



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

CONGRESS BRIEF

Both chambers are on recess and will return on September 5.

Tea Party Candidate to Run as Democrat Against Shuster

After narrowly losing to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) in the Republican primary, Art Halvorson will run as a Democrat against Shuster in the fall. Halvorson secured enough write-in votes from Democrats during the April primary to run, but has strictly said he is a registered Republican running on the Democratic ticket to secure conservative voters. This largely unprecedented approach may not prove successful as Shuster beat the Democratic candidate in 2014 by over 20 percent, but the circumstances this time around are quite different.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

2016 TIGER Awards Announced

Last week, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced forty Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant winners from the nearly 600 applications submitted. The \$500 million grant program will fund projects in 32 states that range from rehabilitating regional bus facilities to improving highway freight interchanges. Since 2009 the program has provided a combined \$5.1 billion to 421 innovative projects that have sparked local and private investment in transportation networks across the country.

FTA 5-Year Research Strategic Plan National Online Dialogue

FTA invites you to provide input as they draft their five-year research strategic plan and choose research priorities. This plan helps FTA decide what research it should support over the next several years and can influence future grant programs based on proven solutions. You can post ideas, review, comment, and vote on others' input, and provide specific feedback on the **online dialogue page** until September 8. See the opportunities section below for information on a webinar about how to maximize your participation.

White House Unveils Plan to Boost Drones

The Obama Administration announced a new effort to expand funding for drone research and policy initiatives to begin including drones in the national airspace. FAA is creating an advisory committee and plans to release a proposed rule on operating drones directly over people by the end of this year while the U.S. Department of the Interior is working to develop programs that use drones to examine federal land. The industry is also implementing an educational effort to promote privacy best practices.

2013-2015 Climate Resilience Pilot Program Final Report

FHWA released a final report on the Climate Resilience Pilot Program that includes lessons learned, outcomes, and recommendations for next steps. The pilot program consisted of 19 teams made up of state DOTs, MPOs, and Federal Land Management Agencies who assessed the transportation vulnerability of their region and searched for ways to improve resilience to extreme weather and climate change. Included in the report are examples and illustrative project findings from the two year pilot.

REGIONS BRIEF

Big TIGER Win for Broward MPO

The Broward MPO in South Florida has been awarded a TIGER grant of \$11.4 million for their Regional Complete Streets Initiative. The plans include adding bike lanes, pedestrian lighting, drainage improvements, and more in four cities across the region. Broward MPO worked collaboratively with Broward County, Florida DOT, Fort Lauderdale, Oakland Park, Lauderdale Lakes, and Pompano Beach to create a strong and successful project and application that will provide great safety and access benefits for all users in their region.

Member Request: Centralina Council of Governments

Centralina Council of Governments in Charlotte, NC is currently in the design phase for development of a regional transit plan. They are looking to incorporate aspects of economic development, workforce affordable housing, broadband, and transit oriented development. Please share any models for this design process from your region or research demonstrating the value and benefit of this kind of development with Sarah Reed at sarah@narc.org.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Senior Public Safety Planner

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

SharePoint Analyst

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Quality Assurance Analyst

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Natural Resources Director

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Transportation Planner

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

Planner

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

New FHWA Courses Available

A new FHWA course, **MAP-21 Transportation Performance Management Overview (Including FAST Act Updates)** is now available through the National Highway Institute. The one-day instructor-led course, FHWA-NHI-138004, provides an overview of TPM provisions of MAP-21 and the FAST Act; describes the responsibilities that agencies—federal state, MPOs, RTPOs, and transit—have in delivering these requirements; highlights the importance of data in meeting performance management provisions; and shares noteworthy practices. The course is highly recommended for those interested in taking more detailed system-specific TPM implementation training. Practitioners may also be interested in **Transportation Performance Management Awareness – Federal Aid Version**. This web-based course, FHWA-NHI-138001, provides an introduction to performance management, explains the critical role that the planning process plays in implementing a performance management program, and addresses what performance management means to FHWA.

Quarterly Technical Assistance Webinar for the NPMRDS

August 9, 1:00 – 3:00 PM ET

The National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) is the probe data that FHWA is using internally for passenger and freight analysis and making available to states and MPOs. In this webinar, FHWA and its contractors will provide an overview of the probe data set, demonstrate data applications, and respond to technical assistance questions. This webinar is

open to USDOT, state DOT, MPO, academic, and private sector participants.

National Online Dialogue to Shape FTA's 5-Year Research Strategic Plan

August 11, 3:30 – 4:30 PM ET

Staff from FTA's Research, Demonstration and Innovation office will describe the agency's work on a five-year strategic plan and provide tips for participating in the National Online Dialogue, which is open August 1 to September 8, 2016.

Webinars on the Insights, Challenges, and Lessons Learned from the First Phase of the Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program

August 19, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET THEA Comprehensive Concept Deployment Plan

August 22, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET ICF/ WYDOT Comprehensive Concept Deployment Plan

August 22, 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET NYCDOT Comprehensive Concept Deployment Plan

USDOT will host three public webinars on the Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program that will explore the insights, challenges, and lessons learned from the Concept Development phase of each of the Connected Vehicle Pilots. In September 2016, three Connected Vehicle Pilot sites, (Tampa/THEA, ICF/Wyoming, and New York City DOT) will embark on a new phase of activity to design, build, and test the nation's most complex and extensive deployment of integrated wireless in-vehicle, mobile device, and roadside technologies. These technologies and applications have been brought together in innovative ways to have an immediate impact--save lives, improve personal mobility, enhance economic productivity, reduce environmental impacts, and transform public agency operations. Hear from site leaders who are breaking new ground in connected vehicle deployment during these webinars.

PlanWorks Bicycle and Pedestrian Enhancements

August 25, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

PlanWorks is a web resource that supports collaborative decision-making in transportation planning and project development that is built around key decision points in long-range planning, programming, corridor planning, and environmental review. PlanWorks suggests when and how to engage cross-disciplinary partners and stakeholder groups. This system can help build consensus throughout these processes. FHWA recently updated PlanWorks to include new bicycle and pedestrian enhancements. The enhancements include a new Bicycles and Pedestrians Application, as well as updated links to the latest references and tools that support collaboration related to bicycle and pedestrian planning and project development. This webinar will focus on the new bicycle and pedestrian features of PlanWorks.

FHWA 2017 Environmental Excellence Awards

Entries Due: September 15

This biennial program was developed by FHWA to honor those partners, projects, and processes that excel in meeting growing transportation needs while protecting and enhancing the environment. While working in partnership with states, organizations, businesses, and individuals, FHWA encourages environmental stewardship and increased awareness of the successes we can achieve by incorporating environmental excellence into our everyday work. FHWA will accept nominations for any project, process, group, or individuals involved in a project or process that has used FHWA funding sources to make an outstanding contribution to transportation and the environment. Any organization, agency, group, or individual in the public, private, or non-profit sectors may submit a nomination for the 2017 awards.

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