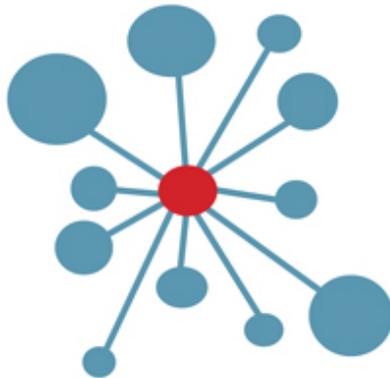




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CONGRESS BRIEF

Woodall Amendment Threatens Local Transportation Funding

Last night, the House began debate on the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD) title of H.R. 3354, the *Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act of 2018*. This larger bill contains eight of the fiscal year (FY) 2018 appropriations bills, and will be the eventual vehicle for all twelve FY18 spending bill.

An **amendment** proposed by Representative Rob Woodhall (R-GA), which NARC and other local government groups opposed, was approved by voice vote. The THUD bill contains an \$800 million rescission of unobligated contract authority. The amendment eliminates the exemption for the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) and safety programs, making them subject to rescission. The amendment also ends the proportional drawdown of unobligated balances, so states can lean more heavily on “local” programs than their own. This amendment puts at risk the limited commitment the recent FAST Act made to providing funding to local projects. Additionally, it would allow states to draw disproportionately from programs that provide the greatest amount of support for local projects – namely STBGP, TAP, CMAQ, and metropolitan planning.

NARC opposed this amendment and will work to ensure it does not make its way into the final THUD Appropriations bill. You can read our member alert from yesterday regarding the amendment [here](#), and a letter from a coalition of organizations [here](#).

Autonomous Vehicle Bill Passes House

Yesterday the House passed a driverless car bill that exempts car manufacturers from some safety standards to aid testing and deployment of autonomous vehicles (AVs). The ***SELF DRIVE Act*** passed the House Energy and Commerce Committee before recess, and quickly cleared the House by unanimous consent. The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee has yet to mark up its version and is planning to include trucking provisions, a controversial issue that the House stayed away from. On September 13, the Senate Commerce Committee will hold a **hearing** on the topic to hopefully reach consensus. In separate AV news, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao will release an update to the Obama administration’s driverless car guidance next week.

FAA Extension Looming

FAA's funding authorization expires on September 30 and is currently scheduled for floor time on September 13. There are divided opinions on the duration of the extension, and the September 13 date has the potential to be pushed back pending other House matters.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

USDOT Announces \$500 Million Funding Opportunity through TIGER Program

USDOT announced the availability of \$500 million through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program. The selection criteria remains essentially the same as previous rounds, though the FY 2017 program will give special consideration to projects in rural areas. The application deadline for the FY 2017 TIGER grant program is Monday, October 16. USDOT is holding **three webinars** in advance of the deadline. See the *Opportunities* section for further detail.

Multimodal Planning at the Megaregional Scale

FHWA has released a report on the influence of megaregions on long-range planning. This research included a literature review, a scan of long-range planning documents, and case study research. The two-year project worked to characterize the current state of megaregional planning at the local and regional levels by identifying gaps in knowledge and practice, barriers to action, and opportunities to incorporate the megaregional concept into practice.

REGIONS BRIEF

Self-Driving Buses are Going to the Super Bowl

The Minnesota DOT (MNDOT) has selected EasyMile to supply buses for testing the technology's capabilities in the state's snow and ice in February 2018. The second phase of the project will send buses along pre-determined routes on public streets when thousands of football fans descend upon the Twin Cities for Super Bowl LII. If the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration grants EasyMile and Minnesota a waiver from the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, then these driverless buses could shuttle visitors around during the festivities. MNDOT wants to raise awareness among state politicians and regulators of the potential use of self-driving vehicles during the Super Bowl, and its potential as a success story. The buses used during the pilot will have human drivers to oversee operations and intervene when necessary.

Advancing AVs and CVs: Policy and Planning Strategies for State and Local Transportation Agencies

This report assesses policy and planning strategies at the state, regional, and local levels that could influence private-sector AV and connected vehicle (CV) choices and positively affect societal goals. The report assists agencies in exploring actions that may increase the likelihood that these technologies will have beneficial impacts on traffic crashes, congestion, pollution, land development, and mobility (particularly for older adults, youths under the age of 16, and individuals with disabilities).

F4F Announces Partnership with NJPA for National Procurement Initiative

NARC's DOE grant, Fleets for the Future (F4F), has formally announced our partnership with National Joint Powers Alliance® (NJPA). Through this partnership, F4F and NJPA are coordinating a national procurement initiative to increase the deployment of alternative-fuel vehicles (AFVs) and related infrastructure across the country. This collaboration is designed to help cities, counties, and regions with the large upfront costs that are associated with AFVs. In addition to vehicles, F4F has assisted NJPA in adding five new vendors to provide electric vehicle supply equipment and related services. Joining NJPA is free and easy **online** and will grant your organization access to exclusive member pricing and vehicle solutions.

For more information and updates on our national procurement initiative, please visit the **F4F website** or follow us on Twitter, @Fleets4Future. You can also visit the **F4F page** on the NJPA website to find out more about the partnership, types of vehicles available through the initiative, and participating vendors.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

USDOT Webinar: Fundamental Principles & Research of the SCMS POC

September 11, 1:30 – 3:00 PM ET

USDOT's Security Credential Management System Proof-of-Concept (SCMS POC) is a temporary system for vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) communication such that the USDOT's CV projects can trust in the validity of information received from each component within the system—indistinct users whom they have never met and do not know personally. The temporary proof-of-concept security system will enable USDOT's CV projects to address unanswered questions regarding the exchange of information among vehicles, roadway infrastructures, traffic management centers, and wireless mobile devices. This public webinar will discuss the fundamental principles and research under the SCMS POC.

NARC Webinars! Trees, Stormwater, and Resiliency: An Opportunity for Local Communities

with National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA):

September 13, 2:00-3:00 PM ET;

with National Association of Development Organizations (NADO):

September 20, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Traditional 'gray' infrastructure systems – like roads, utilities, and water/wastewater networks – have long supported our cities and towns as they grow and develop. However, as leaders grapple with shrinking budgets and deteriorating local infrastructure, the resilience and multifunctionality of green infrastructure and trees continues to broaden its appeal as a fiscally responsible investment for the long-term health and vibrancy of an area. A new interactive tool developed by the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Council of Governments in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, NARC, Davey Resource Group, and Centerline Strategies, LLC will enable community planners, engineers, stormwater managers, community foresters, and policymakers to better capitalize on trees when investing or reinvesting in their stormwater systems. This resource can help you unleash new and innovative approaches for realizing the full capacity of trees as a component of your community's infrastructure systems. Join one of these webinars to discuss regional resilience planning and how TreesandStormwater.org can assist you in maximizing the benefits of trees and green infrastructure in your community.

TIGER Grant Webinar Series

September 13, **How to Compete for TIGER Grants**

September 18, **Preparing a Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) for a TIGER Application**

September 19, **How to Compete for TIGER Grants**

Walking Towards Justice- The Color of Law

September 27, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

To provide an open platform for discussion and aid in identifying potential solutions to improve walkability for all, America Walks has launched a new social equity-inspired online discussion series titled: Walking Towards Justice. This webinar series integrates literature into a discussion regarding the intersectionality of mobility, race, class, gender, and politics. The first discussion will explore the intersection of walkability and residential segregation.

Elements of a Transportation Asset Management Plan Webinar

October 11, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

This webinar addresses financial plans and investment strategies and is the latest in the FHWA and AASHTO TAM webinar series.

12th Survey in NCHRP/AASHTO's Continuing Snapshots of Planning Practices Series

Open Through October 15

This survey explores the topics of how states and regions are implementing Complete Streets and Multimodal Transportation Policies. To learn more about this effort and to view previous snapshots, visit www.planningsnapshots.camsys.com. Prior snapshots have addressed issues such as: freight, bike/ped, operations, scenario planning, innovative long-range planning, crash data, and integrated planning.

CONTACT US

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