



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



NARC is moving to a new location!
Effective November 1st,
our new address will be:

660 NORTH CAPITOL ST NW
Suite 470
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

CONGRESS BRIEF

CDBG Coalition Letter to Congress

Last Tuesday, NARC and 13 organizations known as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coalition sent a letter to House and Senate leaders thanking them for their leadership and support of the CDBG Program and \$3.0 billion in formula grants for CDBG in the FY2017 Transportation-HUD spending measure. The coalition asked for continued support for this level of funding in the final FY2017 appropriations measure.

Congress and Autonomous Vehicles

The **Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment** competitive grant program recently awarded \$60 million to eight cities to address demand and support a connected and autonomous transportation system. In support of this program, leadership of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on both sides released a **joint statement** congratulating the winners.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Update on MPO Coordination Rule

October 14, 3:00 PM ET

Dial: 1-719-234-7872; Passcode: 992819

Join NARC, AMPO, and NADO for an update on the reopened MPO Regional Coordination rule, the role of the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and a discussion of the costs of merging MPOs based on the experiences of the Lower Connecticut River Valley MPO. Due to the extension, your organization has another opportunity to submit comments on portions of the proposed USDOT MPO Coordination Rule. For action items to reinforce your concerns to the administration and Congress, see **last week's notice**.

FTA Announces Grants to Improve Transit Access

This week, FTA announced the 16 organizations that will receive a share of the \$14.7 million through the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Pilot Program. This program is helping communities integrate land-use and transportation planning efforts as they develop new or expand existing mass transit systems. Another key goal of this program is to connect disadvantaged populations to jobs, education, and other essential services.

SSOA Rule Implementation

The purpose of the State Safety Oversight (SSO) program is to oversee safety of rail transit systems; it is administered by eligible states with rail transit systems in their jurisdiction. In April 2016, a final State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) rule took effect and is designed to help prevent and mitigate accidents and incidents on rail transit systems. U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx recently sent **letters** to governments in each of the 29 affected states and territories encouraging them to provide the resources needed to deliver a higher level of safety and to comply with the rule. Without a fully established and certified SSOA by April 2019, FTA is prohibited from funding any state transit activity. You can find your State Safety Oversight contact on **FTA's website** to help ensure governors and legislatures are informed on the issue.

REGIONS BRIEF

Member Request: Federal-Aid Projects

The Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA), the joint COG/MPO in Omaha, Nebraska, is seeking examples and ideas from NARC members of MPOs taking a more active role to advance federal-aid projects. MAPA is interested in ways other MPOs have found methods to assist their local jurisdictions to advance federal-aid projects that have a very delayed project delivery due to issues such as right-of-way or environmental reviews.

Has your MPO done work like this or thought about ways to help move projects forward, such as convening an environmental work-day with FHWA and resource agency staff or dedicating MPO staff as a project sponsor on behalf of the local jurisdiction?

Please send responses to Anna Rosenbaum, anna@narc.org. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Building to Win

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) released an initiative this week promoting infrastructure investment as their key issue in 2017. The document includes funding needs by transportation mode and provides a list of projects for highways and bridges, aviation, ports and inland waterways, and public transit. NAM also calls for attention to other issues, such as broadband and water infrastructure, as important aspects of establishing a strong and competitive economy.

People Near Transit: Improving Accessibility and Rapid Transit Coverage in Large Cities

A new report from the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy looks at the number of residents in a city and metro area who live within a certain distance of high-quality rapid transit. Topping the international list is Paris followed by Barcelona, Madrid, London, Rotterdam, New York City, Boston, and Washington, DC. The report analyses trends and how access differs between socioeconomic areas.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Loan Coordinator

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Project Manager

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Business Development Officer

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Loan Specialist

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Data Analyst

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Executive Director

Iron County Economic Chamber Alliance, Iron River, MI

Contracts and Procurement Analyst

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Division Manager, Community Development

Atlanta Regional Commission, Atlanta, GA

GIS Analyst/Planner

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, Albany, OR

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Regional Models of Cooperation – Regional Collaboration in Freight Planning

October 19, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Most freight transportation, by its very nature, operates across municipal, county, state, and/or national boundaries, and those movements create economic impacts at all of those geographic levels. A significant portion of that freight also operates across multiple modes, and the infrastructure for those modes is often shared between freight movements and passenger movements. This webinar, which is a joint webinar between the FHWA Freight Office and FHWA Planning Office and part of the Planning Office's Regional Models of Cooperation initiative, will focus on different types of regional collaboration in freight planning. Speakers from the City of Chicago, Kansas City SmartPort, and the Arizona DOT will share their regional freight planning success stories, focusing on how they have collaborated across jurisdictional boundaries and with non-traditional partners to address the growing freight transportation-related issues and needs.

EPA's Travel Efficiency Assessment Method: Evaluating the Potential to Reduce Emissions in Three Case Study Areas

October 20, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality is hosting a webinar describing EPA's recent case studies examining the potential for travel efficiency strategies (such as transit, road and parking pricing, land use changes, bike and pedestrian infrastructure) to reduce emissions of criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases. During this webinar, EPA and its partner agencies in these case studies will provide an overview of the TEAM analytical process, the travel efficiency strategies each agency considered, and their potential emission reductions. The partner agencies participating in the webinar are, Atlanta Regional Commission, East-West Gateway Council of Governments, and Metroplan Orlando.

Introduction to Environmental Justice

October 25-26, Washington, DC

The course offers hands-on, practical pointers for staff from transit agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, state DOTs, and USDOT when considering Environmental Justice (EJ) in transportation planning and project development. The course, which provides the basic tenets of EJ principles through the evolution of civil rights, is intended to serve as guidance for practitioners, reviewers, and grantees on effective ways for integrating the consideration of EJ impacts throughout the transportation planning and project development/NEPA processes.

TMIP Webinar: FTA's Traffic Assignment and Feedback Research to Support Improved Travel Forecasting

October 26, 2:00 – 4:00 PM ET

This webinar will cover technical motivation for why anything matters about traffic assignment and convergence, common pitfalls as revealed by the study, some of the consequences of ignoring issues, and some basic suggestions about how to validate models against counts and with the new

travel time data available.

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

October 27, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM, Washington, DC or Online

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), motor vehicle fatalities rose more than 7 percent in 2015 from 2014 – the highest year-over-year increase in 50 years. Many vehicles are equipped with safety technologies that can save lives and prevent injuries, but drivers are often unaware of their benefits and how they work. On October 27, industry leaders, researchers, government officials, associations and the media will gather for an expert panel, hosted by the National Transportation Safety Board and the National Safety Council. Discussions will include: The capabilities, benefits and availability of current technologies, such as forward collision warning, automatic emergency braking, lane departure warning, and blind spot detection; human factors considerations during development; and public education, training and promotion efforts about these technologies.

NPMRDS Quarterly Webinar

November 1, 1:00 – 3:00 PM ET

The National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) is the probe data that FHWA is using internally for passenger and freight analysis and making available to states and MPOs. 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.

2017 Solar Eclipse Webinar: Prep for August 21st 2017

November 3, 1:00–2:30 PM ET

This **webinar** is designed to help you understand what is known about the upcoming solar eclipse, how state and local agencies (including state DOTs) have begun to address this truly “rare” event, and how to get your community involved in the planning and promotion of this special event.

Let’s Talk Performance: Asset Management

November 8, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

During this webinar, FHWA will provide an overview of available resources to develop Transportation Asset Management Plans (TAMPs). Presenters from a state DOT and MPO will showcase noteworthy practices they used to develop their TAMPs.

Highly Automated Vehicles: Challenges and Opportunities

New Date: November 9, 12:00 – 12:45 PM ET

A world with highly automated vehicles presents many challenges that will need to be addressed if their life-saving potential can be realized. Join NHTSA Administrator Mark R. Rosekind, Ph.D., for his talk, *Highly Automated Vehicles: Challenges and Opportunities*, as part of Volpe’s speaker series *The Future of Transportation: Safety, Opportunity, and Innovation*.

CONTACT US