



Save the Date! NARC's 2016 Executive Directors Conference and Board Retreat
September 18-21 – South Bend, IN
See details in the Opportunities section.

CONGRESS BRIEF

Congress is in session.

Overview

With just 19 legislative days remaining before the current FAA extension expires, lawmakers and stakeholders are growing concerned about another short-term extension. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) is still showing no interest in taking up the Senate version that passed with a 95-3 vote in April. The FAA has not had a long-term reauthorization since 2012.

While there has been no movement on the FAA reauthorization, the House this week **passed a bill** to help speed up airport security lines. The bill focuses on TSA assessing its staffing model, creating a Staffing Advisory Committee to coordinate with local airports and stakeholders, and other changes.

Yesterday, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx **addressed the Senate Commerce Committee** to update lawmakers on the implementation of the FAST Act. His testimony included updates on grant programs such as FASTLANE and project delivery proposals. Secretary Foxx also

faced questions ranging from rail infrastructure loans, education for drug-impaired driving, and the Takata airbag recall.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Bike Network Mapping Idea Book

FHWA recently released a *Bike Networking Mapping Idea Book* highlighting the ways several communities have mapped existing and proposed bike networks. It is intended to be a resource for communities in identifying, planning, and improving their own bicycle networks. The idea book features a wide variety of examples from states, regions, and university campuses.

Communities Across America Seek \$9.3 Billion in Transportation Funding

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program funds capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure and is awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. This year, USDOT received 585 applications requesting \$9.3 billion. With only \$500 million available, the TIGER program is among the list of federal grants with a large disparity between requested and available funds for transportation investment.

Smart City Finalists to Make their Final Pitch

Today, the mayors of the seven Smart City Challenge Finalists have their last chance to convince USDOT that their city should win the \$40 million prize. Austin, Columbus, Denver, Kansas City, Pittsburgh, Portland, and San Francisco are in the running and the winner is expected to be announced this month. Secretary Foxx visited all of the cities last month ahead of the May 24 final proposal deadline.

REGIONS BRIEF

Atlanta's Bike Share Program Begins

Atlanta opens its bike share program today with 100 bicycles at ten stations downtown. By the end of this year the city plans to have 500 bikes at 50 stations with hopes of eventually expanding to 1,500 bikes and 150 stations. Atlanta joins the more than 100 cities across the U.S. with bike share systems.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

County Administrator

Hamilton County, Cincinnati, OH

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Associate Planner

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

OPPORTUNITIES

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

Network-Wide Impacts of Connected Vehicles on Mobility: An Agent-Based Modeling Approach

June 16, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Hear from two Oregon State University graduate students present on their current research in connected vehicle technology. Part one of the webinar will focus on the mobility impacts of a connected vehicle environment and pursuing an agent-based modeling approach, especially in a mixed environment with various market penetration levels. Part two will present a study on percolation phenomenon in a connected vehicle network through a multi-agent modeling and simulation approach. This research is largely motivated by the prevalent uncertainties with the benefits of deploying connected vehicles in a large transportation network with competing goals of cost (i.e., market penetration) and benefits (i.e., safety and mobility).

Regional Models of Cooperation: Joint Planning Products

June 21, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Joint planning products are concrete examples of successful, effective regional cooperation in the transportation planning process. The final webinar of the series will explore examples of transportation planning agencies working together to jointly produce a variety of planning products, and discuss what it takes to make collaboration at this level work. We will hear firsthand from the Land of Sky Regional Council, Southeast Florida Transportation Council, and Nashua Regional Planning Commission who have developed the collaborative relationships and processes necessary to produce joint products, from the methods they use to the early stumbling blocks they overcame.

How to Calibrate and Validate a Regional DTA Model for Planning Applications

June 22, 2:00 – 4:00 PM ET

This presentation is intended as a review of several practical considerations involved in the successful application of regional DTA models in the context of planning applications. The discussion brings to light several important aspects in various stages of DTA modeling such as initial experimentation, model development, application, calibration and validation, and provides some insights in avoiding pitfalls and thus making DTA model application more successful.

Learn about Planning for a Healthier Future - a New Resource

June 22, 4:00 – 5:00 PM ET

Join Transportation for America (T4A) for the launch of the *Planning for a Healthier Future: Incorporating Health, Equity, and Environmental Performance Measures in Regional Transportation Plans* guidebook. Given the forthcoming rulemaking from USDOT that will require all 400-plus MPOs and 50 state DOTs to develop transportation performance measure frameworks, T4A is releasing a new resource to help communities and advocates better their public health, address their social equity concerns, and improve their environmental quality through best practices and strategies.

Second Planning Final Rule Webinar

July 13, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

FHWA is offering a second webinar on the final planning rule as the June 14 date is now full. This webinar will review the changes in the final rule on regulations governing statewide and metropolitan planning recently released by FHWA and FTA.

Save the Date! NARC's 2016 Executive Directors Conference and Board Retreat

September 18-21 – South Bend, IN

Please join NARC and the Michiana Area Council of Governments this September in South Bend, IN for the annual Executive Directors Conference that is designed by and for Executive Directors of Councils of Governments and Metropolitan Planning Organizations. This intimate conference brings executives together to discuss topics ranging from human resources and succession planning to what's new on the technological horizon. The conference also provides a great opportunity for networking and sharing of information on best practices. This year's conference will start with a reception on Sunday night and end with the Board of Directors Retreat on Wednesday. The Board Dinner will be Tuesday evening, time and location TBD. *Note: Please plan to arrive on Sunday, September 18 as we will not have hotel rooms available on Saturday night.*

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