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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

October 2, 2014

**Transportation Thursdays**

**NARC LEADERSHIP**

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Boone County, KY

**Chair Matt Stoll**

Executive Directors  
Council;  
Executive Director,  
Community Planning  
Association of Southwest  
Idaho

**Hon. Fred Strong**

Chair, Transportation  
Committee;  
San Luis Obispo Council  
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**Lyle Wray**

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Committee;  
Executive Director, Capitol  
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Governments

[ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF](#) [LEGISLATIVE BRIEF](#)  
[REGIONAL BRIEF](#) [OPPORTUNITY BRIEF](#)

## ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

***Projects of National and Regional Significance Survey Reopened:***

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced that it is reopening a survey to compile a list of projects eligible under the *Projects of National and Regional Significance* program. MAP-21 authorized \$500 million per year for the program, though funds have not been appropriated. The U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) is required to compile a comprehensive list of eligible projects for Congress, and to make funding recommendations. The survey was initially released in June, but FHWA said that “many regions of the country provided limited or no participation.” As a result, regions and other entities can now provide input to U.S. DOT through November 17, when the survey will close. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

**Full Review of FAA Contingency Plans and Security Protocols:**

In a speech at an Air Traffic Control Association conference in Maryland, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Michael P. Huerta announced that the agency is conducting a 30-day review of contingency plans and security protocols for its major facilities, after a criminal action by a contractor knocked out communications equipment at an FAA high-altitude air traffic facility in Aurora, IL. Click [HERE](#) for the full text of the speech.

**Michael Parks**  
Chair, Transportation  
Committee;  
Assistant Executive  
Director, Brazos Valley  
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**Ladders of Opportunity Grants Awarded:** In an effort to improve bus service and bus facilities in urban and rural communities where residents depend heavily on public transportation, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced \$100 million in competitive grants to 24 recipients in 19 states. The grants were provided through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) *Ladders of Opportunity Initiative*. Click **HERE** for the news release.

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## **LEGISLATIVE BRIEF**

**Earmark Ban Blamed:** In a recent interview with Chicago *Daily Herald* newspaper, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) stated his belief that the elimination of earmarks is one of the main reasons Congress has been unable to pass a federal transportation bill. He also hopes that increasing the gas tax will not be necessary. Click **HERE** for more information.

**Transportation Bill is "Doable:"** Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) recently stated that he believes he can work with President Obama to pass a long-term transportation reauthorization bill. The Speaker said that he intends to find "common ground" after the November elections. Click **HERE** for details.

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## **REGIONAL BRIEF**

**WISLR Expands Local Access to Data while Integrating State and Local Safety Data Systems:** Wisconsin has developed a program that integrates local roadway data into their State data system. This program, *Wisconsin Information System for Local Roads (WISLR)*, has helped Wisconsin accomplish cost savings through reduced redundancy, consistent statewide local roadway data, and an efficient tool for safety analysis. The details of the program are available through a case study available as part of FHWA's *Integration of State and Local Safety Data* project. Click **HERE** for additional information.

**Delaware Integrates its SHSP with Other State Plans and Programs:** Delaware has integrated its *Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)* with other state plans and programs in an effort to use comprehensive traffic safety data when making resource allocation decisions. Integration has helped Delaware strengthen partnerships

among State safety agencies and identify emergency service strategies to address each targeted emphasis area. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

**Los Angeles Regional Connector Groundbreaking:** Transportation Secretary Foxx recently attended the Los Angeles Regional Connector groundbreaking. This light rail transit segment connects three existing transit lines in downtown Los Angeles under their \$1.7 million *Ladders of Opportunity* grant. Click [HERE](#) for the news release.

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## OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

Click [HERE](#) to view the list of grants and events still open!

### **WEBINAR SERIES: FHWA EDC-3 Regional Summits - Efficiency Through Technology and Collaboration**

*Multiple Dates & Sessions: October 7 – December 10*

Every Day Counts (EDC) is a state-based model to identify and rapidly deploy proven, but underutilized innovations to shorten the project delivery process, enhance roadway safety, reduce congestion, and improve environmental sustainability. The seven Regional Summits scheduled this fall will set the stage for deployment of 11 innovations through the third 2-year cycle of EDC (EDC-3) in 2015 and 2016. The objective of the Regional Summits is to facilitate dialogue, encourage creative thinking, and celebrate a shared vision for new opportunities. These Summits provide the transportation professionals the opportunity to learn about the 11 innovations promoted through EDC-3, exchange ideas with their agency and industry counterparts in neighboring States, and provide feedback to FHWA on the support and resources needed to adopt the innovations in their own States. Click [HERE](#) to see the line up and register.

### **EVENT: The Role of Governance in Regional Transit - Report Release and Panel Discussion**

*October 8, 9:00 AM ET – William & Anita Newman Conference Center, Baruch College, 151 East 25th Street, NY, NY 10010*

Join the Eno Center for Transportation, TransitCenter, and the Regional Plan Association for the release of an Eno/TransitCenter report looking at the challenges of regional transit governance faced by a range of cities from New York to San Francisco. Click [HERE](#) to RSVP.

**WEBINAR: Better Governance through Cloud-Based Collaboration**

*October 9, 1:00 PM ET*

Join this webinar hosted by the National League of Cities and OpenGov.com to hear directly from elected officials and senior executives from the cities of Mountain View and Palo Alto who implemented management reporting and business intelligence software to dramatically reduce time reporting and communicating financial data; leverage data to improve decision-making and internal efficiencies; and build trust and engagement with residents. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**WEBINAR: U.S. DOT *Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program* Open Source, Open Data & Performance Measurement**

*October 17, 11:00 AM ET*

The *Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program* seeks to combine connected vehicle and mobile device technologies in innovative and cost-effective ways. Ultimately, this program will improve traveler mobility and system productivity while reducing environmental impacts and enhancing safety. The U.S. DOT anticipates a procurement action for multiple pilot deployment concepts in 2015. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**WEBINAR: TREDIS Transportation Economic Analysis System**

*October 28, 1:00 PM ET*

Learn about an easy-to-use transportation economic analysis system called TREDIS, watch a demo, and see how this system can work for your organization. The webinar will also walk users through straightforward queries, based on stages in the transportation planning process, to create reports tailored to specific audiences and decision support needs. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**WEBINAR SERIES: Let's Talk Performance: Performance Measures Beyond the Mainstream**

*October 28, 2:30 PM ET*

FHWA, in cooperation with FTA and several national stakeholder groups, is hosting their second webinar out of six in this series focused on transportation performance management implementation activities. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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