



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

CONGRESS BRIEF

Hatch Releases Papers by Tax Working Groups

Earlier this week, Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) released a set of reports prepared by five Bipartisan Tax Working Groups. Each considered a set of issues to identify tax-related challenges and propose changes to the tax code. The transportation-related issues were considered by the **Community Development & Infrastructure** Working Group, co-chaired by Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) along with Senators Dan Coats (R-IN), Tim Scott (R-SC), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), and Bill Nelson (D-FL). The working group considered a range of options to meet the funding challenges faced by the highway trust fund (HTF), which needs \$11 billion to finish the year and up to \$100 billion to spread over a six-year timeframe. The working group's conclusion points to "deemed repatriation" as the chosen interim solution to fund the HTF, which taxes earnings that corporations are currently holding overseas. Transition to a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) fee was identified as the most appropriate long-term solution. Repatriation has certainly been part of recent transportation funding conversations, but faces opposition from the committee chairman, among others.

WiFi Innovation Act May Hinder ITS Efforts

Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) introduced the **Wi-Fi Innovation Act** earlier this year, which proposes to share the radio frequency currently reserved for use by USDOT. For over a decade, USDOT has been developing and testing a wireless safety technology system that lets vehicles communicate with each other and with infrastructure, and is operated at a radio frequency set aside by the Federal Communications Commission 15 years ago. The concern with sharing this frequency spectrum with public Wi-Fi is that it might interfere with the operation of vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) signals, causing a dangerous malfunction in the life-saving technology that is expected to be able to prevent up to 80% of car crashes. National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator Mark Rosekind concluded, "This is not about convenience or access to the web. This is about saving lives. We already made that decision." Indeed, the federal government and the auto industry have each invested over half a billion dollars into exploring this technology and the NHTSA is working on a regulatory rulemaking to mandate V2V installation in new cars by 2019.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

New FHWA Guide on Public Involvement in Transportation

Planning and project development requires meaningful input from the public for successful outcomes. FHWA recognizes that many members of the public are genuinely interested in what is happening in their community, but don't know how they can effectively provide input to influence the outcome of transportation plans or projects. To help transportation agencies encourage and facilitate public involvement, FHWA's Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty has produced *Public Involvement Techniques for Transportation Decisionmaking*. This guide provides a variety of tools to increase public interest, involvement, and input.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Senior Transportation Advisor

Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, DC

Executive Director

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Pinellas Park, FL

Contracts and Procurement Analysts

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Planner I / Planner II

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Peoria, IL

Executive Director

Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency, Tallahassee, FL

Executive Assistant

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Regional Research Analyst

Flint Hills Regional Council, Fort Riley, KS

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Applications of Vehicle Probe Data for Performance Measurement

July 9, 2:00 – 4:00 PM ET

The University of Maryland's Center for Advanced Transportation Technology (CATT) research faculty will discuss the CATT Laboratory's research and innovations in vehicle probe data applications. Agenda topics include Background on Probe Data and Validation; Vehicle Probe Project Suite of Data Visualization and Retrieval Tools; *Freeway Performance Measurement: The Maryland Mobility Report*; Arterial Performance Measurement; Winter Weather Impact and Recovery; Freight Fluidity; Work Zone Performance Measurement; and Value of Travel Time Reliability and Transportation Projects Decision Making.

Fundamental Issues for Road Transport Automation

July 15, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

USDOT will shed light on the diversity in road transport automation systems based on system goals, roles for the driver and the automation system, and levels of complexity in the environments where the vehicles must operate. The webinar will also review the state-of-the-art and state-of-the-market in road transport automation systems, identifying the ways in which infrastructure could provide support for automation functionality. Speakers will discuss the possible roles of the public and private sectors in developing and operating vehicle automation systems, considering private vehicles on public infrastructure, and the potential for new business models to support the infrastructure development and operation.

Talking Freight: Reshoring Overseas Manufacturing to the US and North America, and its Impacts on the Transportation System

July 15, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Harry Moser from the Reshoring Initiative will present various factors companies should consider when locating or relocating their international manufacturing operations, and introduce the transportation implications of reshoring manufacturing to the United States. Dr. M.D. Sarder from the University of Mississippi will go into depth on transportation implications by discussing the on-going National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE) study, *Reshoring and Its Impacts on Transportation Infrastructure and the U.S. Economy*.

TMIP: Using Multiday GPS Data

July 16, 2:00 – 4:00 PM ET

FHWA's Travel Model Improvement Program (TMIP) will introduce four presentations discussing the processing and use of large GPS datasets taken over multiple days. Topics covered include: the deviation between actual and shortest travel time paths; using the three-day *California Household Travel Survey* to examine intra-person travel behavior variation; using vehicle GPS data to understand travel time reliability; and capturing personal modality styles in the San Francisco Bay Area using multiday GPS data.

Active Transportation and Equity: Key Challenges and Opportunities from the Field

July 21, 1:00 - 2:00 PM ET

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership, whose mission is to advance safe walking and biking to school and foster livable sustainable communities, will discuss why equity is crucial in the world of active transportation, how equity is being prioritized in the field, and how best practices have bridged the gap between community need and active transportation's benefits.

Advancing a Sustainable Highway System: Sustainable Pavements

July 29, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

The Sustainable Transport and Climate Change Team within FHWA's Office of Natural Environment produced a series of webinars based on the *Advancing a Sustainable Highway System: Highlights of FHWA Sustainability Activities* report. This third webinar in the series will focus on Sustainable Pavements, and will feature a presentation from Gina Alhstrom from FHWA's Office of Asset Management, Pavements, and Construction. Her talk will provide an overview of the Sustainable Pavements Program and recently released *Sustainable Pavements Reference Document*.

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