



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

## CONGRESS BRIEF

### **Senators Release Bipartisan Principles for Self-Driving Vehicles Legislation**

Senators John Thune (R-SD), Gary Peters (D-MI), and Bill Nelson (D-FL) released principles this week for bipartisan legislation on self-driving vehicle technology ahead of a hearing on the topic. The principles include prioritizing safety, reinforcing separate state and federal roles, educating the public, and strengthening cybersecurity. The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation held a **hearing** on Wednesday to explore how to ensure safety and remove hurdles for technology development. Top executives from Mothers against Drunk Driving, the American Center for Mobility, NVIDIA Corporation, and the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers provided testimony.

### **House E&C Considering Automated Vehicle Bills**

The House Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans are considering sixteen bills on automated vehicles. *Eno's Transportation Weekly* compiled a list of proposal summaries, which largely focus on expanding or clarifying the role of the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) responsibilities in regulating the technology in the development phase.

## ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

### **White House Blog on the Infrastructure Package**

While most of Washington was engrossed in the James Comey hearing last Thursday, the White House posted a blog on the president's *Plan to Rebuild America's Infrastructure*. The infographics highlight aspects of the plan, such as lowering the average permit time from ten to two years and investing in rural infrastructure. Though there is still much to learn, the blog provided some insight into the plan's details. Of the \$200 billion for "infrastructure funding," \$100 billion would be for "local prioritization of infrastructure needs," \$25 billion for "rural infrastructure," and \$15 billion for "transformative projects." The outline also indicates a focus on skill-based apprenticeship education, to the tune of one million apprenticeships in two years.

### **FAA Air Traffic Control Proposal**

During the president's "Infrastructure Week" last week, the administration released a proposal to turn the nation's air traffic control system to a non-governmental, nonprofit entity. After over a year of trumpeting this idea, House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) now has key players on his side. Following Trump's release of the plan, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) expressed his support and called the move bipartisan. However, many lawmakers from both sides of the aisle oppose the measure and Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao has yet to voice support.

### **USDOT to Review Autonomous Vehicles Policy**

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao confirmed at a conference in Detroit that USDOT will review the automated vehicle policy that was issued in September and release a new version in a few months. Secretary Chao suggested that the policy will be more flexible to keep pace with innovation and stated that public acceptance is the biggest impediment to this new technology.

### **USDOT Announces Regulatory Reform Task Force and Officer**

Last month, USDOT announced that Deputy Secretary Jeffrey Rosen will serve as the Department's

Regulatory Reform Officer and Chairman of the Regulatory Reform Task Force (RRTF). Secretary Chao has directed the Task Force to reconsider how to accomplish USDOT safety objectives and review the rules released at the end of the Obama administration. The RRTF was formed earlier this year in accordance with President Trump's Executive Order 13777, which directs each agency to establish an RRTF to make recommendations to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burdens.

## **REGIONS BRIEF**

### **NARC's 51st Annual Conference & Exhibition – Presentations Available**

Thanks to all of you who attended our 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference in Monterey last week! You can now find session presentations on our website. A more formal report will follow with an overview of the conference and details on each session.

## **JOBS**

*[View full list of jobs!](#)*

### **Deputy Clerk of the Board**

Southern California Association of Governments, Los Angeles, CA

### **Regional Planner III**

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, Dayton, OH

### **Principal Planner**

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

### **Associate Policy Analyst – Transportation and Land Use**

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

### **Public Information Officer**

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

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

### **New NHI Course: The Role of Data in Transportation Performance Management**

*Signup to Host this Course*

The Role of Data in Transportation Performance Management is a two-day instructor-led training course offered by the National Highway Institute (NHI). Its goal is to enable participants to manage, analyze, integrate, and use data from diverse sources to support an effective agency TPM function.

The course will begin with an overview of data management. It then details each part of the data supply chain--covering common needs, considerations, and challenges along the way. During the second day, the sessions will cover issues related to data assessment and data improvement planning. The course material is synthesized at the end of the course, through the creation of a data management and improvement plan. This training can provide a useful starting point for agencies that wish to undertake improvements at all stages of the data life cycle.

### **Transportation Asset Management Conference Survey**

Deadline: June 20

The planning committee for the 2018 TRB Transportation Asset Management (TAM) Conference is reaching out to states, MPOs, and local agencies through a brief web-based survey of TAM professionals. They are looking for your individual opinions about the issues you are dealing with related to transportation asset management. Previously, they targeted state contacts and are now expanding it to MPOs and local agencies. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

Please share this survey link with others in your agency who are more involved with Asset Management topics. They are looking for your individual opinions and not necessarily a single "agency" response, so it is fine if there are multiple responses per agency.

### **Logistics and Land Use Planning: The Example of Paris**

June 21, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM ET

The Peer-to-Peer Exchange Program is designed to share global cases of best practices and real world examples of sustainable urban freight systems. In this webinar, Laetitia Dablanc from IFSTTAR (French Institute for Transport Research, University of Paris-East, Metrofreight/VREF center) and Michele-Angelique Nicol from APUR (Paris Planning Agency) will provide complementary views on the innovative efforts conducted at both regional and city level of Paris, to design and adopt land use plans that are sensitive to the needs of logistical and freight activity. The presentation will include a description of logistics in the regional master plan that was adopted and the logistics in the City of Paris land use plan. Dr. Dablanc will present some of the challenges of the Paris regional logistics planning and its links to municipal land use and zoning plans. At the city level, APUR realized that there was a major need for a logistic network that offers opportunities to encourage last mile deliveries with environmentally friendly vehicles. Ms. Nicol will present the approach taken by the city to design and implement this important concept.

### **Talking Freight: EPA's Ports Initiative**

June 21, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

Investing in port infrastructure and operations is vital to America's business competitiveness and economic prosperity. These investments also provide enormous opportunities for environmental gains. The many people who live near and work at ports can be exposed to levels of air pollution that contribute to significant health problems. Findings from the *2016 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Port Strategy Assessment* confirm that there are effective air quality improvement strategies available today for every type and size of port. EPA's Ports Initiative supports efforts to improve efficiency, enhance energy security, reduce costs, and minimize harmful health impacts by advancing next-generation, clean technologies and practices at ports. The Ports Initiative also facilitates collaboration between the port industry, communities, and all levels of government to help ensure timely and effective infrastructure development. This webinar will provide an overview of EPA's Ports Initiative and an update on two efforts underway to help build technical tools to ensure smart infrastructure investments and to promote port-community collaboration to prioritize and advance clean air projects.

### **How New Information and Scheduling Technologies Support Mobility Access for All**

June 21, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

For many older adults, people with disabilities and family caregivers who need transportation, simply finding out about the mobility options available in the community may present an insurmountable obstacle. Such information is often scattered among several organizations, requiring numerous phone calls to piece together the complete picture. Join the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) for a webinar discussion on how communities can address the challenge of providing better access to comprehensive transportation information. This webinar is part of a larger NADTC webinar series focused on Transportation Information and Assistance.

### **Save the Date! Denver CTPP Short Course**

June 27-28, Denver, CO

Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP) Training is chiefly aimed at data users at MPOs and states. This training is designed for anyone who is required to work on long range planning, congestion management, travel forecast, and air quality analysis. CTPP training sessions are typically one and half days of hands-on work in a computer based setting. Participants will engage in discussion, practice analytical skills through exercises, learn to navigate the CTPP software, and leave with a better understanding of what transportation data are available and what are the avoidable pitfalls to using them. Each class is customized for the locality and participants will receive invaluable access to information and resources that they will use again and again. Registration will be available soon. If you would like to reserve a spot, email [pweinberger@ashto.org](mailto:pweinberger@ashto.org).

### **Inside the FAF4: Forecasting Origin-Destination Freight Flows and Why It Matters**

June 28, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

During this webinar FHWA will provide a brief overview of the FAF4 and its value for analyzing freight flows and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics will describe fundamentals of Origin-Destination (O-D) database attributes. IHS Markit will present on how the FAF's O-D data are forecasted, highlight what assumptions are built into the forecast methodology, and explain how this information will benefit an FAF user. This webinar is aimed at practitioners with basic or no

knowledge of the FAF but who would like to move to the next experience level. This is the first of a three-part series.

### **Ohio Conference on Freight & Midwest Green Fleets Forum & Expo**

August 1-4, Columbus, OH

From August 1-2, Clean Fuels Ohio will host the Midwest Green Fleets & Expo that will bring together fleet professionals, government officials, and transportation industry members to discuss fleet best practices and learn how to save money and reduce emissions with alternative fuels & efficiency technologies. From August 3-4, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and partners will host the Ohio Conference on Freight that will continue the conversation with plenary sessions and breakouts, drawing over 300 transportation professionals. Attendees may purchase tickets for just one conference or a combined, discounted ticket to both the Midwest Green Fleets Forum and the Ohio Conference on Freight. Both events will highlight the latest in freight-related transportation, economic development, alternative fuels, and smart transportation technology.

### **12th TRB Access Management Conference Call for Abstracts/ Save the Date**

July 17-19, 2018 – Madison, WI

Call for Abstracts Due: September 1

Abstract Requirements:

- Presentation Title
- Presenter(s) contact information: name, organization, address, email, and phone number
- General topic area of the abstract
- Abstract shall not exceed 250 words
- Abstract shall be written in simple, concise, and effective English
- Data and conclusions should be complete, valid, appropriate, and properly supported
- Presentations/papers for commercial or special interest/advocacy purposes will not be considered

## **CONTACT US**

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