



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

CONGRESS BRIEF

House Ways and Means to Hold Transportation Funding Hearing

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) announced this week his committee will hold a hearing to discuss sustainable long-term Highway Trust Fund financing options. The hearing is scheduled for June 17 at 10:00 AM. Current funding is expected to run out sometime later this summer, so Congress will have to identify new funding even if it intends to do another short-term extension.

House Passes THUD

The House **narrowly passed** the FY2016 *Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R. 2577)*, commonly referred to as THUD, by a mere six votes. The \$55.3 billion funding measure was wrought with amendments and faced opposition on both sides. The conservative Heritage Action group opposed the bill for appropriating too much deficit spending for infrastructure projects, and all but three Democrats opposed the bill for cutting funding for Amtrak, TIGER grants, and Transit Capital Improvement grants. The Senate version of the THUD bill introduced in May would allocate \$376 million more overall.

Senate Discusses Faster Implementation of Positive Train Controls

In a hearing before the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, lawmakers expressed concern that the implementation of positive train control technologies is not occurring fast enough. Legislation passed in 2008 mandates the installation of train safety technology on nearly 70,000 miles of railroad, and the deadline for railroad operator compliance is December 31, 2015. According to the USDOT, only 29% are on track to meet the deadline.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Foxx Promotes GROW America at NARC Conference

At NARC's 49th Annual Conference & Exhibition in Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx addressed the mounting challenges faced by MPOs due to a lack of certainty in federal funding. Foxx painted a dire picture of deteriorating infrastructure strained by population growth and increasing freight demand, and of a long list of necessary maintenance and expansion projects either stalled or waiting in the queue for federal funds. The Administration's *GROW AMERICA Act* would, according to Foxx, increase investment in all modes of surface transportation and give large MPOs a greater share of federal funding and well as greater control over the allocation of that funding.

NCMM Grants for Innovative Mobility Solutions in Health Care

The National Center for Mobility Management, a technical assistance center funded by FTA, is offering \$400,000 in competitive grants through the FTA's Ride to Wellness initiative. Ride to Wellness aims to connect residents to health care services, ultimately increasing the efficacy and

reducing the cost of healthcare. The sixteen selected communities will spend the six-month grant period developing solutions to address challenges in patient transportation to post-hospitalization appointments, dialysis treatment, primary and preventive care, and behavioral health appointments, as well as establish a plan for broad implementation.

Call to ACTION: Ladders of Opportunity - Transportation Youth Initiative

This Call to Action is for transportation professionals across the country to provide students with an introduction to transportation careers through jobs, internships, mentoring, and/or career exploration activities over the summer and months to follow. Over the next ten years, over fifty percent of the transportation workforce will be eligible for retirement. It is critical that the U.S. develop a skilled and diverse transportation workforce across a broad range of both professional and skilled transportation careers. Transportation jobs pay well, and most transportation jobs include strong benefits in addition to good wages. Secretary Foxx invites you to introduce at least one student to transportation careers.

REGIONS BRIEF

Szabo to Lead CMAP

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Board of Directors unanimously selected Joseph C. Szabo to serve as the agency's new executive director. Szabo has demonstrated a passion for addressing the planning needs and interests of the region, and brings a breadth of career experience in government at all levels, civic affairs, and transportation, specifically railways. Szabo served as Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration for the past six years and as state legislative director of the United Transportation Union for thirteen years prior. His early career was marked by local involvement as village trustee and mayor of Riverdale, Illinois, and as a member of the regional Council of Mayors Executive Committee.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Transportation Planner

South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization, Vineland, NJ

Engineering Infrastructure Director

City of Fayetteville, Fayetteville, NC

Senior Regional Planner

Central Texas Council of Governments, Belton, TX

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

On-Street Parking: Drivers Park Faster- Relieving Stress and Improving Urban Mobility

June 17, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM ET

INRIX will host this webinar to present their new **On-Street Parking** service to help drivers quickly find on-street parking in busy and congested urban areas. The service identifies where parking is available, how much the parking will cost, and whether there is a garage or lot nearby, and has been integrated by BMW into their ConnectedDrive cars such as the i3.

Talking Freight: Freight Rail Safety

June 17, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Sponsored by the FHWA as part of their monthly Talking Freight seminar series, this webinar will discuss different safety initiatives that have been and are being implemented by both the federal government and the freight railroad industry to address recent safety concerns and ensure the U.S. freight railroad transportation system can operate in a safe and efficient manner. Discussion topics include overviews of Federal Railroad Administration initiatives, Class I Railroad initiatives

for carriers of the largest freight rail, and Short Line Railroad initiatives for carriers of medium and small-sized freight rail.

Technical Assistance in Rural/Small-Urban Transportation Planning

Applications due June 19, 5:00 PM ET

Supported by an agreement with FHWA, the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) is offering short-term technical assistance to transportation planners who are challenged with involving historically non-involved low-income and minority community members and elected officials in transportation decision-making or environmental justice in rural and small-urban areas. The technical assistance will likely consist of one or two site visits and modest deliverables by CTAA staff experts, and is awarded on a competitive basis.

House T&I Hearing: The State of Positive Train Control Implementation

June 24, 10:00 AM ET

Tune in for the hearing of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

CONTACT US

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