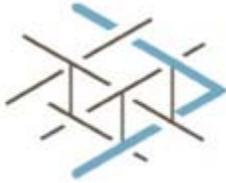


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

August 21, 2014

Transportation Thursdays

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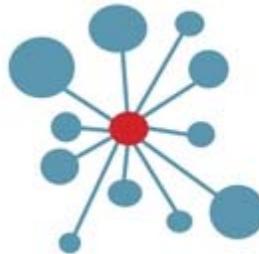
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Still need your feedback! Comments Needed on Metropolitan Planning Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Comments to the docket on the Noticed of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Metropolitan Planning and Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Planning are due September 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

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If you previously submitted similar comments through the U.S. DOT (formally or informally), feel free to share those with us in order to avoid duplicating your efforts. Please submit your feedback by **Monday, August 25, 2014 at 5:00 PM ET**. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

NARC Requests Extension of Commenting Period for Planning

Rule: On August 20, NARC sent a letter to Gregory G. Nadeau, Acting Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), requesting a two-week extension of the comment period for the FHWA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) related to Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning. Click **[HERE](#)** to read the letter.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

U.S. Senators Predict Changes to Highway Funding: U.S. Senators John Boozman (R-AR) and James Inhofe (R-OK) recently testified at a hearing in Fort Smith, Arkansas where they predicted that Congress will soon change how revenue is generated to fund the nation's highways. Inhofe stated that "coming up between now and May, you'll see a new funding mechanism that is going to change how we are funding our roads and highways." Because the gas tax has not been raised since 1993 and cars are getting better gas millage, funding the Highway Trust Fund has become more challenging. Boozman stated that "we're going to have to figure out how we can get a revenue stream to support that, and there'll be a lot of controversy about that." Click **[HERE](#)** for additional information.

REGIONAL BRIEF

New Light Rail Station Opens at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport: FTA

Administrator Therese McMillan announced in a blog post on U.S. DOT's website that the extension of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) light rail system to Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport officially opened on Monday. The extension, part of the longest light rail system in the nation,

connects riders to one of the world's busiest airports. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

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

WEBINAR: Let's Talk Performance: Collaborating to Set Targets

September 9, 2:00 PM ET

FHWA, in cooperation with several national stakeholder groups, would like you to join us for the next *Let's Talk Performance Webinar: Collaborating to Set Targets*. This event is open to FHWA staff, State DOTs, MPOs, transit providers, and other stakeholder agencies. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions, share your own experiences, and learn how you can most effectively leverage coordination and collaboration opportunities to implement transportation performance management best practices. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: New Technologies for Data Visualization

September 9, 3:00 PM ET

This will demonstrate two technological tools that can be used to help manage, analyze, and report data. The webinar will highlight two resources—Tableau's data visualization tools and Socrata's suite of open data tools—and how they can support data dissemination in economic development. Melissa Maynard of the Pew Charitable Trusts will demonstrate potential Tableau applications by showing how it can be used to promote transparency in state economic development incentive programs. Jeff Kaplan from Socrata will demonstrate how their open data tools can be used to share data with the public and key stakeholders. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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!

TRAINING: Environmental Justice Training Course

September 29-30 – Los Angeles, CA

Development of this training is sponsored by FTA's Office of Planning and Environment in cooperation with the National Transit Institute. The training is intended to serve as guidance for practitioners, reviewers, and

grantees on effective ways for integrating the consideration of Environmental Justice impacts throughout the transportation planning and project development / NEPA processes. This training is designed to meet the needs of grantees, while satisfying the requirements of Executive Order 12898 and U.S. DOT Order 5610.2(a) on Environmental Justice. The pilot is strictly limited to State DOT staff, RPO/MPO staff, and transit agency/provider staff. Click [HERE](#) to register.

PUBLICATION: Partnership for Sustainable Communities: Five Years of Learning from Communities and Coordinating Federal Investments

EPA released a report that summarizes its collaborative efforts with the U.S. DOT and HUD. These efforts have been aimed at improving the livability of communities, in part through improving access to public transportation and safe walkways. Click [HERE](#) to read the report.

PUBLICATION: AASHTO: Guide for Geometric Design of Transit Facilities on Highways and Streets, 1st Edition

This guide provides a comprehensive reference of current practice in the geometric design of transit facilities on streets and highways, including local buses, express buses, and bus rapid transit operating in mixed traffic, bus lanes, and high-occupancy vehicle lanes, as well as bus-only roads within street and freeway environments. It also covers streetcars and LRT running in mixed traffic and transit lanes, and within medians along arterial roadways. These guidelines are based on a review of relevant AASHTO, TRB, and ITE documents, as well as design reports provided by various transit agencies. They are designed for use by public agencies, practitioners, and developers in need of basic information about planning, locating, sizing, designing, and implementing transit facilities along roadways. Click [HERE](#) to purchase the guide.

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