



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

CONGRESS BRIEF

Senate EPW Markup Next Week

On Wednesday, the Senate Environment and Public Work Committee is scheduled to mark-up a long-term transportation reauthorization bill. Though language has not been released, initial indications from staff indicate the bill will provide six years of funding and an increase relative to current funding levels, mainly tied to inflationary growth. NARC will share a complete analysis of the bill shortly after language is released early next week.

House and Senate Hold Funding Hearings

On consecutive days this week, the **House Ways and Means Committee** and **Senate Finance Committee** held hearings to explore long-term funding solutions for the nation's Highway Trust Fund (HTF). Additional funding is required because the primary source of receipts, the federal fuel tax, collects billions of dollars less than current spending. House Ways and Means Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) stated unequivocally his belief that a gas tax increase is entirely off the table, though the witnesses felt the gas tax remains the best vehicle for increased funding. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) was nearly as resolute, but did leave a small door open that could allow for the possibility of a gas tax increase. Otherwise, the conversation at both hearings offered little in the way of new ideas, and mostly centered on how to offset a massive transfer from the General Fund into the HTF, with the idea of taxing off-shore corporate holdings (repatriation) as a popular contender.

Shuster Reveals Proposal for FAA Reform

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) revealed in a **speech** to the Aero Club of Washington that his committee is drafting an Aviation Reauthorization bill that would reform the US air-traffic control (ATC) system and the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) technology certification process. In his outline of **principles** for aviation reform, Shuster proposes to privatize the ATC system by granting operation authority to an independent non-profit organization. The FAA would retain safety oversight and a board of aviation system users would be established to govern the new non-profit and ensure representation of the public interest. Shuster also proposes to streamline the FAA certification processes for aircraft and equipment, which he believes is the key to keeping the US innovative and globally competitive in transporting passengers and freight.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Complete Streets Survey for States and Regions due June 19

The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) requests that states and regions provide information on the status of Complete Streets implementation. In cooperation with FHWA, the NCHRP is administered by the Transportation Research Board and sponsored by members of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). NCHRP asks that participants take 10 minutes to complete their sixth survey in the Snapshot of Planning Practices series. Insights gained through the survey will be aggregated and published quarterly in a

snapshot report.

REGIONS BRIEF

Metro Atlanta Toilet Rebate Program

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District began a **toilet retrofit program** in 2008 to replace inefficient toilets with low-flow WaterSense toilet models in homes built in 1993 or earlier. Because the water-saving effort is ongoing, customers of local water utilities participating in the program are still able to apply for toilet rebates. The program has replaced over 100,000 toilets, saving an estimated 900 million gallons of water per year and reducing water use in the Atlanta metro area by 10% - even with a population increase.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Community/Economic Development Manager

Benton-Franklin Council of Governments, Richland, WA

Transportation Demand Management Program Manager

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Senior Transportation Planner

Pima Association of Governments, Tuscon, AZ

OPPORTUNITIES

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

Designing Places for People

June 23, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

America Walks will offer an informative and entertaining demonstration of street transformations and teach participants the most important elements to get people walking, economies thriving, and people working together to redesign cities for a walkable future. Participants will also have access to AARP's Sidewalks and Streets Survey tool and other resources to begin creating change in their communities.

Transportation Data Collection Program for a Large MPO

June 24, 2:00 – 4:00 PM ET

Hosted by the FHWA/FTA Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program (TPCB), this webinar is part of FHWA's Travel Model Improvement Program (TMIP) and will feature the transportation data collection experience at Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). Four presentations will be made to describe: an approach to designing and implementing a transportation data collection and management program for a large metropolitan area; MAG's recent innovative 2012 Occupancy study combining windshield and carousel methods to collect vehicle occupancy and vehicle type data; freight data sources for the development of a behavior-based freight model; and MAG's bottleneck study highlighting the Time-Lapse Aerial Photography survey and private sector speed based bottleneck identification algorithm.

Sustainable Strategies for Concrete Pavements: Materials, Design, Construction

June 25, 1:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Through their Sustainable Pavements Program, FHWA recently published *Towards Sustainable Pavement Systems: A Reference Document* as a technical resource to increase the awareness, visibility, and body of knowledge of sustainability considerations in all phases of the pavement life cycle. In conjunction, the FHWA has launched a five-webinar series to help implement and promote key elements of pavement sustainability as outlined in their publication. This third webinar in the series will focus on the sustainability implications of concrete paving materials, aggregates, design and construction considerations, and emerging trends.

Using Performance-Based Practical Design to Improve Safety

July 1, 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET

Sponsored in partnership by the FHWA, Sevatec, and the Project for Public Space, this ContextSensitiveSolutions.org webinar will feature presentations by FHWA staff offering best practices for the application of performance-based design principals. Speakers will inform participants about several FHWA resources, including the Crash Modification Factors Clearinghouse, to help improve the safety performance of transportation projects.

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