



CONGRESS BRIEF

It's Only MOSTLY Dead

House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) gathered committee Republicans last week to discuss ideas for a big infrastructure proposal. Shuster, who is retiring at the end of this year, has confirmed that he is working on a proposal but did not provide specifics. On the Senate side, Commerce Chairman John Thune (R-SD) thinks that an infrastructure package could get some attention after the midterms, but that Congress is working on smaller infrastructure-related bills for now.

House Appropriations

The House Appropriations Committee approved its FY 2019 THUD spending bill yesterday. The panel adopted a manager's amendment by voice vote. Democrats proposed several amendments to move money within the bill as well as items related to trucking and high-speed rail. These amendments all failed. It is not clear when the full House will take up the appropriations bills.

Update on WRDA

The House and Senate versions of the water resources legislation currently moving through Congress take several perspectives. The Senate version is now broader than the House version, now that the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee adopted multiple amendments creating new water infrastructure financing mechanisms and the requirement that the iron and steel must be made in the United States. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, said he is "committed to getting infrastructure to the president's desk;" however; he could not provide a timeline for the full Senate review the bill.

The House bill was designed to move through the chamber quickly, without controversial provisions. The bill authorizes projects the Army Corps of Engineers can move forward with, some of which include a \$3.3 billion storm mitigation project in Texas; a \$973 million harbor expansion in Georgia; and a \$306 million flood-control project in Hawaii. The House bill would also move

the Army Corps of Engineers out of the U.S. Department of Defense. The bill is expected to receive a vote the first week of June.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Performance-Based Planning and Programming: A Report to Congress

MAP-21 requires that USDOT prepare a report to Congress on the impact of the performance-based planning processes (PBPP) of MPOs within five years of the date the legislation went into effect. This report highlights some of the national progress on PBPP and data from case studies on the effectiveness of PBPP.

National Congestion Pricing Conference

FHWA hosted a conference on congestion pricing this week, bringing speakers from across the country to discuss issues like parking pricing innovations, managed lane projects, and innovative uses of technology for advancing multimodal options. Dan Lamers, senior program manager at the North Central Texas Council of Governments, presented on projects his region is planning and implementing to expand managed lanes from segmented corridors to regional networks – and the immense benefits these future networks will have in reducing costs from congestion delays.

REGIONS BRIEF

Uber Disbands Arizona Autonomous Project

After a fatal collision with a pedestrian in Tempe, Arizona, Uber is permanently shutting down self-driving testing of autonomous vehicles in the state. The crash occurred in March, launching an investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board and prompting Uber to halt autonomous vehicle testing nationally. This does not spell the end of AV testing for Uber. As an Uber spokeswoman said in a statement, they are “committed to self-driving technology, and [they] look forward to returning to public roads in the near future.” Uber also announced that it hopes to return to Pittsburgh this summer. The news surprised the mayor, who has been critical of the way Uber has worked with local governments.

The Economic Cost of Failing to Modernize Public Transportation

A **new study from the American Public Transportation Association (APTA)** has found that failing to address the backlog of public transportation modernization needs will cost the economy \$340 billion in business revenue over six years. Their report studied six of the largest and oldest transit systems across the country. The \$90 billion State of Good Repair backlog will also cost a loss of 162,000 jobs and \$109 billion in household income.

Infrastructure Week and Workforce Development

Last week NARC and its partner organizations, including the National League of Cities, National Skills Coalition, and Campaign to Invest in America’s Workforce, met with congressional staff on the importance of addressing local and regional workforce needs in any infrastructure package Congress develops. The message to congressional staff from city elected officials and organization staff emphasized that resources for states and localities to plan, design, build, and maintain their infrastructure also require a skilled workforce. Without a trained and highly skilled workforce to accomplish these tasks, local governments will not be able to meet the nation’s infrastructure goals. Among the city elected officials who met with congressional staff were Gary, Indiana Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson and City Commissioner Gil Zimmer of Tallahassee, Florida. In addition to NARC staff, the delegation also included staff from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Transportation Project Manager

Greater Portland Council of Governments, Portland, ME

Section Director, Design & Project Delivery and Section Director, Field Operations & Asset Management

Metropolitan Transportation Commission, San Francisco, CA

Assistant or Associate Regional Planner
San Joaquin Council of Governments, Stockton, CA

Director of Economic and Community Development
Greater Nashville Regional Council, Nashville, TN

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of opportunities!

Tools for a Smoother Ride: Managing Rail Assets and Leveraging Competition

June 5, 4:00 – 4:30 PM ET

Public transit is in a maintenance crisis. Deferred maintenance, decreased reliability, and declining ridership necessitates increases in budgets for rehabs and repairs. But the real overhaul needs to be in how public agencies conduct their asset management and maintenance programs. Eno's new paper, ***Tools for a Smoother Ride: Managing Rail Assets and Leveraging Competition***, found consensus among public and private transit stakeholders that current rail maintenance practices are inadequate to meet today's challenges. Agencies must start by creating a culture of prioritizing maintenance through effective asset management, and carefully explore alternatives with the private sector to bring more accountability and transparency. Join this webinar to discuss the paper's recommendations.

2018 Legislative Initiatives in Transportation Infrastructure Funding and Finance

June 13, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Over the past several years many state legislatures have enacted, or are actively considering, proposals to increase funding or provide additional financing for transportation infrastructure. This webinar will discuss some common themes and new proposals seen in recent legislation and feature three state officials who will provide insight on how to make the case for transportation investment. South Carolina Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall, Utah State Senator Wayne Harper, and Oregon Department of Transportation Assistant Director for Public Affairs Travis Brouwer will each highlight key elements of recent transportation packages approved by their state legislatures. This webinar will be particularly useful to legislative staff and transportation professionals involved in transportation funding initiatives at the state and local level.

Walkable Transformations: Healthy, Active, and Engaged Communities

June 21, 2:00 PM ET

This America Walks webinar will highlight three communities who have undergone transformations to create spaces that put people first. Hear from speakers who have done the hard work to create healthy, active, and engaging places and be inspired to do it for your own communities.

Consortium for Scenario Planning Annual Conference Call for Session Proposals

Proposals Due June 22

The Consortium for Scenario Planning is opening the call for session proposals from May 8 through June 22, 2018 for its annual conference. The conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio from September 12 to September 14, 2018. This will be the second conference the Consortium has held. The first took place in Denver, Colorado in November 2017. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission will be the host agency for this event.

"Summer Scenarios" Webinar Series

June 5 – August 29

The Consortium for Scenario Planning will hold an educational webinar series, *Summer Scenarios*, from June to August to teach the basics of scenario planning, its benefits, steps to get started, and more advanced topics. The **first webinar** on June 5 will address planning for resiliency and adaptability to uncertain futures.

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