

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS**

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

## CONGRESS BRIEF

*Congress is not in session today, as the Pope delivered an address to a Joint Session earlier this morning. Only three legislative days remain in fiscal year 2015, which ends September 30.*

### Shutdown Clock Ticks Down

Congress has slowly begun working a Continuing Resolution (CR) through the legislative process to fund the government past the expiration of appropriations on September 30. With only a week left to avoid a potential shutdown of the federal government, including the furloughing of hundreds of thousands of federal workers, Congress finds itself trying to work around a number of complicating factors that stand in the way of finishing a CR before the deadline. It's basically impossible to tell at the moment how this will play out, but NARC will do its best to keep you informed as the process plays itself out.

## ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

### Beyond Traffic Megaregion Forums

This September and October, USDOT is holding forums in each of the eleven megaregions that have been identified across the nation. These forums will help to inform the final *Beyond Traffic* report – USDOT's 30-year outlook on the transportation future – by bringing together a variety of citizens and professionals to discuss challenges, solutions, future transportation trends, and policy.

### Foxx: Richmond-to-Raleigh High-Speed Rail Proposal Receives All Clear

The final environmental documents for the Richmond to Raleigh high-speed rail project were approved, allowing the passenger rail line to move forward. This 162-mile route will use 60 percent of existing and former rail lines and is part of a larger effort to bring high-speed rail between Washington, D.C. and Atlanta. The *Beyond Traffic* report found that a majority of future growth in America will be in the southeast and that this rail line is a transportation necessity.

### New Connected Vehicle Basics Website

USDOT's Intelligent Transportation Systems Joint Program Office launched the new connected vehicles website that explains the basics of this technology for the public. It shows how connected vehicles can benefit the user and the federal government's next steps for using this technology.

## REGIONS BRIEF

### MCAG Governing Board Supports "Fix Our Roads" Coalition

Last month, the Merced County Governing Board voted to support the "Fix Our Roads" coalition in response to California Governor Jerry Brown's (D) special legislative session that proposed permanent and sustainable funding to maintain and repair California's transportation system. The coalition has identified seven core priorities for the legislature to consider as they move forward with policies and funding sources. Other members of the coalition include local governments, businesses, and labor interests.

## **JOBS**

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

### **Bexar Aging Managing Local Ombudsman**

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

### **Benefits Outreach and Intake Specialist**

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

### **HCS Team Leader**

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

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

### **Leadership in TSM&O Video Webinar**

September 28, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

This National Operations Center of Excellence moderated discussion will focus on significant success stories in the areas of human resources and operations as participating agencies take on the challenge to build and maintain 21st century road networks while working with limited funds. Special focus will be given to the preparation of the agency workforces as their states' infrastructure is made ready for connected and automated vehicles.

### **Appendix W Webinar for Transportation Planners**

October 1, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

EPA will discuss proposed changes to *Appendix W, the Guideline on Air Quality Models*. Air quality modeling is used in project-level conformity determinations where carbon monoxide and/or particulate matter hot-spot analyses are needed.

### **Southwest Florida Freight Summit**

October 8, 1:00 – 4:30 PM ET

Over the last several years, Florida has made significant investments in freight and logistics infrastructure and both the Florida DOT and the Lee and Collier MPO have developed freight planning programs. At this summit you can engage with the regional transportation planning community and the private sector logistics industry as well as learn about the programs these organizations have developed.

## **CONTACT US**