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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

August 14, 2014

# Transportation Thursdays

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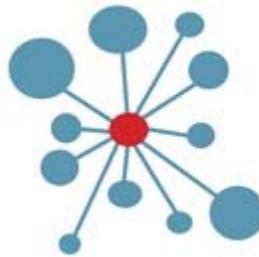
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*converge ■ learn ■ share*

executive directors' conference  
september 21 - september 24, 2014  
des moines, ia

**Register Today!**

### Member Survey - Comments Needed on Metropolitan Planning

**Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:** Comments to the docket on the Noticed of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Metropolitan Planning and Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Planning are due September 2, 2014.

- Attached [HERE](#) is a document with questions generated by the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and NARC in relation to the NPRM. We'd like to hear your concerns, thoughts, and ideas regarding these issues.
- Attached [HERE](#) is a background document that contains explanatory text from the NPRM alongside the changes to the federal code that governs Metropolitan Planning Organizations that is being discussed. This should help provide some additional background as to what is contained in the NPRM itself.

Governments

**Michael Parks**

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If you previously recorded similar thoughts, feel free to share those with us in order to avoid duplicating your efforts. Please submit your feedback on any or all of these questions by **Wednesday, August 20, 2014 at 5:00 PM ET** to **[erich@narc.org](mailto:erich@narc.org)**.

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## ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

**FAA Announces Virginia and New York UAS Test Sites Now**

**Operational:** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently announced that the unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) test sites at Griffiss International Airport located in Rome, New York, and at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, are operational. These are the final two of the six test sites to become operational. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said "we have undertaken the challenge of safely integrating a new and exciting technology into the busiest, most complex airspace in the world. The six test sites are going to play a key role in helping us meet that challenge." Click **[HERE](#)** for the full press release on Rome, New York. Click **[HERE](#)** for the press release on Virginia.

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## LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

**President Signs HTF Patch, Payment Slowdowns Averted:** In a letter to state Departments of Transportation, Secretary Foxx indicated that payment slowdowns, which were set to begin on August 1, would not be necessary in light of Congressional action on the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) patch that passed July 31. President Obama officially signed the HTF stopgap last Friday, August 8.

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## REGIONAL BRIEF

**MORPC, Ohio-Indiana Mayors to Continue Exploration of a Proposed Columbus to Chicago High-Speed Passenger Rail**

**Corridor:** The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) along with the cities of Columbus and Marysville jointly announced they will collectively evaluate the feasibility of the Columbus-to-Chicago high speed passenger rail line. "Today's announcement represents a significant milestone in the planning and evaluation of the proposed rail corridor from Columbus to Chicago," said MORPC Executive Director William Murdock. The Ohio cities represented are Columbus, Marysville,

Kenton and Lima. The Indiana cities include Fort Wayne, Warsaw, Plymouth, Valparaiso and Gary. Click [HERE](#) to read MORPC's full press release.

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## OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

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

### **CONFERENCE: 2014 Ohio Conference on Freight: *Driving Change in Global Logistics***

*September 18-19, 2014*

*Columbus, OH - Hyatt Regency*

Join Colleagues from the U.S. and Canada for an examination of the freight industry in Ohio and the Great Lakes region. Freight forecasters are predicting dramatic growth in freight volumes. Our current freight network struggles to meet today's demand, and at severe bottlenecks it fails. This conference addresses the reality that economic growth will increasingly depend upon our freight infrastructure. **Early Bird Rate of \$250 ends August 20**; Standard Rate of \$300 through September 5.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

### **WEBINAR: The CSS Conversation: Looking Ahead**

*August 19, 1:00 PM ET*

During this webcast, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) staff, transportation stakeholders, and Context Sensitive Solutions experts will reflect on what has been learned from the series of CSS National Dialog 2 workshops, and explore promising future opportunities based on trends in CSS practice and the direction of other related initiatives. Click [HERE](#) to register.

### **WEBINAR: A Framework for Collaborative Decision-Making on Additions to Highway Capacity**

*August 19, 2:00 PM ET*

This Transportation Research Board webinar regarding decision-making on highway capacity expansion projects will concentrate on insights into successful collaboration, stakeholder involvement, and expediting project planning and environmental review. It will feature a presentation by the South Carolina Department of Transportation on their application of these principles. After completion of this webinar, attendees will be able to investigate how their own agencies' planning, design, and construction process are intertwined with key decision-making points that may have previously gone unnoticed or were not coordinated with the overall

process of highway capacity expansion projects. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**WEBINAR: Talking Freight on 2014 Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals State of Logistics Report**

*August 20, 1:00 PM ET*

Learn about the current state of freight logistics in the U.S., how companies directly involved in supply chain management use and can benefit from the report, and discuss how the report can help public sector transportation professionals better understand transportation supply chain needs and trends to enhance freight transportation planning. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**WEBINAR: Downtown Rebirth: Documenting the Live-Work Dynamic in 21st Century U.S. Cities**

*August 20, 1:30 PM ET*

The U.S. Census Bureau and the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Partnership, in collaboration with the Council for Community and Economic Research, will discuss the Center City District and International Downtown Association's efforts to define the concept of "residential downtown" using the Local Employment Dynamics Dataset. This webinar will review the motivations for defining downtown, provide a rationale for using LED to define downtown residential neighborhoods, and demonstrate results from recent research examining the live/work relationship between central business districts their surrounding areas in 150 American cities. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**WEBINAR: What Does (Data) Integrity and Utility Mean to You?**

*August 21, 2:00 PM ET*

Household travel survey data collection is a complex process, with most contracts structured to provide interim datasets, and a final dataset at the conclusion of data collection. Staff from three MPOs will discuss how they evaluated interim data deliverables, modified survey field work, checked final deliverables, edited records to adjust for anomalies, and how new sample weights were developed. They will identify key points and recommendations for future activities and research based on presentations and experience. Click [HERE](#) to join, or dial the teleconference number 1-888-675-2535 and enter passcode 8344566.

**WEBINAR: Traveler Information and Travel Reliability**

*August 26, 2:00 PM ET*

This Transportation Research Board webinar focuses on foundation research concerning the communication of information about travel time

reliability to motorists, so they can make informed decisions. The objective is to foster better public awareness and understanding of the variability of travel time allowing road users to learn to work around nonrecurring delays due to incidents, bad weather, work zones, special events, and malfunctioning traffic control devices. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**WEBINAR: U.S. DOT *Connected Vehicles Pilot Deployment Program Part 1: Concept, Phases, Waves, and Partnerships***

*August 27, 2:00 PM ET*

The *Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program* seeks to combine connected vehicle and mobile device technologies in innovative and cost-effective ways. Ultimately, this program will improve traveler mobility and system productivity while reducing environmental impacts and enhancing safety. The U.S. DOT anticipates a procurement action for multiple pilot deployment concepts in 2015. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**WEBINAR: Multiple Listening Session Webinars for Public Input on Water Resources Law (WRRDA)**

*August 27, 2:00 PM ET*

*September 10, 2:00 PM ET*

*September 24, 2:00 PM ET*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host a series of listening sessions for public input regarding the agency's implementation of the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 14)*. Each of the listening sessions will cover a different aspect of the general program policy provisions of WRRDA 14. These policy provisions have been categorized into general themed areas to focus listening sessions on two or more categories. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about each session and to register.

**PUBLICATION: A Multi-Modal Approach to Economic Development in the Metropolitan Area Transportation Planning Process**

The new FHWA white paper, *A Multi-Modal Approach to Economic Development in the Metropolitan Area Transportation Planning Process*, provides a review of research and current practices of integrating economic development goals in metropolitan area transportation planning. The information presented is intended to serve as a technical resource for transportation planners, clarifying essential economic development concepts, and how peer practitioners can address these concepts in the metropolitan area transportation planning process. Click [HERE](#) to read the white paper.

**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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