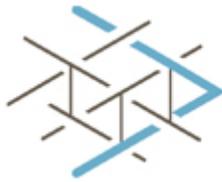


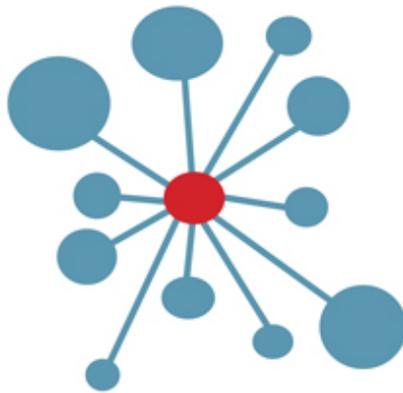
August 25, 2016

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## CONGRESS BRIEF

### **MPO Coordination Comments Due Friday**

As everybody knows by now, there is an NPRM on the street that will have significant impact of many of the nation's MPOs. NARC has been busy preparing comments opposing the proposal and will submit them in coordination with the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) and National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). This is a reminder that you have until 11:59pm on Friday, August 26 to submit comments of your own. A few resources you might find useful are listed below.

- **Where to comment** (see blue "comment now" button at top right of page)
- **The final version of NARC/AMPO/NADO comments**
- **The NARC resources page about the rule**

### **House T&I Committee Leadership Letter Regarding MPO Coordination NPRM**

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) and Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chair Sam Graves (R-MO) and Ranking Member Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) expressed deep skepticism about the MPO Coordination NPRM in a letter yesterday to U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. The letter opens with a request to extend the comment period, launches into an explanation of their "overriding objection" to the proposal, discusses the "serious overreach" of the Administration, and then closes with an admonition that they spend their resources implementing the performance regulations from MAP-21.

### **Congressional Hearing to Examine California High-Speed Rail Project**

Members of the House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials will hold a congressional field hearing next week on August 29 in San Francisco, CA. The oversight hearing will examine the status of the California high-speed rail project and what levels of federal and state funding may be necessary to complete the project. The original cost estimate was \$33 billion in 2008 but has risen to almost \$118 billion. The witnesses include representatives from the Federal Railroad Administration, Caltrain, State Building & Construction Trades Council of California, Law Offices of Stuart Flashman, and California High-Speed Rail Authority.

## **ADMINISTRATION BRIEF**

### **NARC Final PM<sub>3</sub> NPRM Comments**

Last Friday, NARC submitted comments to the docket on FHWA's third Performance Management NPRM. Thanks again to all of you who contributed to this effort!

### **Wick Moorman Selected as Amtrak CEO**

Beginning September 1, Charles "Wick" Moorman will be the new president and chief executive officer of Amtrak. Moorman previously spent more than 40 years at Norfolk Southern Corporation working his way from management trainee to CEO. Current Amtrak CEO Joe Boardman will be retiring next month after eight years.

### **Achieving Multimodal Networks: Applying Design Flexibility and Reducing Conflicts**

FHWA recently released this publication with 24 design topics to help practitioners build multimodal transportation networks. The design topics are split into two categories that include applying design flexibility and reducing conflicts. The resource highlights ways for planners to reduce multimodal conflicts and connect bicycle and pedestrian networks. Each topic includes additional resources and case studies and addresses common concerns and barriers.

### **A Practical Guide on DTA Model Applications for Regional Planning**

This FHWA Dynamic Traffic Assignment (DTA) how-to guide is for MPOs and other planning agencies looking to apply DTA models for planning applications. The guide uses the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) as an example and provides guidance on key practical aspects of working with DTA models.

## **REGIONS BRIEF**

### **APA and CMAP Receive \$300K NOAA Grant to Help Communities Address Climate Extremes**

The American Planning Association (APA) just received a \$300,000 grant from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Program Office for the *Incorporating Local Science to Help Communities Plan for Climate Extremes* project. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) will be working with APA in five Chicago-metropolitan pilot communities to incorporate climate data into their planning efforts and enhance their region's resilience to climate change. CMAP will help with technical support in the five pilot communities and write technical guides at the conclusion of the project. By incorporating this data into planning, communities can be more prepared and resilient to extreme climate events.

### **Delphi, Mobileye Join Forces to Build Driverless Vehicle System**

This week, in the wake of Uber announcing their autonomous vehicles in Pittsburgh and Ford planning to build a driverless car by 2021, Delphi Automotive and Mobileye announced that they are planning to build a fully autonomous vehicle platform by the end of 2019. The goal is to create a system that can be plugged into all types of vehicles for use. The two companies are already providing several automakers with the software and sensors necessary. They hope to have a product and begin fleet testing in early 2017. USDOT announced earlier this year that they hoped to have guidance for states on this issue by the end of the summer, a deadline that is nearing quickly.

### **Member Request! Regional Transit Plan**

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](mailto:sarah@narc.org).

## **JOBS**

***View full list of jobs!***

### **Natural Resources Director**

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

## **Data Analyst**

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Detroit, MI

## **Senior Regional Planner**

Central Texas Council of Governments, Belton, TX

## **Regional Transportation Director**

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

# **OPPORTUNITIES**

*[View full list of grants and events!](#)*

## **TPCB Peer Program Application**

The Transportation Planning Capacity Building (TPCB) Peer Program is a free resource for agencies in need of transportation planning assistance. The program pays for travel, accommodations, meals, and incidental expenses associated with on-site peer exchanges and offers workshops, roundtables, and webinars to participants free of charge. Interested agencies are encouraged to apply for assistance if they have a clearly identified transportation planning problem to solve and are interested in working with TPCB Program staff to plan and organize an event. TPCB also recently released two reports from peer exchanges in **West Virginia** and **Las Vegas** on transit-oriented development (TOD) and statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes.

## **Learn More About Free TOD Technical Assistance from FTA and Smart Growth America**

September 7, 1:00 - 2:00 PM ET

Each year, FTA in partnership with Smart Growth America offers free technical assistance to communities to develop tools, guidance, and other resources for enhancing TOD within transit corridors or around a public transportation station, and in economically distressed communities. The **second round of free technical assistance** is now open. Any unit or subdivision of state, regional, local, or tribal governments with an active federally funded transit capital project are eligible to apply. *Requests may be submitted until Thursday, September 29, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. EDT.* Learn more about this assistance and the application process during this informational webinar on September 7.

## **Safety Research and Demonstration Program Overview**

September 7, 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET

The webinar will provide information on the Safety Research and Demonstration Program. This is a competitive demonstration program that provides technical and financial support for transit agencies to pursue innovative approaches to eliminate or mitigate known safety hazards in public transportation via demonstration of technologies and safer designs.

## **Community Revitalization Approaches in Gary and Detroit**

September 20, 3:00 - 4:30 PM ET

This webinar is a part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Sustainable and Healthy Communities Seminar Series and will focus on EPA Region 5 and community revitalization in Gary, IN and Detroit, MI.

## **Hotel Block Extended to 8/28! NARC's 2016 Executive Directors Conference and Board Retreat**

EDC: September 18-20 – South Bend, IN

Board Retreat: September 20-21 – South Bend, IN

Join NARC and the Michiana Area Council of Governments for the 2016 Executive Directors Conference in South Bend, Indiana. This conference brings executive directors, deputy directors, and senior staff together to network, share best practices, and explore opportunities for strengthening professional capacity and development. *Please plan to arrive on Sunday, September 18. Hotel rooms will not be available on Saturday night at our hotel or any others in the area.*

