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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

May 15, 2014

# Transportation Thursdays

Please note that the *Freight Movements* webinar, as detailed [HERE](#), included the incorrect date in our earlier edition of *Transportation Thursdays*. The webinar will take place on May 21, 2014. We apologize for this error.

### NARC LEADERSHIP

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**Hon. Penny Gross,**  
Supervisor, Fairfax County, VA

**Chair Jim Hassinger,**  
NARC Executive Directors  
Council;  
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Southwestern Pennsylvania  
Commission

**Hon. Fred Strong**  
Chair, Transportation  
Committee  
Board Member, NARC and  
San Luis Obispo Council of  
Governments

[ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF](#) [LEGISLATIVE BRIEF](#)  
[REGIONAL BRIEF](#) [OPPORTUNITY BRIEF](#)



## LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

**NARC Releases Summary of EPW's MAP-21 Reauthorization Act:** The U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) released the *MAP-21 Reauthorization Act* (S. 2322), a multi-year reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs. Current law, the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (MAP-21), expires on September 30, 2014. Click [HERE](#) to read NARC's summary of sections relevant to metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and [HERE](#) to read NARC's press release concerning the bill.

**NARC Sends Letter to Senate EPW in Advance of Markup:** In advance of today's Senate markup, NARC sent a letter to the Senate

**Lyle Wray**

Chair, Transportation  
Committee  
Executive Director, Capitol  
Region Council of Governments

**Michael Parks**

Chair, Transportation  
Committee  
Assistant Executive Director,  
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Deputy of Communications

**Anna Rosenbaum**

Communications Associate

**Erich W. Zimmermann**

Director of Transportation  
Programs

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EPW Committee to highlight our priorities for the reauthorization.

Click **[HERE](#)** for the letter.

**Senate EPW Marks Up Transportation Bill:** The EPW Committee marked up the highway portion of the *MAP-21 Reauthorization Act* earlier today. After accepting twelve previously agreed-upon amendments en bloc, the bill was approved unanimously. The legislation contains \$265 billion in spending over six years, which is equal to current funding plus inflation. Additional funding is needed to pay for the legislation, but the Finance Committee's solution for that will come later. Rail and transit titles are also on the horizon. Click **[HERE](#)** to read NARC's summary of MPO-relevant sections of the bill.

**Congresswoman Annie Kuster Introduces *DRIVE Now Act*:** In an effort to prevent HTF insolvency, Congresswoman Annie Kuster (D-NH) introduced the *DRIVE Now Act* that could potentially provide a short-term fix while Congress works on passing long-term reauthorization. Her bill calls for a one-time payment of \$5 billion to the HTF. Click **[HERE](#)** for more information on the bill.

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## ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

**Secretary Foxx Warns States That Payments May Be Delayed:**

To prepare state transportation officials, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Anthony Foxx sent a letter detailing the current state of the highway trust fund (HTF) and possible measures U.S. DOT would take if Congress doesn't act. The Department may have to institute cash management strategies – including delayed reimbursements – to keep the HTF solvent. Click **[HERE](#)** to read the letter, and **[HERE](#)** to view the HTF Ticker.

**U.S. DOT Received Nearly 800 TIGER Applications:** U.S. DOT received 797 applications for the sixth round of the competitive *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery* (TIGER) program. That totals \$9.5 billion worth of projects, 15 times the \$600 million that U.S. DOT has available to distribute. You can read the release about the applications **[HERE](#)**.

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## REGIONAL BRIEF

**Broward MPO & Partners Enhance High School Engineering Curriculum:** Broward MPO recently partnered with South Florida Commuter Service and Stranahan High School's *Engineering Magnet Program* to provide students with educational opportunities and hands-on experience related to transportation and civil engineering. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

**Mobile App to Help San Diego County Residents Navigate Traffic:** A free mobile app, available for iOS and Android, provides real-time traveler information from a variety of sources, including Caltrans, MTS, and the cities of San Diego, Escondido, and Poway, in partnership with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). Some of the features of this app include the ability to track lane closures, traffic jams, stalled vehicles, and alternate routes. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

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## OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

Click [HERE](#) to view the list of grants and events still open!

### **MEMBERS ONLY WEBINAR: GROW AMERICA Act**

*May 21, 3:00 PM ET*

**\*\*You must pre-register by Tues. May 20 to attend.\*\***

U.S. DOT invites MPOs and regional councils to participate in a GROW AMERICA webinar that will highlight new programs and provide an overview of the Administration's four-year surface transportation reauthorization proposal. A Q&A session led by senior leadership from the Office of the Secretary, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will follow the presentation. Registrants are required to provide their name, organization, and email address, to receive an emailed confirmation containing their log-in information for the webinar. Click [HERE](#) to register.

### **WEBINAR: Freight Movements in Complete Streets Settings**

*May 21, 1:00 PM ET*

Freight movements, particularly in the form of truck deliveries and pickups, are integral to serving the businesses that enhance walking, bicycling, and public transit use in communities with *Complete Streets*. This webinar examines how *Complete Streets* approaches and projects have addressed freight movement needs, and whether there are opportunities for more fully integrating these freight

transportation needs into complete streets designs within large and small urban areas. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**GRANT: Mobility Services for All Americans Deployment Planning**

*Deadline: July 1*

FTA announces \$795,545 in funding for the *Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment Program*. Funds are available through cooperative agreements for the deployment planning of Travel Management Coordination Centers to support interoperable, coordinated human service transportation systems. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to apply.

**CONFERENCE: NARC's 48th Annual Conference and Exhibition  
June 8-11, Louisville, KY**

The Annual Conference and Exhibition is the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. Held annually in June, NARC's Annual Conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Click [HERE](#) for a draft agenda, hotel reservation and registration information. Two days of transportation tracks are planned (on Monday and Tuesday) - we encourage all MPOs to attend these sessions. We look forward to your participation in Louisville!

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