



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

Conference Note: eRegions will not go out on Monday, June 8th during the 49th Annual Conference and Exhibition in Raleigh, NC.

CONGRESS BRIEF

NARC President Testifies in Senate

NARC President Gary Moore, Judge/Executive in Boone County, KY, testified at a Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing this week, expressing concerns over the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to tighten the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone. President Moore spoke on behalf of both NARC and National Association of Counties (NACo). President Moore's **testimony** focused on the economic impacts on regions and counties of a more stringent ozone standard and highlighted the fact that the most recent standard, established in 2008, has not yet been fully implemented. President Moore received a welcome surprise when Senate Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell (R-KY) introduced** his friend and political ally. NARC and NACo issued a **joint press release** about the event, a **full-length webcast** of the hearing is available, and **President Moore's testimony** can also be viewed separately.

House Transportation Appropriations Nears Completion

The Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill (**HR 2577**) was on the House floor this week. The bill provides \$70.6 billion for Department of Transportation functions for fiscal year 2016, including \$41 billion for highways, \$10.7 billion for transit, and \$1.1 billion for Amtrak. After debating late into the night on Wednesday, the House began voting Thursday morning on an extensive list of bill amendments, but recessed early in the afternoon and will resume consideration on Tuesday. Final passage is expected after amendment votes have concluded. President Obama issued a **veto threat**, citing flat highway funding and cuts to Amtrak, transit, and TIGER grants, in addition to a long list of additional provisions with which the Administration disagrees.

Deteriorating Memorial Bridge

US Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx **discussed** the deterioration of the Arlington Memorial Bridge connecting Northern Virginia to DC as a symbol of the need to invest in America's infrastructure. Two of the six lanes on the Memorial Bridge - a primary commuter route in one of the most congested metropolitan areas in the country - are closed for emergency repairs. The National Park Service (NPS), which owns and maintains the bridge, and FHWA have imposed a weight limit on the bridge, forcing the rerouting of buses. Representative Eleanor Norton (D-DC) **introduced** the *Save Our Parks Transportation Act (HR 2595)*, which nearly doubles funding for transportation systems on federal lands, including the Memorial Bridge.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Partnership for Rail Crossing Safety

USDOT recently publicized its partnership with **Operation Lifesaver, Inc.** (OLI), a public awareness campaign to educate the public about railroad crossing safety. FHWA, FTA, and the Federal Railroad Administration have united to help fund OLI's campaign, ***See Tracks? Think Train!***

FHWA Innovation of the Month

FHWA's Every Day Counts Initiative awarded the May Innovation of the Month to **e-Construction**, a paperless construction administration delivery process that compiles all stakeholder-submitted construction documents, facilitates electronic signatures and approvals, and allows digital management and distribution of all files in a secure environment through mobile electronic devices.

REGIONS BRIEF

Houston Region Experimenting with Electric Delivery Fleet

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is attempting to improve air quality by funding an electric fleet of trucks in its region. H-GAC issued a recent call for projects from regional fleets and vehicle owners for the purchase and deployment of at least thirty all-electric delivery vehicles to help reduce transportation-related emissions in their eight-county area. Eligible vehicles include medium and heavy-duty all-electric trucks configured as step vans or box trucks, and must operate within the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria nonattainment area.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Senior Regional Planner

Central Texas Council of Governments, Belton, TX

Project Delivery Specialist

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Implementing an e-STIP: What, Why, and How?

June 16, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

June 16, 5:00 – 6:30 PM ET

June 17, 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET

(information at all three sessions will be the same)

FHWA will soon release a set of resources for MPOs and transit agencies on the electronic Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (e-STIP), including an interactive e-STIP prototype, a guidebook, and a white paper on how to use e-STIP to support performance-based planning and programming. This webinar will address the benefits of using an e-STIP and key issues associated with implementation, and will offer a Q&A session following the presentation to discuss the e-STIP development process.

OnTheMap for Emergency Management, Version 4.2

June 17, 1:30 – 2:30 PM ET

OnTheMap for Emergency Management provides real-time access to a range of detailed U.S. Census Bureau data about the people living and working in areas being affected by hurricanes, floods, wildfires, winter storms, and federal disaster declaration areas. In collaboration with the US Census Bureau and the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Partnership, the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) will host this webinar to share the latest improvements to OnTheMap, including features that allow users to filter their search by specific date and to find specific historical events.

Walking College Series: Why Walking?

June 18, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

In early May, America Walks awarded 25 Walking College Fellowships to local advocates for walking and walkable communities. The Walking College Webinar Series is a component of that fellowship program. This webinar, first in the series, will discuss the human, psychosocial practice of walking and explore the interrelationships between walking, health, the environment, and the economy.

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