

September 8, 2016

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



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**executive directors conference
september 18 - september 20, 2016
south bend, in**

Register Today!

It's almost conference time! Join your colleagues at the **2016 Executive Directors Conference** or participate in the inaugural energy and environment directors meeting on Monday, September 19th in South Bend, Indiana. Interested environmental directors should contact Cameron Herbolsheimer at cameron@narc.org.

CONGRESS BRIEF

WRDA Reauthorization on the Senate Floor

The Senate brought its *Water Resources Development Act* (WRDA) reauthorization bill to the floor last night. Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-OK) and ranking member Barbara Boxer (D-CA) have urged colleagues to avoid controversial issues, such as the Waters of the U.S. rule, and are working on a manager's amendment package with hopes of passing the bill this week. All amendments must be submitted by noon on Friday. The bill includes \$4.8 billion for programs under the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, including \$220 million for Flint, MI.

Senate Nearly Completes 2016 Transportation To-Do List

This week, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman John Thune (R-SD) told Politico reporters that his panel has checked off most of their transportation to-do list items for the year. Senator Thune mentioned that trucking and telecom issues could come, but that highways, pipelines, rail, and aviation have been handled for the year. Lawmakers only have three weeks left in the current session and won't return again until after the election in November.

Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Grants Award Winners

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA), Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR), and Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) – Ranking Member of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee – released a joint statement today on the selection of the FTA Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Grants award winners. Through the FAST Act, Congress provided an 89 percent increase in funding for buses and bus facilities, including the restoration of a competitive element.

San Joaquin Valley Officials take their Annual Wish List to Congress

During the first week back in session, elected officials and staff from eight California Central Valley counties visited Capitol Hill to advocate for their region. Working together as the **San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council**, the councils of government and their elected representatives visited several House members and both of the state's Senate offices during the annual "Valley Voice" advocacy trip. Part of the agenda included requests for special funding for rural roads and a new water storage project. Their collective voice helps to carry more weight to the issues and make lawmakers aware of where they stand as one of the country's most unique regions.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Connect Now to the National Transit Map

In an effort to improve data on America's transit and its connections, USDOT has launched the **National Transit Map**. The National Transit Map is an open data platform that includes data from 270 transit agencies depicting nearly 400,000 stops and stations on 10,000 routes. USDOT intends to further improve the map over time by adding more transit agencies and soliciting input from users. You can share your ideas, maps, and thoughts at nationaltransitmap@dot.gov.

DOE: Congress Should Stop Selling Oil to Fund Transportation

A report from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) indicates that Congress needs to stop funding programs by selling oil from the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). The SPR was tapped to the tune of 66 million barrels as an important offset that helped fund the most recent transportation reauthorization bill.

FHWA Offers New Funding for Innovative Demonstration Projects

The Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration provides incentive funding for activities within any phase of a highway transportation project. FHWA expects \$10 million to be made available for the program for state DOTs, federal land management agencies, and tribal governments. In addition, MPOs may apply as subrecipients through state DOTs.

Use of Narrow Lanes and Narrow Shoulders on Freeways: A Primer on Experiences, Current Practice, and Implementation Considerations

This primer provides information to policy makers, transportation agency managers, designers, and operators on the use of narrow lanes and narrow shoulders to improve capacity within an existing roadway footprint. It includes case studies and is presented in the context of the Performance Based Planning and Programming and Performance – Based Practical Design.

REGIONS BRIEF

Big Transit Plans Go Before Voters in November

This fall, transit agencies in Atlanta, Detroit, Los Angeles, and Seattle are hoping to appeal to voters to fund new transportation infrastructure projects that will transform their cities. Despite early challenges and organized opposition, these agencies are hoping for big turnouts in favor of their cause on election day. The ballot measures range from building commuter rail between Detroit and Ann Arbor to increasing sales tax in Los Angeles to fund new transit projects and highway improvements.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Transportation Engineer/Planner

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Detroit, MI

Regional Planner

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

OPPORTUNITIES

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

Naturalistic Driving Study Pooled Fund Webinar: Examples of Data Use

September 20, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Since April, SHRP2's Safety focus area has sponsored a series of webinars concerning the SHRP2 Naturalistic Driving Study (NDS) Pooled Fund. This pooled fund will conduct groundbreaking research in Highway Safety, Operations, and Planning. The webinar will include two NDS data projects: A self-funded Southwest Research Institute project (SwRI) – Investigation of techniques for detecting distracted drivers using data from the SHRP2 NDS and an FHWA exploratory advanced research project being conducted by CUBRC – Using SHRP2 NDS data to mine new solutions using the Transportation Research Informatics Platform (TRIP).

"We Can Do Better Together" Encouraging Health, Housing, Transportation, and Social Service Partnerships: Successful Strategies to Expand Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs

September 20, 2:00– 3:30 PM ET

The U.S. Administration for Community Living, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and U.S. Department of Transportation are working together on an interagency initiative focused on livable communities for underserved populations. This webinar will highlight their efforts to reach underserved populations by encouraging health, housing, transportation, and social service partnerships. The webinar will also provide an overview of evidence-based chronic disease self-management education (CDSME) programs and highlight two exemplar CDSME programs that serve affordable housing residents, in partnership with federally qualified health centers, transportation services, and social services.

Twitter Chat to Celebrate Call to Action Anniversary

September 29, 2:00 PM ET, #StepItUp

The Every Body Walk! Collaborative is celebrating the one year anniversary of the **Surgeon General's Call to Action** on Walking and Walkable Communities. Join America Walks as they celebrate the hard work of the past year and discuss what's in store for the walking movement in 2017! Use #StepItUp to join the conversation.

CONTACT US

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