new report for transportation practitioners and decision-makers on considering equity in transportation planning. The paper defines equity in the bike and pedestrian program context, highlights recent research, and shares best practices and resources for fixing inequity.

### **NADTC Launches New Website to Support Accessible Public Transportation Service**

The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC), FTA's newest technical assistance center, works to promote the availability and accessibility of transportation options for people with disabilities, older adults, and caregivers. Their new website provides easy access to a multitude of useful resources and information to support the work of public transportation in addition to providing several learning and grant opportunities.

### **FHWA Publishes Policy Revision to Allow More Flexibility in Project Design**

These new revisions to current federal policy will help speed up and reduce costs for the design of roads in smaller towns and cities. FHWA removed some of the thirteen design criteria from 1985 leaving only two for lower-speed roads and ten for higher-speed. This will allow design flexibility for state and local engineers to meet local travel needs and goals.

## **REGIONS BRIEF**

### **Kansas City Opens New Streetcar**

The new free Kansas City streetcar started operation last Friday, carrying over 32,000 passengers in its first weekend. The 2.2 mile route runs between Union Station and River Market and is the first step in a long range plan to connect the Greater Kansas City area.

### **H-GAC Transportation Minute**

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Transportation Outreach team developed the *Transportation Minute* video series. This short format campaign offers residents with tools to participate in agency-sponsored programs. The first "minute" focuses on Commute Solutions and transit. The goal of this initiative is to mitigate congestion and reduce emissions in their regional transportation system. Production of each installment will be a collaboration between transportation partners and limited contractor support.

## **JOBS**

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

### **Executive Director**

South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, Mobile, AL

### **Chief Talent Officer**

Town of Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

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

### **Talking Freight May 2016: Freight Coalitions**

May 18, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

In recent years, more and more state DOTs, MPOs, and other government agencies have either

started or increased their freight transportation planning initiatives. As these freight transportation planning efforts have intensified, many state DOTs, MPOs, counties, and other agencies have realized freight planning efforts are often needed to examine and consider needs beyond their jurisdictional boundaries. This webinar will discuss the benefits, opportunities, issues, and challenges associated with creating and maintaining freight coalitions. It will also examine how freight coalitions can benefit individual member organizations in ways that are unavailable to organizations that do not participate in multi-state or multi-region coalitions.

### **Walk Friendly Communities: Inspiring and Celebrating your City's Vision for Walkable Streets**

May 18, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

This webinar will feature an in-depth look at the Walk Friendly Communities assessment tool and offer ideas and inspiration to cities and towns that want to take the next step in building safe, comfortable, and connected walking environments. Panelists from current Walk Friendly Communities and Mayor's Challenge participant cities will talk about their experience with both programs and offer inspiration to cities looking to enhance their own walkability and pedestrian safety.

### **Use of Scenario Planning in Transportation Planning Conference**

August 14-17, Portland, OR

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) is hosting a scenario planning conference that will bring together state DOT, MPO, and local agency staff, consultants, and researchers to share knowledge, experiences, and the latest research on using scenario planning approaches. This conference will build upon scenario planning research and application, particularly the TRB NCHRP Foresight series. Case studies from across transportation will be used in a variety of settings to demonstrate the use of scenarios. Scenario planning tools will also be showcased.

### **Border to Border Transportation Conference**

November 14-17, Yuma, AZ

The 6th Bi-Annual Border to Border Transportation Conference serves as a source of information on different aspects of transportation planning. It is an ideal forum for sharing ideas and data pertaining to transportation analysis, land use, freight, and much more. If you are interested in being a speaker at this prestigious event, please submit a brief summary on the topic of your presentation by either fax (956-969-5821) or email Charlene Fitzgerald to [cfitzgerald@ympo.org](mailto:cfitzgerald@ympo.org). Please make sure to include your name, title, organization name, and contact information. Register [HERE](#).

## **CONTACT US**

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