



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



CONGRESS BRIEF

Congress is in session.

THUD Appropriations Moves to Full House

The \$58 billion FY2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill passed through the Appropriations Committee by voice vote on Tuesday and is expected on the House floor after recess. The bill includes a controversial rider regarding trucker rest time that could come up during floor debate. House appropriators also released a **draft committee report** this week about the growing traffic loads on the nation's aging rail bridges. The report explains the \$500,000 allotment for nationwide bridge inventory and outlines findings from other reports that show deficiencies related to Federal Railroad Administration bridge safety oversight.

House Bill Would Delay Ozone Standard Implementation

The House Energy and Commerce Committee advanced a controversial bill this week that would delay implementation of the Administration's latest ozone air quality standards. The bill would delay the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone from 2017 until 2025 in addition to changing the timeline for future EPA reviews from every five years to every ten years. Supporters of the *Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016* argue that states need more time and flexibility to implement 2008 standards before complying

with new ones.

Water Resources Development Act Passes Committee

Yesterday, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved the \$5 billion *Water Resources Development Act* (WRDA). The bill authorizes 28 Army Corps of Engineers water infrastructure priorities and includes reforms that allow for greater local participation in project selection. The Senate passed its \$9.4 billion version of WRDA last month, which included direct assistance for the Flint, MI crisis and \$4.9 billion for drinking water infrastructure.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

TA Set-Aside Implementation Guidance Released

The FAST Act replaced the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) with a set-aside under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, which will be referred to as the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside. FHWA recently released guidance on funding, eligible activities, and requirements of this newly named program, which includes all projects and activities that were previously eligible under TAP.

FASTLANE Grant Applications Totaling Nearly \$9.8 Billion

Last week, USDOT announced that they received 212 applications requesting almost \$9.8 billion through the new Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant program. The program is for critical freight and highway projects across the country. The applications requested total more than thirteen times the amount of funding than is available, highlighting the dire need for more infrastructure funding.

USDOT Connected Vehicles Resources

USDOT compiled a list of resources to help advance the deployment of connected vehicles, including information on pilot programs, data exchange, vehicle-to-infrastructure guidance, and standards and system requirements.

REGIONS BRIEF

MVRPC 2040 Adopts Long Range Transportation Plan

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission's (MVRPC) Board of Directors adopted the region's *2040 Long Rang Transportation Plan* earlier this month. The plan includes almost \$5 billion for "roadway, regional bikeway, pedestrian, transit and other multi-modal strategies, projects, and programs."

6 Ways ARC's New Bike-Ped Plan Fosters a Bike/Walk-Friendly Region

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) recently updated their bicycle and pedestrian plan and have highlighted six things involved in making a region more safe, comfortable, and convenient for walking and biking. Some highlights include connecting existing trails to create a regional network and emphasizing the economic value of these investments for communities.

Uber to Offer Discounts to SEPTA Riders

Philadelphia is the latest city to test an Uber and public transit partnership this summer. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) is looking at ride sharing as a solution for regional rail station parking lots becoming overcrowded and possibly discouraging people from using the system. Through the partnership, riders who use Uber to get to and from the rail station will get a 40 percent discount. SEPTA will receive data on the riders using the service to be used in a parking study for future solutions. Join NARC for a webinar on shared services on June 2, details below.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Principal Transportation Planner

Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, Manchester, NH

Accountant I

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

Principal Transit Planner

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Bexar Aging Managing Local Ombudsman

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Transportation Planner II

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, Kelso, WA

Community Development Planner II

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, Kelso, WA

OPPORTUNITIES

[View full list of grants and events!](#)

NARC Webinar! The Sharing Economy

June 2, 1:30 - 2:30 PM ET

Over the last five or so years the sharing economy has made a huge impact nationally and globally. As sharing economy companies (e.g. AirBnB, Uber, Lyft, etc.) continue to enter new markets, the regulatory environment surrounding these new business models remains in flux. Different communities approach these new platforms in vastly different ways. This webinar will be a discussion of the challenges and opportunities inherent in the sharing economy. Join NARC and NLC to learn about the economic benefits, current approaches that jurisdictions are taking, and regulatory challenges these industries may introduce.

Planning and Design Considerations for Separated Bike Lanes

Part I: June 7, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Part II: June 14, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Separated bike lanes are gaining popularity in communities across the country. Also known as “cycle tracks” or “protected bike lanes,” a separated bike lane is an exclusive facility for bicyclists that is located within or directly adjacent to the roadway and that is physically separated from motor vehicle traffic with a vertical element. This two-part webinar series will take attendees through the process of selecting appropriate locations for separated bike lanes, preparing the most appropriate designs and configurations from the available options, and monitoring the system’s performance following implementation. Part I will focus on planning separated bike lanes and Part II will cover a range of design criteria and recommendations.

Why Walking & Walkability

June 16, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Join America’s best-known Walking Champion, Mark Fenton, for a presentation on why walking and walkability matter. A former competitive race-walker, Mark will explain why walking has been central to human existence throughout history until losing their way in the twentieth century, and how the walking advocacy movement has worked to repair the damage in the last 20 years. Most importantly, he will lay out actions and strategies that enable everyone to contribute to making communities more walkable, and increase walking as a practice.

CONTACT US

