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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

June 5, 2014

Transportation Thursdays

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

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LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

U.S. Senate Sets Sights on HTF: Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), Chair of the Senate Budget Committee, this week issued a warning regarding the looming highway trust fund (HTF) shortfall crisis. In a memo to members of the Budget Committee, she emphasized the urgency of finding a solution and the negative consequences of failing to act. Senate Finance Chairman Ron Wyden (D-OR) – with direct responsibility to find new revenue for the HTF – recently set a goal of developing a plan to solve the short-term HTF insolvency by July, saying, “we’re pulling out all the stops to find a funding solution to keep the Highway Trust Fund solvent.” Passing a more comprehensive long-term solution is unlikely before the HTF faces insolvency in late July or August. It has been

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reported that Senate Finance is considering ten options to backfill the HTF, including increasing current or developing new user fees, such as a fee paid by oil wholesalers. The House Republican plan to make cuts to the Postal Service is not being considered by the Senate at this time. Click [HERE](#) for additional details.

NARC Supports Funding Increases in Senate Appropriations

Debate: Yesterday, NARC sent a letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee expressing appreciation for advancing the fiscal year (FY) 2015 appropriations process, supporting increased funding for the Economic Development Administration in the Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) appropriations bill, and supporting local and regional transportation and housing programs in the Transportation-HUD (THUD) appropriations bill. Both bills passed the Senate Appropriations Committee today. Click [HERE](#) for NARC's letter, [HERE](#) to access information on Senate CJS bill, and [HERE](#) to access information on Senate THUD.

ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

Release of Planning NPRM and Transit Guidance Mark Busy Week:

Early this week, the long-awaited transportation planning proposed rule was released, laying out how metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) will be expected to approach performance management under MAP-21, among other changes related to rural transportation planning organizations (RTPOs) and the use of scenario planning. The proposed rule has a 90-day comment period. NARC will be holding an initial webinar in the next few weeks to begin discussion of what is in the rule, and to gather member reactions to the rule. The proposed rule can be found [HERE](#). In addition, The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are holding a joint webinar to discuss the proposed rule. Register ASAP for this, as spots are limited. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Related to the planning rule, final policy guidance was also released on the MAP-21 (*Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act*) requirement regarding the inclusion of transit representation on the board of transportation management areas (TMAs). The final guidance does not appear to differ much from the draft, save for a couple of clarifications. Read the details [HERE](#).

U.S. DOT Announces the Availability of \$100M for New Ladders of

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Opportunity Initiative: In an effort to connect more Americans with jobs, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx yesterday announced the availability of approximately \$100 million in competitive grant funds through the FTA *Ladders of Opportunity Initiative*. The money is for modernizing and expanding transit bus services while directly addressing ladders of opportunity for riders. Click [HERE](#) for the Notice of Funding Availability.

REGIONAL BRIEF

Greater Kansas City's Seventh Annual Green Commute Challenge:

The 2014 Green Commute Challenge, administered by the Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) RideShare and Air Quality programs, will run from June 2 through August 29. MARC's press release on Monday states that "the competition encourages employees of participating organizations to use alternative transportation for their daily commutes—carpooling, taking the bus, walking, biking or telecommuting to work." The goal of the challenge is to address poor air quality and high transportation costs. Participants are able to qualify for prizes by tracking their travel activities using an online tool. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

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

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 draft agenda, hotel reservation, and registration information. Two days of transportation tracks are planned (on Monday and Tuesday), followed by a keynote speaking session held by U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx (on Wednesday) - we encourage all MPOs to attend these sessions. We look forward to your participation in Louisville!

WEBINAR: Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Performance Measures

June 12, 1:00 PM ET

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) consists of a planned and coordinated multi-disciplinary process to detect, respond to, and clear traffic incidents so that traffic flow may be restored as safely and quickly as possible. Effective TIM reduces the duration and impacts of traffic incidents and improves the safety of motorists, crash victims, and emergency responders. This will discuss the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) rulemaking for performance measures, the NCHRP 07-20 Guidance, an overview of the Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS) program, and a State DOT experience with TIM's Performance Measurement collection and the use of TraCS. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to register.

WEBINAR: Transportation Workforce - Identifying Demand in the 21st Century

June 13, 1:30 PM ET

The U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Education invite you to participate in a virtual roundtable focused on the skills and training needed to meet the transportation workforce demand in the 21st century. Transportation industry stakeholders will have the opportunity to review and discuss workforce trends as they see them on the ground. With your input, this data will help guide the development and implementation of strategies to facilitate the development of the next generation of transportation workers. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: Ranking Walkable Urbanism in America's Largest Metros

June 17, 2:00 PM ET

Across the country, U.S. metros are racing to dominate the walkable urban places (WalkUPs) market. Join for the public release of *Foot Traffic Ahead: Ranking Walkable Urbanism in America's Largest Metros*. The report is an updated version of a 2007 survey by the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program, which compared the economic performance of metropolitan areas' walkable urban places to their drivable sub-urban areas counterparts, based on selected commercial real estate metrics. This report will show who's winning, who's in transition, and who's lagging behind in the race to capture the market demand for WalkUPs. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to register.

WEBINAR: TDM Strategies in Transitioning Suburban Areas

June 20, 12:30 PM ET

Jurisdictions across the Washington, D.C. region utilize Transportation Demand Management (TDM) to increase the use of alternative modes of transportation and maximize return on investment. This seminar will provide information on developing a TDM strategy to reduce the number and proportion of single-occupant vehicle trips by increasing the availability of information and use of transportation options by workers, residents, and visitors. The event will also provide information about evaluating an existing TDM program. Presenters will share examples of TDM in the City of Falls Church and Arlington County. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: Introduction to TREDIS

June 24, 1:00 PM ET

Are you required to include economic impacts in your transportation plans, policies and funding decisions? TREDIS Makes It Easier. Time and technical expertise are not always available. Why not let a transportation economics tool work for you? This national webinar will demonstrate this easy-to-use transportation economic analysis system and show how it can work for your organization. Click [HERE](#) to register.

CONFERENCE: Ohio Conference on Freight

September 18-19, Hyatt Regency Columbus, OH

This conference addresses the reality that economic growth will increasingly depend upon or be at the mercy of our freight infrastructure. Key goals of the conference include: building professional capacity in all aspects of freight transport by disseminating best practices in supply chain and logistics; strengthening the ability of the public and private sectors to effectively plan, build, and maintain an efficient transportation network; examining and informing state and federal policies that support freight related economic development. Also, professional engineers can claim professional development hours [PDH]. For more information contact Christine Drennen, Conference Director (ext. 119 or drennen@tmacog.org) or visit www.ohiofreight.org for more info.

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