



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Thank you to everyone who attended NARC's 52nd Annual Conference and Exhibition in Orlando, Florida! We had a great week learning from and engaging with each of you. We look forward to seeing many of you again at the 2018 Executive Directors Conference in Cleveland, Ohio from September 30 – October 2.

We will resume our normal *Transportation Thursdays* schedule next week but wanted to share a few updates with you while we are recuperating from the conference.

CONGRESS BRIEF

Senate Appropriations Update

The Senate FY 2019 Transportation-HUD spending bill passed through the subcommittee on Tuesday and is going to the full committee today. The bill would provide \$1.1 billion more than FY 2018. While the bill fully funds the authorized FAST Act levels, appropriations for USDOT are \$698 million less than the enacted level in FY 2018, due to a \$1.8 billion increase for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Senate proposal also includes \$1 billion in BUILD grants, which is \$500 million less than FY 2018. It also funds the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program at \$3.3 billion, keeping it consistent with FY 2018 funding.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

FHWA Funding Opportunity: National Economic Partnerships for Multi-Jurisdictional Coordination

FHWA is accepting Letters of Interest (LOIs) from MPOs and state DOTs to establish National Economic Partnerships that facilitate innovative multi-jurisdictional coordination and regional planning. The National Economic Partnerships opportunity is a reincarnation of past megaregions activities. There are four areas of interest for FHWA that include: implementing coordination and planning solutions for an already existing regional activity and deploying an innovative solution, approach, or tool to address a multi-jurisdictional issue. LOIs must be received on or before 4:00 PM EST on July 9, 2018.

There will be two informational webinars ahead of the deadline:

June 12, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

June 27, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

USDOT Selects INFRA Grant Recipients

Yesterday, USDOT notified several congressional committees of its selections for competitive grants under the Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) Program (previously FASTLANE). The 26 projects selected to receive approximately \$1.5 billion in funding will be final unless Congress acts to oppose the administration's choices. Many of the projects are for highway improvements in rural areas and were awarded to state DOTs. If your organization was involved in an INFRA application that received an award, please tell NARC Deputy Director Erich Zimmermann at erich@narc.org. We would love to hear about your project.

U.S. DOT Speaker Series with Derek Kan: AI and Predictive Analytics for Transportation Safety

Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy Derek Kan spoke Monday on the Department's program to use big data analytic techniques for highway safety, known as the Safety Data Initiative. The program's goal is to integrate traditional data sets, such as the National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS), with new big data tools to gain better insight on how various safety risks interact. Two pilots have been launched to explore these new methods: the first integrates data from the navigation app Waze regarding severe weather and roadway hazard reports; the second tracks vehicle operating speeds from GPS-enabled devices at a national scale. These two pilots offer USDOT a multi-dimensional framework to analyze risk. An example is how a natural hazard or speed differential may interact with road conditions in a certain region leading to greater crash risk. Kan is optimistic about the potential these techniques hold, particularly when state and regional data complements federal data. He hopes one outcome of the program will be that local officials and city managers can be provided with better, data-driven information to inform how their resources are allocated and improve safety in an efficient way.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Active Transportation Planner

Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, UT

Division Director of Toll Operations

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Executive Director

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Lansing, MI

Research & Analysis Assistant

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Director of Policy and Planning

Capitol Region Council of Governments, Hartford, CT

Senior Planner

Puget Sound Regional Council, Seattle, WA

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