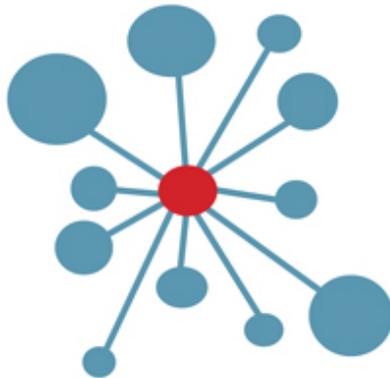




NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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CONGRESS BRIEF

Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Highways and Transit Stakeholders' Perspectives

The House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing yesterday as part of their stakeholder series in anticipation of an infrastructure package. The five witnesses ranged from the CEO of a transit agency to a state DOT director representing the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). All witnesses highlighted the need for additional funding beyond the FAST Act and called for a long-term fix for the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). Witnesses and Members of Congress also emphasized the importance of rural areas in the transportation network and expediting project delivery. Patrick McKenna, director of Missouri DOT, spoke about funding flexibility and the importance of using MPOs and regional planning organizations as a resource for understanding specific local transportation networks.

Democrats expressed their concerns over the lack of progress on an infrastructure package during the hearing. Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR) expressed his frustration with the committee for only talking about the country's failing infrastructure and not acting on it. Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) stated that they are waiting on the White House proposal before moving forward. Shuster also said that he is open to ideas and spoke about asset recycling as a tool.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Manual on Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections to Transit

FTA has a new manual that compiles best practices in pedestrian and bicycle safety planning and transit access. The manual features a detailed section on implementation that covers funding, marketing, interagency coordination, and data collection. The Atlanta Regional Commission, Southern California Association of Governments, and Metropolitan Council are highlighted with case studies on how they have improved safety and mobility for transit users who ride bicycles or walk considerable distances to transit stations.

A Regional Models of Cooperation Peer Exchange Summary Report

This report highlights key themes identified at the *Freight Planning and Regional Cooperation in the Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion* peer exchange held on January 31 and February 1 in Atlanta,

Georgia. The Atlanta Regional Commission hosted the exchange to share best practices and bring different representatives from across their megaregion to the table through the FHWA Regional Models of Cooperation Initiative.

Autonomous Vehicles: Driving Employment for People with Disabilities Online Dialogue

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy is hosting a series of online dialogues to gather input and ideas from the public and other stakeholders on how new transportation technology, including autonomous vehicles, can support the employment of people with disabilities. You can add comments to current topics or add your own topic for comment. The online dialogue, kicked off on Tuesday, October 10, and runs through October 20. Ideas and comments will be shared with technology developers and policymakers.

Exploring New Ways to Pay for Highways

Last Friday, FHWA announced a total of \$15 million in Surface Transportation System Funding Alternatives (STSFA) grant awards to six states to explore new ways to fund transportation projects. The seven selected projects will pilot user-based alternative revenue tools in California, Colorado, Delaware, Missouri, Washington and Oregon. STSFA was established in the FAST Act to help the federal government explore ways to fix the Highway Trust Fund's diminishing balance.

REGIONS BRIEF

New Mobility: Autonomous Vehicles and the Region

The Regional Plan Association, which represents the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut metropolitan area, released a report on autonomous vehicles (AVs) and their impact on the New York metro area. The report concludes that public officials and agencies must be engaged in the planning process for AV's and implement smart policies to help control negative externalities.

Dockless Bike Shares Are Here. Are Cities Ready for Them?

Dockless bike share has taken over Washington, DC in the past few weeks. The bikes are unlocked through a mobile device and can be left almost anywhere by locking themselves for the next user to pick up. Many see these as a great alternative to the dock-based system, though there are downsides including further crowding of sidewalks and the unpredictability of locating a bike. DC is allowing a six-month trial period with companies to gather data and decide if they are beneficial to the city. Several other cities without bike share are also testing this system to close existing transportation gaps.

A Bid for Better Transit

TransitCenter and the Eno Center for Transportation co-authored a report on improving transit service through private service contracting. The report explains how and under what circumstances agencies can implement competitive contracting to improve service through a review of case studies. The three key lessons learned: government cannot contract out the public interest, clear contracts can align contractors' profit motive with agency goals, and symbiotic agency-contractor relationships can improve operations and foster innovation. The report concludes that through dedicated and thoughtful planning, contracting can be very effective and yield better results for riders.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

RFP for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, Oklahoma City, OK

Senior Accountant

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Planner

Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, Dothan, AL

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Rethinking the Human-Autonomy Team Architecture

October 17, 12:00-12:45 PM ET

As autonomous transportation technologies have advanced, transportation systems have evolved into human-autonomy teaming architectures that have machines doing things, and humans supervising. Is this the right architecture for human-autonomy teams in safety-critical transportation? In this talk, Amy Pritchett, professor and head of the Department of Aerospace Engineering at Pennsylvania State University, will muse about other architectures for how humans and autonomous systems can interact.

TMIP Webinar: MAG Large-Scale Regional Travel Surveys and Bottleneck Survey

October 18, 2:00-4:00 PM ET

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) recently completed several regional traffic and travel data collections. These projects capitalized on innovative data collection techniques and visualization methods. The first presentation will describe large-scale regional travel surveys completed by MAG. The second presentation will cover MAG's Regional Bottleneck Study methodologies and results of the project, including bottleneck identification and measurement, the TLAP data collection, data visualization, and application of the collected vehicle traces and origin-destination travel patterns for the purposes of traffic micro-simulation model development.

Learn How INRIX Roadway Analytics Improves Mobility with Highly Granular Transportation Data

October 18, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

What if you could carry out on-demand traffic analysis to identify bottlenecks on your road network or to show not just the before and after results of a roadway improvement project, but to also visualize the results and communicate them to your stakeholders, with less cost and hassle? Join this webinar to learn how you can equip your organization with the insight, tools and visualizations to effectively plan, monitor, assess and communicate the performance of your road network.

What's at Stake for Small and Rural Transit Providers

October 23, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Federal transit funding is once again on the chopping block. At risk for smaller cities and rural areas are funding reductions, phase-outs, or the total elimination of Small Starts, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER), and formula funding. Join this webinar to hear a discussion on rural transit providers, projects that are at risk of transit cuts, and what you can do to defend transit in your region.

2018 National Bike Summit Request for Proposals

Proposals Due: October 31

The National Bike Summit is the premier bike advocacy event of the year, uniting the voices of bicyclists on Capitol Hill. This year it will be March 5-7, 2018 and will focus on regional planning, national and local messaging, and the road map of the work done in advancing the bicycling movement. The planning committee is looking for proposals related to bike-related initiatives, programs, campaigns, or projects that others could benefit from learning about and potentially use in their own community. All proposals will be considered for a presentation and poster session unless otherwise noted.

NPMRDS Users Quarterly Technical Assistance Webinar

November 7, 1:00-3:00 PM ET

The National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) is the probe data that FHWA uses internally for passenger and freight analysis and makes available to states and MPOs. In this webinar, FHWA and its contractors will provide an overview of the probe data set, demonstrate data applications, and respond to technical assistance questions. This webinar is open to USDOT, state DOT, MPO, academic, and private sector participants.

NARC & APA Webinar! Trees and Stormwater: A Tool for Your Community

November 9, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST

Using trees in landscape design provides a multitude of environmental benefits, particularly when they are used in new and retrofitted stormwater management installations. This webinar will

introduce a new free interactive web-based tool developed by the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Council of Governments and the U.S. Forest Service that will help you maximize the value of trees in stormwater management. Join the American Planning Association, National Association of Regional Councils, and national experts in green infrastructure design for an introduction to this exciting new tool that enables strategic placement of trees to improve stormwater management.

CONTACT US

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