



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



## CONGRESS BRIEF

*Congress is in session.*

### **Another FAA Authorization Extension on the Horizon**

Yesterday, Bill Shuster (R-PA), chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, repeated his commitment to privatizing air traffic control (ATC) and made no indication of alternative plans for a bill. The committee passed the FAA Authorization bill with the ATC reform piece back in February, but it has yet to be scheduled for a floor vote. Despite Chairman Shuster's strong stance on the issue, committee Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR) does not believe there is any more support for this bill than when it passed out of committee. ATC reform on the Senate side also lacks support with Senators continuing to urge the House to pass their bill. With no further action, another extension may be inevitable before the July 15 deadline.

## ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

### **FHWA Final Planning Rule Webinar Recording**

Earlier this week, FHWA and FTA held the first webinar on the Planning Final Rule. The webinar went over changes in the rule and important dates for implementation. Included with the recording are the questions and answers from the over 400 participants on the webinar. As a reminder, another **webinar** on the rule is scheduled for July 13.

### **STIP State of the Practice Review**

This FHWA report examines the state of the practice in the development and use of Statewide Transportation Improvement Programs (STIPs). The report focuses on 14 STIP's of varying styles and techniques and provides examples of STIP practices in addition to summarizing potential future advancements. It also includes a discussion of three general descriptive models for understanding how state DOTs develop and use STIPs. While the general audience of the report is state DOT staff, transportation planners at all levels will find the research relevant.

## REGIONS BRIEF

### **Foot Traffic Ahead: 2016 Report**

Smart Growth America released a new report this week that studied 619 regionally significant, walkable urban places in the 30 largest U.S. metro areas. The research discusses how the metro areas with the highest levels of walkable urbanism are also the most educated, wealthy, and socially equitable. The report lists the top 30 walkable urban places and features a discussion of forward-looking indicators to predict how walkable their future might be.

### **Who Lives Near Frequent Transit?**

TransitCenter recently examined the 25 largest cities in the U.S., plus Atlanta, Cleveland, and Miami, to determine how close their populations live to transit. This research determined that over 90 percent of people live within walking distance of transit in 13 of the cities studied. However, most of this transit is of poor quality as it is not frequent enough to be very reliable or useful. The blog post also looks at demographic data to compare communities that have access to transit and highlights Houston and Denver as examples.

## JOBS

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

### **Accountant**

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

### **Public Relations Intern**

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

### **Director of Community Development**

The City of Bozeman, Bozeman, MT

### **Chief Executive Officer**

Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento, CA

### **Public Information Planner**

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

### **Alamo Service Connection Veteran Mobility Specialist**

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

### **Assistant/Associate Planner – Water Resources**

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

### **Assistant/Associate Planner – ON TO 2050 Plan**

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

## OPPORTUNITIES

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

### **Automation in Europe: Update on Activities in the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom**

June 27, 11: 00 AM – 12:30 PM ET

USDOT is hosting a series of webinars on the key issues and opportunities facing the integration of automated vehicles into our transportation system. This webinar is the fourth in a series produced from the 2015 Automated Vehicles Symposium and will explore Europe's automated vehicle initiatives in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Sweden.

## **Talking Freight: Oversize and Overweight Freight Shipments**

June 29, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Within the trucking industry, the percentage of oversize/overweight cargo shipments has grown significantly in recent years, with some states having experienced 50% growth in those truck movements over the last 10 to 15 years. Moving oversize/overweight freight presents a number of challenges, including infrastructure constraints, regulatory restrictions, and complex permitting processes. This webinar will discuss the research conducted as part of *NCHRP 08-97, Finding and Using Data to Identify and Evaluate Corridors for Transporting Multi-state, Multimodal Oversize/Overweight Freight*, which will be formally released in the near future. The intent of this research project was to create a guidebook that describes the current oversize/overweight regulatory and permitting landscape in the U.S., identify and define the challenges associated with multi-state oversize or overweight freight shipments, and pinpoint options to address these challenges.

## **Let's Talk Performance: Basics of Target Setting**

July 12, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

The Let's Talk Performance Webinar Series is a recurring webinar series that aims to promote important topics in transportation performance management, present unique perspectives from a variety of stakeholders, and provide a forum for collaboration with fellow practitioners. The presenters, Doug McLeod from Florida DOT and Carl Mikyska from the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council, will be discussing target setting processes in Florida, and how these processes are advancing the state of the practice. FHWA will also provide a brief overview on the basics of target settings.

## **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.*

## **CONTACT US**

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