

July 19, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

NARC Legislative Briefings

Over the next two months, NARC is offering weekly legislative briefings designed to bring you up-to-date with current legislative trends and the ways in which these bills may impact regions. Here is the next briefing on the schedule:

July 25, 3:00 PM ET: FY 2019 Budget and Appropriations

This session will focus on the FY 2019 budget and appropriations process, and how programs that are important to localities and regions are being funded compared to last year.

Other sessions will focus on transportation, autonomous vehicle legislation, and the likely congressional agenda that will begin after Labor Day – exact dates and times will be announced. Within days of the mid-term elections, NARC will host a conference call laying out what the election outcome means for the remainder of the 115th Congress and the 116th Congress, which begins January 3, 2019.

The call-in information for these legislative briefings is below:

- Call-in Number: (571) 317-3122
- Access Code: 480-330-989
- Audio Pin: #

Contact Maci Morin at maci.morin@narc.org or Neil Bomberg at neil@narc.org with questions.

CONGRESS BRIEF

House Republicans Aiming to Release Infrastructure Plan

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) has been working for months on a legislative framework for infrastructure that could be released as early as next week. The plan is expected to take a different approach than the Trump plan, in part by focusing on Highway Trust Fund solvency. It is unknown if Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR) will co-sponsor the proposal, and there is little hope that it will go anywhere this fall. Shuster plans to release the bill before the August recess to set the agenda for Republicans in the new Congress if Republicans hold the chamber, and as a part of his legacy as Chairman. Shuster is retiring at the end of this Congress in January.

Senate FAA Package

Yesterday, Senator John Thune (R-SD) said that to get the FAA reauthorization passed, he plans to add two other committee-approved bills to authorize the Transportation Security Administration (S. 1872) and the National Transportation Safety Board (S. 2202) to the FAA bill. By adding other priority legislation to the underlying bill, he hopes to entice lawmakers who might otherwise not support the FAA bill on its own. Thune, Chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, also sees this as a way to take advantage of floor time, which will be in short supply for the rest of the year. He and Ranking Member Bill Nelson (D-FL) are working through 100 amendments to the FAA reauthorization bill and are aiming to have a list ready for the end of this week.

Another piece of legislation could also be included in this broader package: the AV Start bill (S. 1885) dealing with automated vehicles. AV Start is opposed by several Democrats, however, so its inclusion could be risky. Some smoothing over of the current opposition is possible, but it remains unclear how likely that is. A large coalition of law enforcement, safety, bicycle and pedestrian interests, and others joined a chorus of opposition to AV Start this week with **their letter to the Senate**.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

FRA Issues Funding Opportunity with \$318 Million for Capital Projects

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program which includes over \$318 million in grant funding. The CRISI program funds projects that improve safety and efficiency of intercity passenger rail and freight rail. Of the available funds, 25 percent will go towards rural communities and preference will be given to projects with a 50 percent non-federal funding match from a combination of private, state, or local funds. Applications are due September 17 and a webinar will be held August 8. More information on the **webinar** can be found below in the Opportunities section.

REGIONS BRIEF

Lyft to Incentivize Bikes and Scooters to Connect to Transit

After their recent purchase of Motivate, Lyft is working to integrate bikes and scooters into their platform. Motivate, now under Lyft, is the largest bike-share operator in the US and runs Citi Bike in New York City and Ford's GoBike program in San Francisco. Lyft recently submitted a plan for bikes and scooters to San Francisco that stated they are considering a 100 percent discount on rides that connect with certain public transit stops. The company is also considering offering incentives and discounts to encourage people to use more bikes and scooters and plans to invest \$1 million in expanding public transit to underserved communities. This article also references a study by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) in Boston that looked at how ride-hailing is impacting public transit.

California Meets Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goal Early

Greenhouse gas emissions in California have fallen below 1990 levels years ahead of the goal. The California Air Resources Board said that pollution levels were down 13 percent since 2004, which is equal to taking 12 million cars off the road. California law requires that emissions drop below 1990 levels by 2020 and 40 percent below that by 2030. The 2030 goal will be more challenging but investment in renewable power, including solar and hydroelectric, has helped reduce harmful emissions.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Transportation Planning Specialist

Benton-Franklin Council of Governments, Richland, WA

Executive Director

Centralina Council of Governments, Charlotte, NC

Transportation Planner

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list opportunities!

Webinar Series on the Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program: Device Acquisition and Installation

Wyoming DOT Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment, July 23, 11:30 – 1:00 PM ET

NYCDOT Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment, July 30, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

Tampa Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment, August 7, 11:00 – 12:30 PM ET

USDOT will host a webinar for each pilot site about the connected vehicle devices being acquired and installed as part of the deployment. Representatives from each pilot site will provide an overview of their approach to identifying the type and number of devices, equipment, and software-based capabilities acquired for the pilot. The webinar will also address their approach to engaging with vendors and getting the devices in hand and installed while adhering to a stringent installation schedule.

Smart Columbus Program: CVE ConOps Webinar

July 25, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

The Connected Vehicle Environment (CVE) project is one of the nine projects in the Smart Columbus program and is a significant enabler to other technologies delivered through the other eight projects. The CVE project will integrate smart traveler applications, automated vehicles, connected vehicles, and smart sensors into its transportation network by focusing on building infrastructure and applications. This webinar will focus on the Concept of Operations (ConOps) developed by the City of Columbus. The ConOps conveys a high-level view of the system to be implemented from the viewpoint of each stakeholder. It frames the overall system, sets the technical course for the project, and serves as a bridge between early project motivations and the technical requirements. Finally, the ConOps provides stakeholders – and the larger ITS community – the opportunity to provide input as to how the proposed system should function, which will help build consensus and create a single vision for the system moving forward.

TREDPLAN-Regions Demonstration

July 31, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

TREDPLAN is a new and unique system for evaluating and communicating the interrelationship between growth, and freight activity for regional planning using a fusion of data including county-level freight data. TREDPLAN-Regions offers a way to put the regional shifts in freight-economy in perspective by offering an intuitive model, which links models of freight and the economy together to allow for dynamic forecasting of activity and tracking of inter-industry freight shipments. It allows for the comparison of regions based on stratified market segments, by commodity, mode, and foreign trading partner and domestic sources. This webinar will demonstrate TREDPLAN-Regions.

EPA and Port Everglades Partnership: Emission Inventories and Reduction Strategies Webinar

August 1, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

As part of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) broader Ports Initiative, EPA and Broward County's Port Everglades in Florida released a first-of-its-kind collaborative report describing how EPA and the Port developed baseline and future year emission inventories for nitrogen oxides (NOx), particulate matter (PM), and other harmful pollutants that result from typical port operations. The report also analyzes how hypothetical voluntary strategies such as reduced idling and deployment of cleaner diesel and electric technologies can cut pollution from existing and expanded port operations. This webinar will explore the recently released report.

NPMRDS Users Quarterly Technical Assistance Webinar

August 4 1:00 – 3:00 PM ET

The next National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) users webinar will focus on handling frequently asked questions related to the use of the NPMRDS, including common issues with conflation, metric reporting for the System Performance/Freight/CMAQ performance measures, and the National Highway System. Presenters will provide an update on recent developments with the NPMRDS (v2) and FHWA resources to support the use of the data set and the calculation of performance measures.

FRA Webinar on the FY 18 CRISI Grant Program

August 8, 10:00 – 11:30 AM ET

FRA is providing a webinar on the FY 18 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program, authorized by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act with over \$318 million in federal funds available for projects that will strengthen intercity passenger and freight rail, support capital projects, and boost safety initiatives including improved highway-rail grade crossings, and congestion mitigation. During the webinar, FRA will provide information about the grant program, new FY 18 updates and requirements, and how to apply for grant funding. Additionally, FRA will share expertise on

preparing Benefit-Cost Analyses for proposed CRISI projects. When registering for the webinar, registrants are encouraged to submit questions for the webinar's Q&A session.

Act Fast: The Growing Call for Slower Speeds

August 8, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Every community member has a right to safe places to walk and be physically active.

Unfortunately, the rise in pedestrian fatalities in recent years reminds us that our work in protecting that right is far from over. Hear from those leading the call for slower speeds and communities putting people first in the call for safer streets.

CONTACT US

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