



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

Conference Note! It was great to see so many of you in Salt Lake City to kick off NARC's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Thank you to the participants, speakers, sponsors and host, the Wasatch Front Regional Council. The majority of presentations and videos from NARC's 50th Annual Conference and Exhibition are now available for download on our **conference webpage**. Please stay tuned for further updates.

CONGRESS BRIEF

Congress is in session.

FAA Extension Agreement Reached

Yesterday, lawmakers in both chambers announced a 14-month FAA extension agreement that includes policy changes and funding through September 2017. Some important aviation safety provisions in the extension include stricter airport worker vetting requirements, stronger mental health screening for pilots, and a request to grow the TSA PreCheck program. On the consumer side, the extension requires airlines to refund baggage fees when items are lost or extensively delayed and also requires that children 13 and under are seated near an adult or older child traveling with them. The bill also establishes processes to detect, identify, and mitigate unauthorized drones near airports. While air traffic control privatization is not included, Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee shows no sign of abandoning his position and will continue to push for this in future bills.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

FASTLANE Program Grant Recipients

The Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant program was included in the FAST Act to provide funding for nationally significant highway, bridge, and freight projects. USDOT submitted its list of awardees this week to the authorizing committees of Congress who have 60-days to review the selections. The \$759 million program will fund 18 projects across the country that were selected from the 212 applicants by USDOT.

Driverless Cars Guidelines

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said last month that he expects USDOT to release guidelines on driverless cars by the end of the summer. He indicated that the guidelines would include guidance on federal technology regulation and how it would overlap with states' oversights. Secretary Foxx acknowledged the complicated nature of the issue between the states that govern vehicle use and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which regulates vehicles. The upcoming guidelines will establish which governments have jurisdictions in which areas.

USDOT Every Place Counts Design Challenge Winners Announced

Secretary Foxx announced the four winning cities for the Every Place Counts Design Challenge. The program focuses on reconnecting people to opportunity and supports inclusive community design solutions to infrastructure divide issues. The winning cities, Spokane, WA; Ramsey County, MN; Nashville, TN; and Philadelphia, PA, will each hold a design session with on-site technical assistance and a variety of stakeholders to address the identified infrastructure challenge in each

region.

FTA Launches New Website Featuring TOD Resources

The recently launched FTA transit-oriented development (TOD) website is designed to help users create successful and innovative TOD projects in their communities. It features leading research on the subject, funding and financing options for TOD projects, and the opportunity for TOD professionals to connect.

EPA Revises MOVES GHG Guidance

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its revised Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator (MOVES) greenhouse gas (GHG) technical guidance document that describes how to use MOVES2014/2014a models to estimate GHG emissions and energy consumption from on-road vehicles in a state or metropolitan area. This replaces the 2012 guidance and provides recommendations on using MOVES to conduct a federal GHG analysis.

REGIONS BRIEF

CMAP Releases First ON TO 2050 Snapshot Report

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) released their first snapshot report in preparation of their ON TO 2050 comprehensive plan. *Regional Economy and Clusters: Building Our Strengths* dives into an overview of the Chicago region's economic performance and key specializations. The report focuses on industry clusters and breaks down the differences between traded and local clusters, and the role they play in the economy.

NACTO Releases Policy Recommendations for the Future of Automated Vehicles

The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) released a policy statement with recommendations for incorporating automated vehicles into city transportation networks. Their key recommendations include planning for fully automated vehicles rather than partial, rethinking streets and expressways, ensuring safety on city streets, creating data-sharing requirements, and changing planning models to incorporate this technology.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Senior Development Specialist

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Outreach Associate

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Public Safety Planner

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Director of Aging Services

Capital Area Council of Governments, Austin, TX

Senior Data Analyst

Pima Association of Governments, Tucson, AZ

Planner I

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

OPPORTUNITIES

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

Autonomy and the Future of Urban Mobility

July 11, 12:00 – 12:45 PM ET

Self-driving vehicles are ubiquitous in the news today. As part of Volpe's new speaker series, *The Future of Transportation: Safety, Opportunity, and Innovation*, Dr. Emilio Frazzoli will discuss recent advances in the design of autonomous vehicle systems, ranging from a single vehicle to a fleet capable of serving the mobility needs of a whole city. His talk will cover recent developments

in real-time planning, control, and decision making for autonomous vehicles on public roads, and providing mobility-on-demand services to customers in an urban environment. Based on real data from several cities worldwide, Dr. Frazzoli also will address the potential impact of autonomous shared cars on urban mobility.

TMIP Webinar: Travel Models that Customers Can Readily Understand

July 13, 2:00 – 4:00 PM ET

In this webinar, Sam Granato from Ohio DOT will discuss his experiences working in and with local agencies on travel models that focus on needs and methods that the customers readily understand. Also presented will be the eventual evolution of these techniques into dynamic traffic assignment and (path-based) travel time reliability.

NARC Webinar! Proposed Rule on MPO Coordination

July 13, 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET

Please join NARC for a member webinar outlining the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), *Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform*, from FHWA and FTA. The NPRM will drastically affect MPOs across the nation. NARC is developing an analysis and response strategy and seeks your input.

FHWA MPO Coordination NPRM Webinar

July 15, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

On Monday, June 27, USDOT published a Notice of proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on *Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform* in the Federal Register. This webinar will review the NPRM and address questions. The comment period closes August 26. USDOT encourages stakeholders to review the proposed rule and submit comments to the docket.

Talking Freight July 2016: Sustainable Freight Transportation Services

July 20, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

One of the challenges for freight transportation carriers, shippers, and government agencies is to find ways to maximize transportation efficiency and economic viability while at the same time minimizing the environmental impacts of freight transportation. In many cases, improved environmental sustainability efforts, such as enhancing fuel efficiency, concurrently provide economic benefits for freight carriers and shippers, while in other cases supply chain companies need to adjust their approaches in order to meet environmental requirements. Various government agencies at the federal, state, regional, and local levels have taken steps to promote freight transportation sustainability initiatives that can benefit freight carriers and other companies directly involved in supply chain operations. This webinar will examine some of the initiatives different levels of government have been implementing to promote sustainable transportation practices that be utilized by and ultimately benefit freight carriers and other companies involved in supply chain operations.

NCHRP Snapshot Survey: Impacts of HOV to HOT Lane Conversion

Survey Closes July 25

The AASHTO Standing Committee on Planning (SCOP), through the NCHRP 8-36 program, invites your participation in a brief survey covering current and future planning activities at state DOTs, MPOs, and regional organizations. The insights and responses you provide will be used to develop a quarterly series of "snapshot" publications. These snapshots highlight current practices, address trending topics, provide best practice examples, and act as a resource for planners, executives, legislators, and others interested in planning practices. This survey explores the topics of HOV/HOT lanes and managed motorways concepts to help maximize existing capacity. **Prior snapshots** have addressed issues such as: freight, bike/ped, operations, scenario planning, innovative long range planning, crash data, and integrated planning.

Supporting Freight Operations with ITS

August 3, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

This webinar will focus on ITS strategies that improve trucking operations, mobility, and public safety. There is a growing need for the public sector to include freight planning into transportation system management. Population growth will result in an increased demand for infrastructure to move large amounts of freight. Factors such as changing demographics, e-commerce, home deliveries, automated vehicles, and the shift to regional warehouses to facilitate just-in-time

deliveries will add to today's increasing congestion challenge. ITS is an important strategy to integrate freight activities with other modes of transportation and to monitor freight movement activity, including regulatory restrictions designed to support safe highway operations, economic productivity, and environmental stewardship.

Conference on the Use of Scenario Planning in Transportation Planning

August 14-17, Portland, OR

Advance Registration Ends July 15

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) is sponsoring a conference on scenario planning for planning professionals involved in the metropolitan and statewide planning process. This event will bring together state DOT, MPO, and local agency staff, consultants, and researchers to share knowledge, experiences and the latest research on using scenario planning approaches. Participants in the conference will explore the use of scenario planning, strategies to develop scenarios, and ways that transportation plans can respond to scenarios. The conference highlights case studies in which scenarios were used to inform transportation planning and funding decisions. Sessions are interactive and allow participants to engage directly in the definition of scenarios and interact with planners who have applied scenario planning tools.

NARC Event! 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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