



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

Updated NARC Transportation Policies & Priorities

At the 52nd Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, NARC's Board of Directors approved the updated *Transportation Policies and Priorities* document. Several changes and additions were made to address member and administration priorities.

Member Request: Automated Vehicle Action Plans

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments in Washington, D.C. is interested in your activities related to autonomous vehicles (AVs). They are exploring how to prepare the region and the impacts the region will face. Have you formed a task force or developed an action plan for your region? Please send responses to Sarah Reed (sarah@narc.org).

CONGRESS BRIEF

NHTSA Administrator Nominee Approved in Senate Committee

The Senate Commerce Committee voted 14-13 on party lines to support Heidi King as the next National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) administrator. King is currently the agency's deputy administrator and has been leading NHTSA for over a year. King joins FTA nominee Thelma Drake in the wait for a full Senate confirmation vote on the floor.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

USDOT Announces Funding to Improve Transit Bus Infrastructure

Last week, FTA announced \$366.3 million in competitive grant funding for transit bus projects nationwide. The **Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program** awards projects that improve buses and their facilities, such as buildings for storage and maintenance. The program allocates 10 percent of the funds to rural areas. Last year, FTA received 453 project proposals from 53 states and territories totaling approximately \$2 billion, although only \$264 million was available for award. The application period will close on August 6 and information on the upcoming webinar is below.

FHWA National Dialogue on Highway Automation

This week, NARC staff attended FHWA's second National Dialogue on Highway Automation planning and policy workshop in Philadelphia, PA. The event focused on gathering input from stakeholders on the future of automation and the policy and planning needs of state and local governments for implementation. A report detailing the discussions will be developed following each session. FHWA is hosting four more of these workshops across the country on the topics of data, freight, operations, and safety. **Details about the upcoming sessions are available on the FHWA website.**

REGIONS BRIEF

AVs May Make Downtown Traffic Even Worse

A study from the World Economic Forum, the Boston Consulting Group, and the City of Boston suggests that travel time will increase in downtown areas over the next decade, as autonomous vehicles and mobility-on-demand services proliferate. This echoes earlier warnings from University of California Davis and Toyota, which concluded street traffic in major cities, urban sprawl, and pollution would increase due to the increasing popularity of ride-hailing services. As

city governments become aware of these potential pitfalls, they must work to discourage single-occupancy rides and continue promoting public transportation to ease downtown traffic, according to an author of the study.

High-Speed Rail Between Tampa and Orlando is Back in Play

Florida Governor Rick Scott announced last week that the Florida DOT and Central Florida Expressway Authority received an unsolicited proposal to lease state-owned property along Interstate 4. This action by Brightline creates the opportunity for a procurement process to establish private passenger rail service between Tampa and Orlando. The corridor was designated in 2010 for federally funded high-speed rail, but Governor Scott rejected it because he feared it would leave taxpayers to subsidize the operating costs. The trip would take about an hour and would be part of a planned extension of the Brightline service in South Florida.

ARTBA's President and CEO to Retire

After 30 years of service, Pete Ruane will retire from the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) in August. During his tenure, Ruane developed and launched economic research, safety, and education programs and created the 31-organization Transportation Construction Coalition. He also encouraged ARTBA to create the Public-Private Partnerships in Transportation membership division to help develop legislation that encourages private investment in transportation.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Transportation Planner I – Sustainable Development

North Central Texas Council of Governments, Arlington, TX

Transportation Planner II – Sustainable Development

North Central Texas Council of Governments, Arlington, TX

Transportation Funding Specialist I

North Central Texas Council of Governments, Arlington, TX

Transportation Funding Specialist II

North Central Texas Council of Governments, Arlington, TX

Freight Planner I – Freight Planning

North Central Texas Council of Governments, Arlington, TX

Freight Planner II – Freight Planning

North Central Texas Council of Governments, Arlington, TX

Transportation Programs Manager

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, Albany, OR

Director of Transportation Planning and Data

Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, Allentown, PA

Aging and Disability Resource Center Specialist

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

OPPORTUNITIES

[View full list opportunities!](#)

5339(b) Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program

July 10, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

FTA is hosting a webinar to provide more information about their Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program funding opportunity. Join FTA program staff to learn more about the funding, application eligibility and criteria, and the submission process. FTA issued its **notice of funding** for the bus program on June 21. The **Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program** will award funds competitively to assist in the financing

of capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, purchase or lease buses and related equipment, and to rehabilitate, purchase, construct or lease bus-related facilities.

Data Sharing and Privacy

July 12, 4:00 – 4:30 PM ET

With access to troves of new data, how do governments protect privacy? What legal rules affect data management and public access? Where are the barriers to data sharing collaborations between private and public-sector entities? As governments wrestle with developing policies to accommodate and encourage innovative technologies, data sharing between public and private entities is becoming more commonplace. The implications for data management, user privacy, and data-driven decision-making are far-reaching. Understanding the legal and practical challenges and opportunities behind various data sharing options is an important step for both public and private agencies to make the most of the data available. Join Eno for a webinar to learn about how data management and sharing can work while protecting privacy and allowing for research and data-driven decision making.

CONTACT US

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