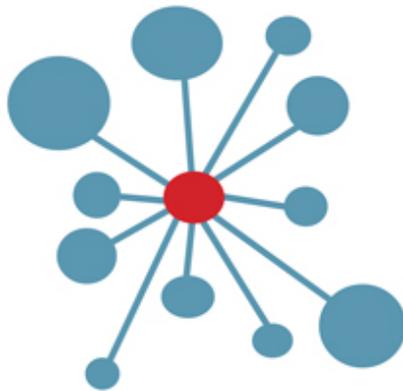**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS**

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

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CONGRESS BRIEF

THUD Spending Bill
House appropriators approved the $56.5 billion Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) appropriations bill during a full committee markup on July 17 by a 31-20 vote. The bill includes $17.8 billion for transportation programs and $38.3 billion for housing programs in fiscal year 2018. It provides funds for privatizing air traffic control but zeros out the popular Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program. The House routinely provides no funding for this program; however, TIGER will get a second chance when the Senate puts their bill together in coming weeks.

House Subcommittee Approves Self-Driving Car Bill
Self-driving vehicle legislation passed the House Commerce Consumer Protection Subcommittee yesterday by voice vote. The bill allows automakers to manufacture up to 100,000 autonomous vehicles per year. Automakers would still have to submit safety reports to regulators but they would not have to receive premarket approval. While this effort would expand the ability to get these vehicles on the road, some are concerned that it would take control away from state and local governments. The bill will head to the full committee for a vote next week.

House Passes Bill to Delay EPA Ozone Standards
The House voted on Tuesday to delay the implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ozone standards until 2025. The *Ozone Standards Implementation Act* (**H.R. 806**) rolls back EPA attainment designations for its latest ozone air quality benchmark. It passed 229-199 along party lines.

EAS Funding
The FAA bill being considered in the House would eliminate the mandatory funding mechanism for the Essential Air Service (EAS) program, which subsidizes commercial flights to small and rural airports. These mandatory funds are derived from fees charged on flights that fly through U.S. airspace but do not take off or land here. The move to privatize air traffic control would end the collection of these fees and the mandatory spending on EAS, instead funding it entirely through the annual appropriations process. President Trump has proposed eliminating non-

mandatory funding for the program. For now, the House THUD appropriations bill for FY 2018 rejects Trump's request to eliminate EAS, opting to fund it at FY 2017 levels.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

U.S. Census Bureau Releases New ACS Statistics

The U.S. Census Bureau has released new American Community Survey (ACS) estimates for detailed race, Hispanic Origin, ancestry, and tribal populations. These statistics provide the greatest level of statistical information for detailed populations. Two resources included in this release are the **Selected Population Tables**, which provide estimates for 416 race, Hispanic Origin, ancestry, and tribal population groups at numerous geographic areas, including census tracts; and the **American Indian and Alaska Native Tables**, which provide estimates for 1,119 detailed tribes at numerous geographic areas, including Alaska Native Regional Corporations and American Indian and Alaska Native Areas.

Infrastructure Advisory Council Executive Order

On July 19, the president issued an executive order establishing an infrastructure advisory council to study and make recommendations on several key issues. The order states that the council will have no more than 15 members and will be comprised of experts in a variety of fields. The council will explore how to generate new funding, accelerate pre-construction approval processes, and identify methods to increase public-private partnerships for infrastructure projects. Trump has previously said that he wants New York real estate developers Richard LeFrak and Steven Roth to lead the council.

REGIONS BRIEF

Iowa Data Bike

Iowa Data Bike is a proof-of-concept initiative by the Des Moines Area MPO in partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Using an app that senses the roughness of pavement, Data Bike will generate data scoring the condition of trails, as well as collect 360-degree imagery of the trails in the region for Google Street View. This innovative gathering of data will help create a long-term maintenance strategy for the region's extensive trail network.

Court Ruling Paves Way for Purple Line Construction to Begin

In a big win for advocates of the new transit line, a federal appeals court ruling yesterday will allow Maryland to continue to build the Purple Line while a lawsuit continues. This will allow the state to try to secure $900 million in federal grants to help build the 16-mile line between Montgomery and Prince George's counties. The ruling put on hold a 2016 ruling, which revoked the project's federal environmental approval until the state recalculated ridership projections. The Purple Line's original completion date was in spring 2022, but it will be pushed due to legal delays.

Auto Manufacturing's Slowdown Could Trouble Some U.S. Regions

Vehicle sales have declined for the last six consecutive months and automakers are responding by cutting back the workforce and number of shifts. Automakers have played a critical role in the manufacturing sector's recovery since early 2010 and were responsible for 60-80 percent of the total manufacturing growth over a 15-month period. This loss in the manufacturing sector could cause problems for regional governments. *Governing* magazine has compiled U.S. Department of Labor data highlighting regions that may be at risk for employment loss due to the slowdown of vehicle sales.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Executive Director
Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning Organization, Dover, DE

Transportation Planner
Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, Kelso, WA

Executive Director
Denver Regional Council of Governments, Denver, CO

Transportation Modeler/Analyst
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

Senior Transportation Planner
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

OPPORTUNITIES
View full list of grants and events!

Intergovernmental Partnerships
August 1, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET
Collaboration between state, county, and local governments is accelerating throughout the country – fueled by new technology and cost constraints. But what makes a great partnership? How can governments build trust and create the right incentives to make every level of government more effective and efficient?

This event will explore how the State of Ohio and local leaders are successfully harnessing data, technology, and know-how to provide all levels of government with the right tools to operate efficiently, make informed decisions, and enable growth. It will also look at cross-sector partnerships that resulted from Columbus' winning bid for USDOT's Smart City Challenge, and how a coalition of dedicated public servants is championing mobility and smart cities technology in Ohio's capital.

NARC Webinar! Cyber Security for Public Agencies: Top Mistakes to Avoid
August 1, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET
Public sector agencies are becoming increasingly focused on the need to secure government information networks and data. Today's public officials must be aware of threats such as ransomware, cyber extortion, hacktivism, attacks on critical infrastructure, cyber risk, breaches, and operational failure. Join this NARC and Public Technology Institute webinar to learn about the importance of cyber security for regions. The webinar will explore the current cyber security environment and provide insight on:

- Why public agencies are targets
- Who and what is behind the attacks
- The need to promote awareness within the public sector
- Available resources
- Tips to make you "cyber safe"

USDOT Seeking MPO to Support Transportation Disruption and Disaster Statistics Program
Applications Due: August 8
USDOT's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) requires support from a multi-state coalition of state DOTs and other transportation agencies to develop a consistent national Transportation Disruption and Disaster Statistics (TDADS) program. BTS will establish a cooperative agreement with an MPO, state transportation department, or university on behalf of a multi-state coalition, in support of TDADS. The vision of the program is a national system that contains data, statistics, dashboards, tools, and visualizations to analyze and understand multimodal interstate and inter-regional transportation system disruptions.

DOE's IdleBox Helps Organizations Promote Idling Reduction
Jurisdictions at all levels have clean air goals and limited fuel budgets. One way to address both issues is through vehicle idling reduction. The low-hanging fruit of fuel economy, idling reduction is a simple way to use less fuel and reduce pollution and greenhouse gases. DOE's Clean Cities Program offers an electronic education and outreach toolkit for promoting and implementing vehicle idling reduction called IdleBox. **IdleBox** will help you:

- Learn more about the benefits of idling reduction and technology options for your organization, fleet, or jurisdiction.

- Engage and educate others—including drivers, fleet managers, policymakers, sustainability managers, and others—on the value of idling reduction.
- Launch an idling reduction campaign for your organization, fleet, or jurisdiction.

IdleBox contains top-level messaging tools such as fact cards and stickers in addition to in-depth modules about idling reduction technology for specific vehicle types, including personal vehicles, light- and medium-duty fleet vehicles, work trucks, emergency vehicles, and heavy-duty vehicles. IdleBox also includes a database of state and local idling laws, **IdleBase**, and an idling fuel-savings **calculator**.

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