



Infrastructure Week Event with NARC!

Preparing for Autonomous Vehicles on Our Road

Tomorrow, May 19, 10:00 AM ET

Join NARC and the National League of Cities for an Infrastructure Week event tomorrow morning. The event will be webcast, so keep an eye on NARC's Twitter feed in the morning for a link to the event.

CONGRESS BRIEF

MPO Coordination Rule Repeal Signed by President!

Last week, the president signed S.496 to repeal the MPO Coordination Rule. This victory, which was striking in its bipartisan nature, is a victory for common sense and a testament to the hard work of a great many of you. The speed and thoroughness of this success was resounding. Now, we can play some offense and work to ensure regions and local governments are included in the upcoming infrastructure package.

Infrastructure Bills Abound

Representative Mark Sanford (R-SC) introduced the *Highway Restoration Act of 2017* earlier this month to phase out the Mass Transit Account from the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). The bill would phase out the account over a five-year period, enabling mass transit systems to find new funding sources. Sanford believes that the HTF should fund roads and bridges and by phasing out the Mass Transit Account, the funding shortfall will be reduced by half. The bill has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Yesterday, Senators Mark R. Warner (D-VA) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) introduced a bipartisan infrastructure bank bill titled the *Building and Renewing Infrastructure for Development and Growth in Employment (BRIDGE) Act*. With this legislation, the bank authority would provide loans and loan guarantees to help states and localities fund significant infrastructure projects, using \$10 billion federal dollars to spur \$300 billion in project investment. The bank would eventually be self-sustaining.

Democrats in the House Energy and Commerce Committee also released a bill this week that includes five years of funding for infrastructure projects. The *Leading Infrastructure For Tomorrow's America (LIFT) Act* includes \$2.7 billion for Brownfields redevelopment, \$3 billion for healthcare infrastructure, \$22.56 for drinking water infrastructure, \$40 billion for broadband, and over \$17 billion for energy infrastructure. This bill comes as both parties and chambers prepare for an infrastructure bill sometime this year.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Rosen Confirmed at USDOT

The Senate approved Jeffrey Rosen as deputy secretary for USDOT under Elaine Chao in a 56-42 vote this week. Rosen was most recently a senior partner at Kirkland & Ellis and has managed counsel at USDOT and the Office of Management and Budget.

Secretary Elaine Chao Testimony

Elaine Chao testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee this week for the first time as Secretary of Transportation. During the hearing, Chao said that principles for an infrastructure plan would be released this month, but did not provide further detail. She did indicate that the plan will not include a list of projects and that federal funding would be needed for rural areas that cannot attract private dollars. Chao also touched on the Gateway Project and Caltrain electrification project but did not state whether TIGER grants would be saved in the president's budget, which is expected next week.

Making a Model a Good Predictive Tool

A basic part of travel demand model validation is running the model for a "base year" and comparing the outputs to observed data. In this FHWA project, two model versions for each of two metropolitan areas were run twice each: 1) the more recent version for its base year and a backcast scenario (for the base year of the earlier model version), and 2) the earlier version for its base year and a forecast scenario (for the base year of the later model version). This research was intended to produce useful data on which model components are most stable over time and their sensitivities to the factors affecting travel demand that vary over time. The report includes lessons learned and recommendations for planning agencies.

REGIONS BRIEF

NARC Transportation Committee Policies & Priorities

At NARC's Annual Conference next month, changes to our Transportation Policy will be considered. This is an opportunity to add new areas of focus and amend existing ones. Please read NARC's current policy and provide feedback for us to consider. We will discuss possible changes during the Transportation Committee Meeting on Monday morning, June 5. Those changes will be brought before the board of directors at their meeting on Wednesday morning. Please send proposed changes to erich@narc.org on or before **Friday, May 19**. That will allow time for any necessary follow-up and committee preparation.

Infrastructure Week Event: IBTTA and Eno Center for Transportation

During a webinar this morning, the International Bridge, Tunnel, and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) and Eno Center for Transportation paired up to discuss the role tolling might have in funding infrastructure. Speakers discussed the prohibition of tolling on the Interstate system and the positive side effects of changing the legislation. States would have a choice in where to toll and would have access to project-specific funds for reconstructing roadways. One barrier that decision makers face is public perception. Presenters discussed how the public views tolling and the effects that toll booths used to have on traffic flow, and how that has changed. Tolling on Interstates by states is another possible tool in the toolbox as the nation works to find solutions for infrastructure funding.

It's National Bike to Work Week!

The National Household Travel Survey showed that the number of trips made by bicycle in the U.S. more than doubled from 1.7 billion in 2001 to 4 billion in 2009 — and that number continues to grow. National Bike Month includes an ever-expanding diversity of events in communities nationwide — but the biggest day of the month is Bike to Work Day, tomorrow, May 19th. National Bike Month is a success because of the countless, diverse local events organized by dedicated bicyclists in their communities, organizations, and workplaces. Promote your local event with

resources from the League of American Bicyclists. We love to see our members on bikes too - use **#RegionsLead** or **@NARCregions** and we'll share your efforts too!

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Assistant Planner

Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho, Meridian, ID

Economic and Community Development Director

City of Decatur, Decatur, IL

Senior Transportation Planner

River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization, Daytona Beach, FL

Manager Transportation Planning

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Principal Planner-Transportation

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Director of Planning and Development

East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission/Calhoun Area MPO, Anniston, AL

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Final TAM Performance Measure Guidebooks: Infrastructure and Facility

June 6, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

This presentation will feature details about methods for measuring and reporting TAM facility condition assessments and infrastructure performance restrictions to the National Transit Database, highlighting the differences in the final version of both guidebooks. The TAM Guidebooks webinar is the second of a webinar series to address important topics relating to asset management. TAM is an essential practice for providing safer, more reliable transit service nationwide while helping lower operating costs.

Tracking the Walking Path: Tools and Programs to Measure Walking and Walkability

June 14, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

When talking about opportunities to walk, knowing where to walk and what makes an attractive walk are key. Data, mapping tools, and assessments can be useful in making the argument for walkable communities and the development of healthy and inclusive cities. Learn about some of the leading tools available to walking advocates during this America Walks webinar.

Updated Agenda! 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.

CONTACT US

