



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

CONGRESS BRIEF

Government Shutdown Averted

With only a few days to spare, Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) yesterday to avoid a government shutdown when the fiscal year ends this week. The measure extends current funding levels through December 9 and provides \$1.1 billion to fight the Zika virus and money for states recently affected by floods. Democrats had said they would not support a funding package that omitted aid to Flint, MI but an agreement was reached when leadership on both sides agreed to include it in the *Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)*. The Senate passed the CR by a 72-26 vote and the House approved it by a 342-85 vote late last night before heading home to campaign.

House Passes WRDA

Yesterday, the House overwhelmingly passed WRDA in a 399-25 vote. Several amendments were adopted including a bipartisan compromise for up to \$170 million for the Flint, MI water crisis, which also allowed the short-term funding measure to pass. The Senate version includes a \$220 million Flint package to help communities dealing with lead-contaminated water. The bill will now have to be conferenced with the Senate version after the election.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

FTA Announces \$5 Million to Improve Transit Options on Tribal Lands

The \$5 million Tribal Transit Program announced grant awards for 35 projects in 12 states that will support public transit projects for American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. Tribal Transit funding was increased to \$30 million annually in the FAST Act and helps connect tribal citizens to employment, education, healthcare, and other services.

CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit

FHWA developed a series of tools to help with the implementation of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program. This CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit is an additional resource for MPOs and DOTs in the project justification process and is continuing to be developed with Alternative Fuels and Vehicles and Advanced Diesel Truck/Engine Improvements sections.

Administration Calls on Local Governments to Reevaluate Zoning Laws

Earlier this week, the White House released a toolkit for cities and counties to use to update their zoning laws to fight high rents and income inequality. The administration suggested that updating local land use policies could lead to more new housing construction, better leverage of limited financial resources, and increased connectivity between housing to transportation, jobs, and amenities. The toolkit promotes healthy, responsive, affordable, high-opportunity housing markets, including:

- Establishing by-right development
- Taxing vacant land or donate it to non - profit developers
- Streamlining or shortening permitting processes and timelines
- Eliminate off - street parking requirements
- Allowing accessory dwelling units
- Establishing density bonuses

- Enacting high -density and multifamily zoning
- Employing inclusionary zoning
- Establishing development tax or value capture incentives
- Using property tax abatements

REGIONS BRIEF

The 50 Best Bike Cities of 2016

Every two years *Bicycling Magazine* rounds up a list of the 50 most bike-friendly cities in the country. They look at everything from miles of bike lanes to the percentage of cycling commuters who are female—a key indicator of safe bike infrastructure—to the number of cyclist-friendly bars. Chicago tops this year’s list for building 100 miles of protected bike lanes (to be completed in spring 2017) coupled with the Loop Link transit project, which will make Chicago the first major U.S. city with a downtown network of protected bike lanes. The city is also subsidizing their bike-share memberships for low-income residents and building a bridge to connect the traditionally African-American community of Bronzeville to the Lakefront Trail making cycling more accessible to all.

Are We Nearing Peak Car Ownership?

A new report from the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) predicts that personal car ownership will peak by 2021 and that car ownership will dip to approximately 100 million vehicles by 2030. The report looks at the implications of autonomous vehicles and takes into account transportation trends among millennials and new regulations. RMI’s bold prediction also sees automation making electric vehicles more attractive and predicts a decline in gasoline demand.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Alamo Local Authority Lead Crisis Intervention Assessor

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

OPPORTUNITIES

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

Making the Business Case for Traffic Incident Management Programs

October 13, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Agencies know intuitively that there is profound value in traffic incident management (TIM) programs; however, it is often challenging to estimate and communicate the value of TIM internally to executive management and externally to decision makers. Typically, a one-time report presenting an “analysis,” “evaluation,” or “study” is generated to summarize benefits after a TIM program or project has been implemented. This report, while a key component of a solid business case, is not sufficient to transform a TIM program or project from a stand-alone effort to a core-sustaining function of an agency. To guide TIM agencies and their partner organizations towards the development of a strong business case for their programs, FHWA has developed a report, “Making the Business Case for Traffic Incident Management.” During the webinar, participants will learn about the four-phase process for developing a TIM business case, as well as the key components and products required for an effective business case.

Reaching Zero Crashes: A Dialogue on the Role of Advanced Driver Assistance Systems

October 27, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM ET

Motor vehicle crashes continue to be a leading cause of preventable deaths in the United States. According to National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, motor vehicle fatalities were 7.2 percent higher in 2015 than 2014 – the highest year-over-year percentage increase in 50 years. Most of these deaths were preventable, and advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) can play a significant role in saving lives. The National Transportation Safety Board and the National Safety Council have identified the need for a broader discussion on ADAS technologies, as vehicles of all types increasingly incorporate important safety technologies that can confuse an uninformed consumer. The National Transportation Safety Board will hold this one-day Panel Event and Roundtable in Washington D.C. and will stream it online for viewing.

Community Revitalization Approaches in Gary and Detroit

November 15, 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET

This webinar is a part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Sustainable and Healthy Communities Seminar Series and will focus on EPA Region 5 and community revitalization in Gary, IN and Detroit, MI.

CONTACT US

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