



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

CONGRESS BRIEF

Senate Rejects Rescissions Package

The Senate yesterday rejected President Trump's proposal to rescind \$15 billion in appropriated funds from various federal agencies. Senators Richard Burr (R-NC) and Susan Collins (R-ME) joined with Democrats in voting against the bill, which failed in a 48-50 vote. The proposal's first version was released in May and a slightly modified version was passed by the House in a 210-206 vote earlier this month.

Innovation and America's Infrastructure: Examining the Effects of Emerging Autonomous Technologies on America's Roads and Bridges

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing last week on how to incorporate autonomous vehicles in U.S. infrastructure. Several of the witnesses and senators indicated a desire to significantly upgrade roadways by adding road markings and signage. However, New York City DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg argued that it is not realistic to expect cities to overhaul existing infrastructure and that the technology should be developed to operate in existing environments. Shailen Bhatt from ITS America also stated that many states struggle to invest in innovative technology because of the difficulty to maintain their existing infrastructure.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Trump Administration Proposes Overhaul of Federal Agencies

The Trump administration has released a plan to dramatically change federal agencies, including a merger of the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Labor into a single agency called the U.S. Department of Education and the Workforce. USDOT does not face significant changes, but the administration's report states that "the proposal would spin off FAA's air traffic control services and the Saint Lawrence Seaway from the Government; transfer to DOT responsibilities for coastal and inland waterways navigation from the Corps; and integrate into DOT certain DHS programs related to surface transportation security, including transit security grants." Many of the proposed changes would require congressional approval and are likely to be met with heavy political opposition. The **full report** and **fact sheet** are available on the White House website.

Study on Metropolitan Planning Scenario Development: Costs and Benefits

The *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (MAP-21) required FHWA and FTA to evaluate the costs and benefits of scenario planning. The resulting study drew from 13 MPO interviews and nine case studies to highlight the benefits and financial requirements for developing scenarios. It concludes that scenario planning is beneficial when MPOs have the flexibility to use it to fit their needs.

MPO Staffing and Organizational Structures

This report by the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida updates a 2010 report, detailing the staffing and organizational structure of 279 MPOs across the country. The research provides information on board structure, organizational structure, employment, funding, workforce development, and performance-based planning/programming.

The report also found that over 50 percent of MPO directors expect to retire within the next ten years.

REGIONS BRIEF

Rural Counties in Central Ohio Nearing Completion of Transportation Plan

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) in Columbus, Ohio has been working with the Ohio DOT (ODOT) and officials in seven nonmetropolitan counties to develop the Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization (CORPO). CORPO recently completed a long-range transportation plan that will be submitted to ODOT to give them status as a rural transportation planning organization (RTPO). Once it receives that designation, MORPC will assist with statewide planning, including the development of a transportation improvement program (TIP) and coordination of planning with other areas.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Legal Counsel

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Senior Planner (Lead Planner)

Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency, West Palm Beach, FL

Executive Director

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Lansing, MI

OPPORTUNITIES

[View full list of opportunities!](#)

FHWA/FTA PBPP Implementation Office Hours

Session 1: June 25, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM ET

Session 2: June 28, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM ET

FHWA and FTA will hold two sessions of Performance-based Planning and Programming (PBPP) Implementation Office Hours. The goal of this training event is to help MPOs, transit agencies, and state DOTs successfully transition to performance-based transportation programs. The focus of these sessions will be on the performance management components of the FHWA/FTA transportation planning regulations. This Office Hours event will be delivered through a “flipped” webinar classroom approach. Flipped instructional approaches combine advance “prework” followed by “live” webinar or in-person sessions.

FHWA Funding Opportunity: National Economic Partnerships for Multi-Jurisdictional Coordination

Informational Webinar: **June 27, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET**

FHWA is accepting Letters of Interest (LOIs) from MPOs and state DOTs to establish National Economic Partnerships that facilitate innovative multi-jurisdictional coordination and regional planning. The National Economic Partnerships opportunity is a reincarnation of past megaregions activities. There are four areas of interest for FHWA that include: implementing coordination and planning solutions for an already existing regional activity and deploying an innovative solution, approach, or tool to address a multi-jurisdictional issue. [LOIs. must be received on or before 4:00 PM ET on July 9.](#)

FHWA Technical Assistance for Health in Transportation

Letters of Interest Deadline Extended to July 6

FHWA is offering technical assistance to test a Multimodal Corridor Planning Framework in up to five state or local transportation agencies. The purpose of this technical assistance is to support transportation agencies while using the framework to improve health outcomes and enhance community considerations. The focus is on the needs of the community that the selected corridor serves by enhancing collaboration and building partnerships that promote a healthy environment, accessibility, and economic revitalization. The test team should be led by the state, regional, or local transportation agency advancing the corridor study. Partnerships are welcome and may include community advocacy groups; land use or economic development agencies; transit

providers; public health agencies; or others. Any transportation corridor may be proposed for testing during the study period, August 2018 - July 2020.

TAM Plans for Small and Medium Providers

July 11, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

This webinar will review how two small/medium agencies coordinate new and existing agency efforts to work towards a completed transit asset management (TAM) plan. The webinar will feature presentations from Andrew Choi, maintenance operations planner from Long Beach Transit, and Frank Knorek, compliance analyst from Luzerne County Transportation Authority. The July webinar is part of a larger webinar series FTA is hosting in 2018 to address important topics relating to TAM. TAM is an essential practice for providing safer, more reliable transit service nationwide while helping lower operating costs.

Opportunities for Walkability in Rural Communities and Small Towns

July 11, 2:00 PM ET

Join this America Walks webinar to explore some of the work and trends of walkability in rural communities. You will learn about resources that can help create walkable communities.

CONTACT US

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