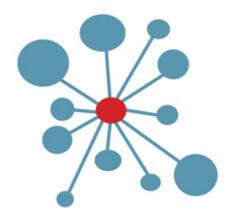**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS**

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CONGRESS BRIEF

Senate THUD Bill

The Senate Appropriations Committee today unanimously approved a $60.1 billion fiscal year (FY) 2018 spending bill that provides $3.6 billion more than the House Appropriations version. The Senate total includes $550 million for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. The Senate measure would provide $19.5 billion in discretionary funding for USDOT, $3.3 billion more than the president's budget request and $978 million above current levels. It also provides the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development with $40.2 billion, a 3.7 percent increase from FY2017. The $60.1 billion draft bill would also provide $2.1 billion for the New Starts program and includes a provision to increase the $4.50 cap that airports can charge per person for facilities, according to airport groups.

FAA Timeline Falling Behind

House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) has been scrambling to garner support for his FAA bill in the lower chamber ahead of the September 30 deadline. With just one more legislative day before the August recess, the issue will be pushed until after recess and will run up against the expiration of the agency's legal authority. The Senate has yet to take up its bill either, which does not include the divisive proposal to separate air traffic control from direct government control. With both chambers needing to pass their own bills and then conference their bills, an extension may be necessary.

On top of the slowing timeline, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) provided legal analysis to T&I ranking member Peter DeFazio (D-OR) stating that privatizing air traffic control could violate the Constitution. The **memo** stated three concerns that courts may find, including violating the due process clause, restricting the president's appointment power, and delegating Congress' authority to levy taxes. However, CRS cautions that despite these points it is hard to know how the courts would define the new organization and none of them seem insurmountable. Chairman Shuster responded by putting out **a release** stating that it was an initial analysis and that he appreciates DeFazio's concern that the legislation "adheres to the Constitution."

NACTO, NLC, T4A, NRDC Oppose Proposed AV Legislation

In response to draft legislation from the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee, the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), National League of Cities (NLC), Transportation for America (T4A), and Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) issued a statement on July 24 opposing the measure. Among their concerns are provisions that allow companies to self-certify the safety of their vehicles, and preempt state and local governments from regulating their own streets. The group also aims to preserve the Advisory Committee on Automated Transportation, which includes representation from cities, states, and transit agencies, rather than forming a new Highly Automated Vehicles Advisory Council. Their final request is for vehicle movement, safety, and performance data to be reported and available for governments to manage their assets and protect public safety.

The bill, titled the *Safely Ensuring Lives Future Deployment and Research In Vehicle Evolution (SELF DRIVE) Act*, passed the House Energy and Commerce Committee today in a 54-0 vote and will go to the House floor after recess.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

NY Governor Meets with Secretary Chao

Yesterday, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo visited Washington to meet with Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and the New York delegation. His visit emphasized the dire status of transit in New York City and New York's concern with securing funding for the Gateway Project. Neither office shared details following the meeting. This was Governor Cuomo's first trip to DC since lobbying for disaster relief after Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

National Transportation Statistics

USDOT's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) has released the quarterly updated National Transportation Statistics (NTS). NTS consists of more than 260 tables of national data – 67 of which were updated this week. BTS also released a historical series of **Freight Analysis Framework** data that allows users to analyze freight flow trends from 1997 to 2045 by using a combination of data from the new historical series, recent annual data, and long-range forecasts.

REGIONS BRIEF

Infrastructure at a Crossroads: Where Do We Go from Here?

As *Route Fifty* discusses in its new eBook, *Infrastructure at a Crossroads: Where Do We Go from Here?*, infrastructure isn't just about roads and bridges. In this collection of *Route Fifty* infrastructure articles, the authors consider the whole network of U.S. infrastructure, including water systems, passenger rail lines, and digital broadband. They discuss how local governments are looking to maintain, fix, and upgrade old infrastructure. The authors also touch on a topic that is sure to be on every local government planner's mind: how to find funding for these pricey projects.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Veteran Programs Coordinator
Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Community Development Director
City of Winston-Salem, Winston-Salem, NC

Senior Transportation Planner
City of Spokane Valley, Spokane Valley, WA

Planner I
Central Texas Council of Governments, Belton, TX

Senior Planner: Pedestrian – Bicycle Coordinator
Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization, West Palm Beach, FL

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. MORPC's Executive Director William Murdock is a part of the panel.

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"

Lyft Climate Impact Goals Webinar
August 3, 11:00 – 12:30 PM PT
Recently, Lyft's founders announced ambitious Climate Impact Goals, quantifying the company's commitment to large-scale deployment of shared electric autonomous vehicles, powered by renewable energy. Join this webinar to learn the details behind this initiative and how it will allow us to eliminate five million tons of carbon dioxide annually by 2025. During the webinar, they will answer questions, including:

- How will Lyft reach one billion electric, autonomous rides by 2025?
- How did they calculate five million tons of CO2 reduced per year by 2025?
- What are they doing now to get electric vehicles on the Lyft platform?

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