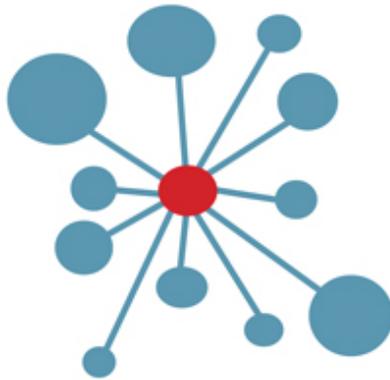




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CONGRESS BRIEF

Woodall Amendment Fight Continues

The Woodall amendment, attached to the House appropriations bill, removes a long-standing provision that prevents states from using STP suballocated dollars when there is a rescission of unobligated balances. The amendment is a double whammy, because it also removes the requirement that dollars be rescinded proportionally. As a result, states would not only be able to rescind STP suballocated dollars, but also rely more heavily on other local funds (metropolitan planning funds, transportation alternatives, and CMAQ) as well. NARC is working on this issue in the Senate, and we could use your help. [Please share with us your unobligated balance of STP funds, and let us know what projects would be lost if this money is swept up in a rescission.](#) This will help us develop a narrative on the Hill as we speak with Senate offices. Please send this information and any questions to erich@narc.org.

Senate Panel AV Bill is Coming, Maybe

Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman John Thune (R-SD) said this week that a Senate version of a bill that would regulate self-driving vehicles may be marked up before Columbus Day. That is, if both parties can agree on how to handle at least two big issues: federal preemption and whether to include commercial vehicles. During a hearing yesterday, the committee heard from both the American Trucking Associations and the Teamsters union – organizations that hold positions on each side of the trucking issue. Both expressed concern about driver safety and how best to regulate the industry. The Senate Committee is also deciding which cybersecurity provisions to include and how to mitigate concerns over hacking and computer-operated trucks. The House bill avoids this topic because the House Transportation Committee does not have jurisdiction over trucking. The Senate is in session for three days next week before they break for Rosh Hashanah.

FAA Still Dragging On

A short-term Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) extension is expected when lawmakers return from next week's Rosh Hashana recess. The extension's length is still in negotiation, with Democrats advocating for a six-month minimum. Meanwhile, Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) has said that he expects the full bill on the floor in early October, indicating that he may have secured enough votes to pass the House with air traffic control reform.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

NHTSA Releases Updated Self-Driving Car Guidance

On Tuesday, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao announced the release of a revised National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) self-driving car policy. The guidance shrunk from 112 pages last September to a mere 27 pages today. It reduces the fifteen-point safety assessment to twelve points, excluding ethics, privacy, and data sharing. The guidance reinforces the Obama administration's sentiment that the federal government, not states, will decide whether self-driving cars are safe, and the document remains voluntary. Chao said that the federal guidance will be updated again next year. **Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) expressed** his distaste for the guidance and claimed it would lead to increased fatalities.

New FRA Tool-GX Dash

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has released a new interactive GX Dash tool, which shows rail/roadway grade crossing collision data at the national, state, and county levels. It includes data from 2007-2017.

FTA Joint Procurement Clearinghouse

This new tool will enable FTA grant recipients to communicate about procurement needs and solicit partners interested in pooling resources for a joint purchase. USDOT was directed to create this forum under the FAST Act to allow public transit operators to engage in joint procurements for rolling stock (including buses, railcars, and ferries) to achieve economies of scale. FTA produced training materials, which can be found on the JPC webpage, to help users navigate the tool.

FHWA Nominee Announced

The White House announced on Monday that Trump has nominated Paul Trombino III to lead FHWA. Trombino previously served as Iowa DOT director from 2011-2016 and is currently the head of a civil engineering company. He is also a former president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

REGIONS BRIEF

FRA Clears Hurdle to Improve Freight/Passenger Rail between D.C. and Richmond, VA

FRA has completed the *Tier II Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)* for the 123-mile section of the Southeast High-Speed Rail Corridor. The Preferred Alternative in the DEIS will reduce freight and passenger congestion, add nine round-trip trains from D.C. to Richmond, increase speeds, accommodate Virginia commuter rail growth, and accommodate forecasted freight growth. The project is estimated to cost \$5 billion but no funding commitments have been made for construction.

JOBS

[*View full list of jobs!*](#)

JLUS Project Manager

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Homeland Security Planner

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Assistant Analyst

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Associate Policy Analyst

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Executive Director

Central Arizona Governments, Apache Junction, AZ

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Decision Processes for Asset Condition Assessments

September 19, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

The webinar will feature presentations from Lou Cripps (Regional Transportation District, Denver) and Kim Johnson (Michigan DOT) and will highlight, among other topics, how each agency determines which assets to prioritize for condition assessments, and how they developed their condition assessment methodologies.

How Freight Shippers Drive EPA's SmartWay Transport Partnership

September 20, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Every year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) SmartWay Program recognizes top-ranking shipper partners from all sectors and of all sizes for exceptional accomplishments in saving fuel and reducing emissions. SmartWay shippers achieve these efficiencies not only by hiring and incentivizing SmartWay carriers, but by making innovative changes in mode utilization, logistics, and facilities. Federal, state, and local transportation planners can encourage broader use of these efficient strategies through infrastructure planning and funding programs. This webinar will allow transportation professionals and other participants to gain insights from EPA and three SmartWay shipper partners on strategies that can inform freight planning processes and help create sustainable facilities and fleets that have lower impacts on surrounding land uses.

NARC/NADO Webinar! Trees, Stormwater, and Resiliency: An Opportunity for Local Communities

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 this webinar to discuss regional resilience planning and how TreesandStormwater.org can assist you in maximizing the benefits of trees and green infrastructure in your community.

Autonomy for Humans, with Jeffrey Schnapp

September 21, 12:00 – 12:45 PM ET

The Ongoing Transformation of the Global Transportation System speaker series explores challenges and opportunities affecting the advancement of transportation systems. Jeffrey Schnapp, co-director of the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society and founder/director of metaLAB (at) Harvard, will speak as part of *Transforming Transportation* in this installment.

Freight and Passenger Rail Operations Coordination Issues and Needs

September 21, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

In recent years, both freight and passenger rails have experienced increased demand in many parts of the U.S. rail network. In many rail corridors, freight and passenger trains share the same tracks, or at least the same right-of-way, which creates challenges for both types of rail carriers due to their different operating characteristics, including speed, length of trains, and frequency of stops. Additional coordination challenges can also arise when multiple freight rail carriers and/or multiple passenger rail carriers, such as two Class I freight railroads and/or Amtrak and a commuter railroad, also operate within the same corridor. The differing operational needs for freight and passenger railroads can make operations coordination challenging, and it is important for transportation stakeholders who are trying to implement or advocate for increased freight and/or passenger rail operations to understand those issues. This webinar will examine both freight and passenger railroad operations coordination perspectives, including the challenges and

opportunities with coordinating their operations in a way that allows both types of rail carriers to operate efficiently.

Inside the FAF4: Truck Flow Estimation Method and Visualization

September 25, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

FHWA and Maks Inc. will describe the approach and methodology used to assign truck flows onto the national highway network for FAF4. FHWA will provide an overview and demonstration of HEPGIS – FHWA's interactive, web-based data visualization tool. With HEPGIS, users can develop customized data visualizations and maps using FAF4 data. This webinar is aimed at practitioners with basic or no knowledge of the FAF who would like to move to the next experience level. This webinar will also provide a useful foundation for future webinars in this three-part series.

Analysis of Freight Crashes along the I-10 Corridor: Problem Identification and Potential ITS Countermeasures

September 26, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Traffic crashes cost society billions of dollars each year as a result of property damage, injuries, and fatalities. These traffic crashes have a negative impact on mobility, as they are a primary cause of non-recurring delay. With the Interstate 10 corridor between the ports of Los Angeles and Houston being one of the most vital links for goods movement across the U.S., safety and mobility along this freeway, particularly for freight traffic, are of significant concern to both private companies and the public. This project explores factors affecting the frequency and severity of traffic crashes along the I-10 corridor through Arizona, with a focus on freight-related crashes. Ultimately, the current safety performance along the I-10 is analyzed through the development of crash frequency and severity prediction models using integrated crash, roadway, traffic, and environmental data. Based on the results of the analysis, potential countermeasures are discussed with a focus on ITS countermeasures such as variable speed limits, dynamic lane control, and truck platooning.

Land-Use Related Freight Transport Challenges and Opportunities in London

September 27, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM ET

The Peer-to-Peer Exchange Program is designed to share global cases of best practices and real-world examples of sustainable urban freight systems. This webinar will discuss the challenges and opportunities related to the interface between land-use and freight transport in London. The webinar will present a public-sector perspective on the current framework for managing freight transport to meet economic, safety and environmental objectives. Insight into Transport for London's (TfL) work in addressing freight transport issues and perspectives into future directions for urban freight policy-making will be presented. The discussion will cover barriers to, and opportunities for, urban freight transport and land-use interactions, considering the mixing of residential and industrial land-uses. Additionally, the discussion will touch on logistics land-use trends, the availability and affordability of logistics land, and the increase in freight intensity that occurs as the distance between depots and their delivery area in London increases.

FHWA/FTA webinar on Value Capture and Transportation Projects

September 27, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

This webinar will provide background on economic and implementation considerations and cover strategies such as impact fees, special assessment districts, and air rights sales/leases. FHWA and FTA case studies on these topics will be discussed. Staff will take questions live and through the chat pod following the session.

Workplace Wellness: Walk this Way

October 5, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Healthier workers are more productive, have fewer sick days, and have decreased health care costs. Given that many adults spend half their waking hours at work, the workplace can play a big role in supporting positive lifestyle changes. Workplace wellness, though, does not begin and end at the office door. Employee wellness and community health are fundamentally linked. This webinar will provide an overview of state and local policies that support physical activity and wellness in and around the workplace.

Friends and Allies in the Walking Movement

October 11, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Champions of the walking movement come from different backgrounds, sectors, and viewpoints. By working together, we can create communities that are safe, accessible, and enjoyable places to walk and be physically active. Hear successful examples of policies, programs, and practices that have demonstrated the power of working together and strengthening the walking movement. This webinar is for walking advocates of all backgrounds and knowledge levels.

Call for Abstracts: 16th National Tools of the Trade Conference on Transportation Planning for Small and Medium-Sized Communities

Abstracts Due: October 15

The Transportation Research Board Committee ADA30 on Transportation Planning for Small and Medium-Sized Communities has issued a Call for Abstracts as part of the 16th National Tools of the Trade Conference. Tools of the Trade is a national conference providing practical techniques for transportation professionals in small (under 50,000 residents) and medium-sized (50,000 to 250,000 residents) communities. The conference is scheduled for September 2018 in Kansas City, MO.

CONTACT US

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