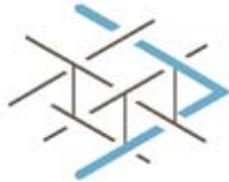


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

May 22, 2014

Transportation Thursdays

NARC LEADERSHIP

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Supervisor, Fairfax
County, VA

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

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

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

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

[REGIONAL BRIEF](#) [MEMBER REQUESTS](#)

[OPPORTUNITY BRIEF](#)



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LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

Water Resources Bill Advances: This week, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate both passed H.R. 3080, the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA)*, by significant margins. The bill now awaits the President's signature. The bill creates a new *Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)*, to provide

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Chair, Transportation
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loans or loan guarantees through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Corps of Engineers (Corps) for eligible water infrastructure projects, including water and wastewater, that are larger than \$20 million (with a lower threshold for rural communities of less than 25,000 residents). The program is modeled on the similar *Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act* (TIFIA), which receives \$1 billion each year for surface transportation projects.

The bill authorizes EPA and Corps each to receive \$175 million over five years for loans and loan guarantees and makes programmatic changes to the *Clean Water State Revolving Fund* (SRF) program, but does not reauthorize the program or include new funding. Click [HERE](#) for conference report and related bill documents. Click [HERE](#) for the National League of Cities' press release.

House Committee Moves Transportation Funding Bill: The House Appropriations Committee earlier this week approved the fiscal year (FY) 2015 funding bill for the Departments of Transportation (DOT) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by a 28-21 vote. The bill makes available \$105.5 billion in discretionary budgetary resources, including \$53.5 billion in contract authority approved from the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). As previously discussed, the bill makes significant changes to the *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery* (TIGER) program, reducing funding to \$100 million and preventing funding of mass transit, passenger rail, bike paths, and other transportation alternatives. An amendment offered by Rep. David Price (D-NC) would have restored funding to \$600 million (FY14 levels); Betty McCollum's (D-FL) amendment would have restored the eligibility of transit, rail, and other projects. Both were defeated.

ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

President Continues to Pressure Congress: In his weekly address and during a series of recent trips, President Obama continued to warn that transportation funding will run out this summer if Congress fails to act. The President underscored the urgency by declaring that “nearly 700,000 jobs would be at risk over the next year” if the issue is not settled soon. During a visit to a local restaurant in Washington D.C., Vice President Biden stated that for the past 40 years transportation funding has been a bipartisan issue. Both the Administration and the Senate have released transportation reauthorization proposals; the House is expected to follow suit this summer.

REGIONAL BRIEF

MORPC: Improving Air Quality in Central Ohio: The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) recently launched an air quality campaign called “Take Five for Clean Air,” the aim of which is to protect public health and reduce air pollution by challenging individuals and organizations to choose five voluntary actions they can take to improve air quality in the region. The suggested actions include: signing up for air quality alerts and informing employees when they occur; implementing a no-idling vehicle policy; using alternative transportation with help from RideSolutions; providing reduced cost bus passes for employees; and inflating vehicle tires to the proper pressure. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

MEMBER REQUESTS

SJCOG – Separate ADA Compliance Requirements for MPOs: Caltrans, for the first time ever, is requiring an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) certification by way of the Exhibit 9-C, available by clicking [HERE](#). The San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) was recently asked to submit Exhibit 9-C to proceed with federal-aid projects. Specifically, does any other state DOT, as the cognizant agency, require separate and additional certification requirements for ADA compliance by the metropolitan planning organization? If so, what are they? Are they similar to the Exhibit 9-C as required by Caltrans?

MWCOG – Comprehensive Infrastructure Document: The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) is seeking information from its peers on the development of comprehensive infrastructure documents. MWCOG plans to create an all-encompassing document that includes infrastructure plans for roads and bridges, transit, water, energy, etc., and would like to see if any other regional planning organizations have done something similar. Specifically, has your COG or Agency developed a comprehensive document that details your entire portfolio of regional infrastructure?

Please forward any feedback to Anna Rosenbaum, anna@narc.org, including which member assistance request to which you are responding.

OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

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

WEBINAR: Developing and Testing a National Geospatial System that Integrates Ecological Tools and Data Sets (Eco-Plan)

May 27, 2:00 PM ET

Transportation Research Board will summarize SHRP 2 Projects C40A and C40B: *SHRP 2 Developing and Testing a National Geospatial System that Integrates Ecological Tools and Data Sets (Eco-Plan)*. Project C40A produced a national-level integrated, geospatial ecological screening tool for early transportation planning to inform the environmental review process. With these advances, agreement on priority areas for preservation or conservation can be reached early in the process of planning new highway capacity. Data-based decisions can not only speed project delivery, but deliver projects that best balance community and environmental needs. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: U.S. DOT Mobility Services for All Americans (MSAA) Program

May 28, 2:00 PM ET

The main purpose of this is to inform stakeholders on U.S. DOT strategic directions and funding opportunities for MSAA deployments and address any questions or issues by potential Request for Proposals (RFP) respondents. This will discuss key MSAA priorities, such as system interoperability and common data format, and highlight important requirements outlined in the RFP. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to register.

WEBINAR: Leveraging Archived Operations Data for Performance-Based Planning and Programming at the MPO Level

June 5, 2:00 PM ET

This session will describe analytical methodologies and procedures to process archived operations data for planning and programming activities in a large metropolitan area. The role and importance of quality data processing to develop performance measures that support sound investment decisions will be examined. The session will include a description of the link between regional goals and objectives and a multimodal performance measurement framework, as well as lessons learned on selecting measures that can be communicated to multiple audiences. A case study will be shared describing the characteristics of each data source and the application of analytical tools used to develop

a web-based Performance Dashboard tool. Attendance is limited to 100 connections and is first-come, first-served. Click [HERE](#) to log on to the webinar.

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!

CONFERENCE: AASHTO Summer Conference Target Setting Peer Exchange:

Tuesday, June 17 - Phoenix, AZ

Our friends at AASHTO will hold a Target Setting Peer Exchange during their summer conference in Phoenix. This peer exchange is funded through the support of the Federal Highway Administration and will cover topics related to collaboration between agencies in setting targets, coordination of performance targets, and integration of performance targets into key planning documents. They are specifically hoping to include representatives from MPOs. There is travel assistance available to help defray costs. If you are interested, please send an email to erich@narc.org.

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