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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

August 7, 2014

# Transportation Thursdays

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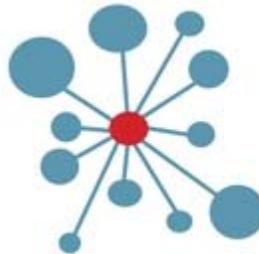
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## ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

### Sec. Foxx Addresses Transportation Policy in National Town Hall

**Meeting:** Yesterday, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx hosted a virtual town hall meeting entitled *Moving from Uncertainty to Long-Term Transportation Investment*. During the event, which drew state and local government officials, business leaders, transportation advocates, and the general public, Sec. Foxx stressed the importance of a long-term transportation funding bill and answered various questions from participants. He repeatedly urged voters to contact their Senators and Representatives to urge them to pass a long-term bill. He also highlighted portions of the Administration's *Grow America Act*. Sec. Foxx said that if the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) had full funding, his priorities would be to stabilize the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), to build a robust freight program, to speed up projects, and to

Governments

**Michael Parks**  
Chair, Transportation  
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**Payment Slowdowns Averted:** In a letter dated Tuesday to state Departments of Transportation, Sec. Foxx indicated that payment slowdowns – which were set to begin on August 1 – would not be necessary in light of Congressional action on an HTF patch that passed on July 31. The President has not yet signed the legislation, but Congressional action was sufficient to stave off action on the part of the U.S. DOT.

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## LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

**LaHood Slams Highway Bill Patch:** Testifying before a joint legislative study committee on Tuesday, former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said that the \$10.9 billion highway bill approved by Congress last week is “totally inadequate for any kind of planning or vision.” LaHood also stated that he would like to see Congress raise the gas tax by ten cents. Click **[HERE](#)** for additional information.

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## REGIONAL BRIEF

**MARC Director of Research Services to Receive Award:** Frank Lenk, Director of Research Services at the Mid-America Regional Councils (MARC), will receive a 2014 Hall of Heroes Award from the Community Indicators Consortium for his work in the indicators field. The Community Indicators Consortium is a national network of professionals engaged in the field of indicators development and application. The award will be presented at the consortium’s 2014 Impact Summit in Washington, D.C., September 29-30. Click **[HERE](#)** for additional information.

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## MEMBER REQUEST

**Evaluating the Benefits of Transportation Investments:** The Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) in Salt Lake City, Utah is working with local partner agencies to evaluate the benefits of local transportation projects. Specifically, WFRC is looking for studies or methodologies used in other regions -- including economic, financial, engineering analyses, and/ or communications materials -- that have evaluated the benefits associated with the development of transportation projects. The studies and other materials can broadly consider new/ improved facilities

or maintenance/ preservation/ operations for roads, trails, etc. The benefits include not only traditional transportation metrics such as travel time or infrastructure condition, but also economic development, air quality, and quality of life.

Please send feedback to Anna Rosenbaum, [anna@narc.org](mailto:anna@narc.org).

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## OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

Click [HERE](#) to view the list of grants and events still open!

### **WEBINAR: Big Trends & Opportunities in Transportation & Infrastructure**

*August 14, 2:00 PM ET*

Join Governing and the Intelligent Transportation Society of America for a look at their most recent research findings on the biggest trends and opportunities in transportation and infrastructure. This webinar will help you map your state and local strategy for the year ahead. Click [HERE](#) to register.

### **WEBINAR: Introduction to TREDIS**

*August 26, 1:00 PM ET*

This webinar will demonstrate this easy-to-use transportation economic analysis system and show how it can work for your organization. It will walk users through straightforward queries based on stages in the transportation planning process, to create reports tailored to specific audiences and decision support needs. Click [HERE](#) to register.

### **WEBINAR: SmartWay 10 Modifying Driver Behavior – An Important Piece to Greening Your Fleet**

*September 24, 2:30 PM ET*

Diesel fuel is often the second highest expense for truck carriers after labor. Join SmartWay and Truck Carrier partners to discuss training that targets fuel efficiency while changing habits that waste fuel. Panelists will provide actionable advice and best practices that will help save fuel, money, and the environment. Participation in the webinar is free, advance registration is required. Click [HERE](#) to register.

### **REPORT: Role of Regional Planning Organizations in Transportation Planning Across Boundaries**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Planning, in partnership with U.S. DOT Volpe National Transportation Systems

Center, prepared this white paper. This research examines how regional councils and rural interests are integral partners in transportation planning efforts for megaregions, and explores methods for their participation. Click [HERE](#) to read the report.

**NARC CONFERENCE: Executive Directors' Conference**

*September 21 - 24; Des Moines, IA*

Join the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and NARC for the 2014 Executive Directors' Conference in Des Moines, IA.

Click [HERE](#) to register!

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