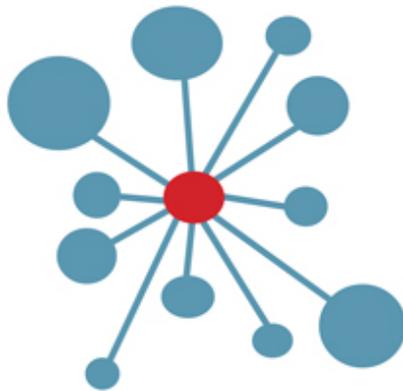




NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



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**2017 executive directors conference
october 22 - october 24
san antonio, tx**

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CONGRESS BRIEF

SAFER TRANSIT Act

Last week co-chairs of the House Public Transportation Caucus, Barbara Comstock (R-VA) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL), **introduced** the *Securing America's Facilities, Equipment, and Rail: Taking Responsibility for American National Security in Transit (SAFER TRANSIT) Act*. The SAFER TRANSIT Act aims to provide security to public transit riders in the wake of recent terrorist attacks and reauthorizes post-9/11 programs that have expired, such as the Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response teams. The bill creates a specific transit security training program through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and authorizes DHS research programs through 2020.

More Infrastructure Package Delays

With just fifteen working days left in the Senate until August recess, the hopes of creating an infrastructure package this year are rapidly diminishing, if they are not already dead. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Chairman John Thune (R-SD) told reporters last week that getting floor time for major legislation will be tough, which may push the issue until 2018. Thune also said that the White House has yet to release any legislative text, which has left Congress waiting for direction.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

USDOT Announces TIFIA Loan for NYC's Moynihan Train Hall Redevelopment Project

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao announced that the Build America Bureau will provide a \$537.1 million *Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA)* loan to the New York State Urban Development Corporation d/b/a Empire State Development for the construction of the Moynihan Train Hall Redevelopment Project. The project will ease congestion and delays at Penn Station by creating a new home for Amtrak at the James A. Farley Post Office Building. The new facility will provide ticketing for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) Long Island Rail Road service. The Port Authority of NY and NJ, MTA, Amtrak, and private developers will contribute the remaining funds for the \$1.3 billion project. Construction is expected to be completed in December 2020.

FTA Fiscal Year 2017 Apportionment Tables

FTA has posted the *Supplemental FY 2017 Apportionment Notice* and tables making available over \$12 billion in formula and discretionary funding for public transportation. The **January 19, 2017 Federal Register notice** provided interim guidance for FTA's programs in 2017 and the newly released supplemental notice provides additional guidance in **three areas**.

Administration Pulls Out of Gateway Program Development Corporation

On June 30, the Trump administration formally withdrew from the Gateway Program Development Corporation Board of Trustees. The Gateway Program is working to increase capacity between New York City and Newark, NJ by constructing a tunnel under the Hudson River and providing other rail and bridge improvements. The letter stated that it is not standard practice for USDOT to serve on local transportation projects boards, but Transportation Secretary Chao has reassured project supporters that the project remains an administration priority. This news, however, follows an administration proposal to eliminate a grant program in its 2018 budget that would fund the Portal North Bridge project in New Jersey, a key part of the initial phase of the \$24 billion project.

REGIONS BRIEF

Let's Not Get Run Over by Major Transportation Trends

In this blog post, Lyle Wray, executive director of the Capitol Region Council of Governments in Hartford, CT, explores community impacts of ride-sharing and solutions for working with disruptive technologies such as shared rides, electric vehicles, autonomous vehicles, and connected vehicles. Wray suggests developing a framework for measuring impacts, forecasting, and tracking results of pilots aimed at helping communities incorporate these new transportation technologies.

MVRPC Introduces the Equity Regional Profile

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) released the *Miami Valley Equity Regional Profile* in partnership with the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity. The profile provides historical context on the issue of equity and presents an analysis of equity at the regional and sub-regional level. The study revealed that the MVRPC region faces both racial and economic segregation and that inequity has increased over the years. MVRPC will use the profile to increase awareness and guide future transportation and development projects to help expand opportunity in their region.

Volvo Cars to Go All Electric

Starting in 2019 every new Volvo will have an electric motor. This announcement is one of the most significant moves from the auto industry to put electrification at the center of business and to phase out conventional combustion engines. They plan to offer fully electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid cars, and mild hybrid cars under Volvo and Polestar, their performance car arm.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Community Development Administrator

Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, UT

Planner I

Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization, West Palm Beach, FL

OPPORTUNITIES

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

Engaging with UC Davis' National Center for Sustainable Transportation

July 18, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

NARC will host a webinar/call and dialogue with Laura Podolsky (Policy Director, **National Center for Sustainable Transportation** (NCST)) to introduce NARC members to a potential resource for information, research, and educational opportunities. Podolsky will provide a quick

overview of USDOT's University Transportation Center (UTC) program and NCST, highlight some of NCST's recently completed research and new research kicking off this fall, and share opportunities for engaging in NCST's research and related activities. Plenty of time will be available for questions and dialogue on the most pressing challenges, information gaps, and research needs faced by NARC members. Your feedback will help inform future NCST research and educational initiatives. Erich Zimmermann, NARC's Transportation Director, serves on NCST's Leadership Council.

Southern Transportation and Air Quality Summit 2017

August 29-30, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX

The Southern Transportation and Air Quality Summit 2017 is an event sponsored by FHWA and EPA Regions 4 and 6 and will be hosted by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) this summer. The purpose of the summit is to bring together stakeholders from both the transportation and air quality communities to discuss the current and future regulatory environment, technologies, and practices vital to the field of air quality and transportation. The summit is geared to practitioners involved with public agencies at all levels. A host of speakers from within the southern and eastern regions will present a number of key topics, best practices, and latest information vital to transportation, planning, and air quality professionals.

CONTACT US

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