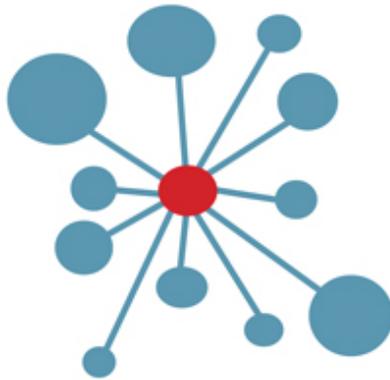




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CONGRESS BRIEF

Senate Reaches Deal on AV Bill

Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John Thune (R-SD) and Ranking Member Gary Peters (D-MI) have reached an agreement on legislation regarding self-driving vehicles, after settling disagreements about federal preemption of state and local authority and whether to include trucks in the legislation. The legislation will receive a markup on October 4. The **text of the bill** was released late this afternoon. Trucks are not included, and the Senate uses the same preemption language that was included in the House version.

FAA Extension Update

After some back and forth between the chambers, a bill to extend the FAA authorization is on its way to the president's desk, in advance of the September 30 deadline. The drama began when the House failed to pass an FAA extension containing tax relief for hurricane victims in Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and controversial flood insurance provisions, which needed a two-thirds votes to pass through an expedited process. The House eventually passed the six-month extension earlier today through regular order, with the tax and flood insurance provisions included. The Senate then stripped the flood insurance provision and sent the bill back to the House. The House passed the bill by unanimous consent late this afternoon.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

President Trump Backs off P3s

This week, the president told lawmakers that certain partnerships between the federal government and private sector just don't work. After months of heralding public private partnerships (P3s) as the golden ticket for improved infrastructure, the administration is instead planning to shift the cost of improvements to states and localities. During Tuesday's meeting with Democrats from the House Ways and Means Committee, Trump indicated they would use direct federal spending. However, the joint tax plan released earlier this week uses the repatriation of overseas earnings – which could raise as much as \$200 billion – to pay for that proposal and will not be targeted for infrastructure. That leaves significant questions about the level of direct funding that can be expected, and how to pay for it.

Trump Administration Allows GHG Measure to Proceed

In a **Federal Register notice** published today, the Trump administration released its “indefinite” hold on a greenhouse gas (GHG) measure included by the Obama administration in the system performance rulemaking under the overall performance management structure created under MAP-21. Facing the threat of lawsuits for its failure to implement this portion of the performance rule, the Trump administration allowed the provision to take effect and the October 2018 deadline for compliance also remains. This is likely not the end of the road on this matter, as today’s notice indicates that FHWA has initiated a rulemaking to repeal the GHG measure and anticipates a notice of proposed rulemaking by the end of the year.

TSA, Delta Jointly Launch Automated Screening Checkpoint Lanes

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Delta Air Lines jointly launched new automated security screening lanes in Terminal C at LaGuardia Airport this week. Delta is the first airline to invest in automated screening, with 40 lanes across the country. The new technology automates many previously manual tasks, including implementing a conveyor belt to draw bins back to the front of the line rather than a TSA employee moving them. The new technology takes pictures of each bin and places them side-by-side with the X-ray image of the contents and features multiple stations to allow several passengers to prepare for security simultaneously.

USDOT Requests Alternative Fuel Corridor Nominations

The FAST Act contains a requirement that the transportation secretary designate national electric vehicle charging, hydrogen, propane, and natural gas fueling corridors within one year of the date of enactment, and update and redesignate the corridors no later than five years after they are established. FHWA has determined that annual updates are appropriate because they reflect the rapidly changing technology environment. FHWA is requesting nominations from state and local officials. This second round of corridor designations provides state and local agencies an opportunity to nominate additional corridors, extend currently designated corridors, and/or nominate a different fuel(s) along an already designated corridor. Nominations are due November 30, 2017.

REGIONS BRIEF

These U.S. Regions Could Be First in Line for Hyperloop Expansion

Hyperloop One announced the winners of its global challenge to find the best regions to pilot its tube transportation technology. The U.S. finalists include: Midwest Connect, Texas Triangle, Rocky Mountain Hyperloop, and a route connecting Miami and Orlando. William Murdock, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission’s executive director, sees the potential for a Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh route as a solution to a need for faster surface transportation and a way to grow economic opportunities in the Midwest. The finalists will now work with Hyperloop One to determine feasibility and commercial viability.

California Sets Demands for Auto-Emission Talks with Trump

The Chair of the California Air Resources Board told Bloomberg that California is willing to re-open discussions on greenhouse gas targets for 2025 if automakers and the administration support them on future targets. Talk of a possible three-way negotiation between California, automakers, and the Federal Government comes after the administration cut back on Obama-era emission targets for 2025. However, California could choose to keep its rules unchanged even if the federal targets are loosened. Having a united front will benefit both automakers and California, as automakers want to avoid a patchwork of regulation and California would like to continue to write its own air quality rules. Talks are expected to begin ahead of the Trump administration report on fuel economy and emissions, which is planned to release in April.

Dyson Vacuum Maker Making \$2.7B Push into Electric Cars, Batteries

James Dyson, the founder of the widespread hair dryer and vacuum brand, has announced that Dyson will be investing in electric vehicles and batteries. Dyson has promised a product that is different than other entrants in the marketplace, and hopes to launch the electric vehicle in 2022 from its service center in Phoenix, AZ.

Court Approves VW Trust Agreement

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California approved the trust agreement for the Volkswagen (VW) Environmental Mitigation Trust and are sending it back to VW and

California for final signature. Once signed, the Trust Effective Date (TED) will be established. TED gives states 60 days to apply for beneficiary status for VW settlement funds from the Environmental Mitigation Trust. The next step in the timeline would be for the trustees to designate beneficiaries within the first 120 days. To learn more about the VW settlement and gain access to resources for state and local government offices to develop plans and implement projects under the Environmental Mitigation Trust, visit the [NASEO and NACAA VW Settlement Clearinghouse website](#).

F4F Instrumental in Creating New Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Category with NJPA

Fleets for the Future (F4F) worked with the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) to help develop a new, successful nationwide competitive solicitation category: Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment and Related Services. This combined effort offers public fleet managers across the country more access to review and purchase alternative fuel vehicles and related infrastructure, one of the primary goals of the F4F national procurement initiative. As NJPA put in their [recent news release](#), public fleet managers that become NJPA members “can [now] find everything they need to provide charging solutions for any size project or program, from just one vehicle to public parking spaces and ramps, up to a full fleet of vehicles.”

JOBS

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Principal Planner

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Legislation Manager

Southern California Association of Governments, Los Angeles, CA

RFP for Signal Timing Optimization Program

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, Cleveland, OH

OPPORTUNITIES

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

NARC Webinar! Learn About Exclusive Deals on Alt-Fuel Vehicles Through F4F

October 4, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

Please join F4F, NJPA, Zenith Motors, and the National Auto Fleet Group (NAFG) to learn about the available clean vehicles provided through NJPA, a leading national purchasing cooperative with over 50,000 members. Vehicles range from plug-in hybrid sedans to propane and natural gas trucks to full electric shuttle buses and cargo vans. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure and associated services are also newly available. In October only, Zenith and NAFG will offer an additional discount on vehicles through F4F. Join the webinar to learn more about how you can transform your fleet while saving thousands of dollars in the process. There will be a live Q&A session following the presentations where participants can ask vendors questions directly.

TMIP Webinar: Behavioral/Agent-Based Supply Chain Modeling Research Synthesis

October 4, 2:00-4:00 PM ET

A handful of U.S. public agencies are in the process of developing—or have already developed—behavioral/agent-based models of supply chain decisions and freight movements. The uptick in development of these new models is largely attributable to funding from the FHWA Broad Agency Announcement awards and the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) C20 program, which aims to foster fresh ideas and new approaches to designing and implementing freight demand modeling. This presentation will discuss a summary of the recent advancements in these behavioral/agent-based models along with a discussion of data challenges and model applications. The presentation will also include a discussion of data privacy and sharing issues. The webinar aims to help public agencies interested in developing behavioral/agent-based freight models assess the feasibility and practicality of developing similar models for their own regions based on the experiences of other agencies.

The Role of Connected & Automated Vehicles: How Can Urban Areas Use the Data

They Create?

October 11, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

With increasing attention focused on connected and automated vehicles, this webinar will present the opportunities and challenges for their development and deployment. How can connected and automated vehicles transform various processes in the transportation system, especially through the data they generate? Will they have a profound impact on mobility, safety, and the environment? The webinar will present a framework for analysis and demonstrate the use of modeling and simulation techniques. The presenters will discuss work undertaken in a National Science Foundation and USDOT-sponsored project on how higher driving volatility in a connected vehicles environment—such as hard accelerations or hard braking—relates to mobility, safety, and the environment. The implications of our analysis for travel behavior changes, future vehicle use, and transportation system performance will be discussed.

Understanding Local and Regional Economic Development

October 11, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

FHWA's National Systems and Economic Development Team is presenting a three-part webinar series this fall focusing on economic development issues. This is the final webinar in the series.

Sustainable Fleet Technology Conference

October 11-13, Raleigh, NC

Are you looking for ways to reduce your fleet's emissions or operations costs? The 2017 Sustainable Fleet Technology Conference will showcase the latest and greatest technologies in the biofuels, electric, natural gas, and propane arenas. The conference will also have a strong focus on data driven decisions and technologies. Join the event to learn more, network with professionals, and see the latest technologies.

ITM2018 Call for Submissions

Due: November 30

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) Innovations in Travel Modeling (ITM) conference series has become the leading venue for researchers and practitioners to come together and discuss, debate, and share information about advances in travel analysis and modeling methods. The ITM conference series is intended to bridge the gap between research and practice and help accelerate the deployment of new methods, tools, technologies, and algorithms in freight and passenger travel forecasting model systems. The conference organizing committee invites contributions on innovations in freight and passenger transport modeling, data collection, and analytics for possible presentation at the conference. The conference welcomes two types of contributions:

- Research briefs, no more than 2500 equivalent words in length, for possible consideration as full-length presentations
- Abstracts, no more than 300 words in length, for possible consideration as short “lightning” talks

The conference series was launched in 2006 and is held every other year, with the seventh edition scheduled to take place in Atlanta, June 24-27, 2018.

TPM Training

FHWA offers several options for practitioners to develop skills needed to meet the requirements of Transportation Performance Management (TPM) regulations. Learn how to do it right by hosting a National Highway Institute (NHI) course. NHI courses give you face-to-face access to a TPM expert at your location. TPM courses include: The Role of Data in TPM, Effective Target Setting for TPM, and Performance-based Planning and Programming.

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