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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

October 9, 2014

Transportation Thursdays

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

ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

NLC and USCM's Letter to FTA: Recently, the National League of Cities (NLC) and the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) sent a letter to the Federal Transit Agency (FTA) regarding the representation of public transportation providers on Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). Both organizations believe that most MPOs already meet the intent of MAP-21 regarding transit representation and that the triennial MPO certification review is the more appropriate venue to ensure the interests of local transit providers are represented in the planning, performance, and other decision-making processes of MPOs. Click [HERE](#) for more information

U.S. DOT Issues Final Rule on CEs: Earlier this week, the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) issued a final rule expanding the definition of Categorical Exclusions for highway and transit projects under the *National Environmental Policy Act*, as authorized under MAP-21. The rule also allows state departments of transportation to process certain categorical exclusions (CEs) without the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) detailed project-by-project review and approval, and adds a new section on programmatic agreements to allow State DOTs to apply FHWA CEs on FHWA's behalf. The final rule takes effect on November 5. Click [HERE](#) for rule text.

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MOVES2014 Released: MOVES2014 is the latest upgrade to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) modeling tool for estimating emissions from cars, trucks, buses, and motorcycles. This notice starts a two-year grace period before the MOVES2014 emission model is required to be used in new regional emissions analyses and new hot-spot analyses for transportation conformity determinations outside of California. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

CDC Report on Cost of Car Crashes: A new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that the 2.5 million people who visit emergency rooms following car crashes each year cost the economy more than \$50 billion. In the report, the CDC urges states to enact and enforce seat belt laws and sobriety checkpoints, and to push the use of booster seats for children. Click [HERE](#) for the report.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

GAO: Developing National Freight Strategy Would Benefit from Added Focus on Community Congestion Impacts: U.S. DOT efforts to implement freight-related provisions in MAP-21 are still underway. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to conduct a study based on the recent and projected increase in freight flows and its impact on traffic congestion in communities. This study reviews trends in freight mobility and related traffic-congestion impacts. Click [HERE](#) for the full report.

New Report Focuses on Transportation Funding Challenges: According to a new report recently released by Pew Charitable Trusts, as part of its *Fiscal Federalism in Action* series, transportation spending at all levels of government has declined over the last decade. The report highlights the stark funding challenges that all levels of government face in providing adequate resources for infrastructure, and counters the notion that local funding sources can make up for the recent decrease in federal funding. The report examines the role that each level of government plays in surface transportation funding. Click [HERE](#) for the report.

REGIONAL BRIEF

TMACOG Hosts Ohio Conference on Freight: The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) recently held the latest iteration of its annual freight conference, and the event attracted more attendees than ever before. NARC has sponsored the event since its inception, and has been pleased to watch it grow into an event that attracts participants from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Speakers and presenters brought expertise from all modes and included government and business leaders. Presentations from this year's conference will be posted [HERE](#).

Getting to the Route of it: The Role of Governance in Regional Transit: The Eno Center for Transportation released a report this week with case studies highlighting regional transit governance. This report is framed around the relationship between regionalism, funding, and customer service. The ability of transit organizations to respond to changing and expanding transit demands is shaped to a large extent by individual governance and organizational structures. Click [HERE](#) for the report.

OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

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

WEBINAR: Mock DUI - Office of Safety, Noteworthy Practice Series
October 23, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET

This free webinar describes a community-based program in Seminole County, Florida that targets youth drinking and driving. The program presents the dangers of teen drinking and driving and the long term consequences through a reenactment of prom night. It is an example of how EMS, Engineering, Education, and Enforcement work together to reduce injuries and fatalities. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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