

OCTOBER 15, 2015

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

CONGRESS BRIEF

Congress is in recess and will return on October 20.

Reauthorization on Track for Committee Markup

With the text of a reauthorization bill expected tomorrow, the Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee is on-track to hold a bill markup next Thursday, October 22. The Committee has provided scant detail as to what the bill contains and rumors are swirling, and we have nothing firm yet regarding what the bill does for STP or any of the other programs that are critical for our members. Once the text is in our hands, we'll be doing a full analysis, so check the NARC website or your inbox for important updates as they become available.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

FHWA Seeks Comment on New Proposal to Encourage Design Flexibility

Comment Period Closes: December 7

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced proposed revisions to encourage the design of lower-speed roads to align better with community and environmental needs. This represents the start of several proposed regulatory and program policy changes at the agency to allow more flexibility for state, city, and county engineers in the design of highway projects. FHWA proposes to reduce the number of design criteria in order to allow engineers to design projects with multimodal and locally-oriented solutions. This announcement follows FHWA's recent publication of **Bicycle and Pedestrian Funding, Design, and Environmental Review: Addressing Common Misconceptions**, which debunks several myths about the federal rules regarding pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and attempts to distinguish between federal standards and state and local practice.

REGIONS BRIEF

SLO County Celebrates Rideshare Week

Earlier this month, the San Luis Obispo Council of Government's (SLOCOG) Regional Rideshare program encouraged commuters to take an alternative mode of transit to work instead of driving alone during Rideshare Week. SLOCOG hoped to bring attention to the positive health and other benefits of biking, walking, bussing, and carpooling during the week.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Transportation Planner

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, Dayton, OH

RFQ No. 15-05: Complete Streets Initiative Consultant

Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fort Lauderdale, FL

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

Transit Asset Management Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Webinars

October 19, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

October 27, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

October 29, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

Each of these FTA webinars will cover the content of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and inform the industry of the proposed provisions for Transit Asset Management as well as provide an opportunity for questions. The October 27 presentation is specifically designed for small transit operators and will focus on their perspectives and needs.

Talking Freight Seminar: Jason's Law Truck Parking Survey – Report on Findings

October 21, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Learn about the results of the Jason's Law truck parking survey and the recently-created National Coalition on Truck Parking that was created to address the survey results. Other topics of discussion include the innovative efforts states are undertaking, the trucking industry's perspective on the importance of truck parking, and the challenges that occur when dedicated and/or secure parking locations are not readily available.

XPEDITE Initiative and Online Dialogue

Through October 30

FTA launched an online dialogue to discuss its new Expedited Public Transportation Improvement (XPEDITE) Initiative. XPEDITE seeks to speed up planning, approval, and delivery of FTA supported capital investments as well as support innovative financing methods. FTA hopes to increase the transit industry's access to new technologies, proven methods to speed project delivery, and enhanced financing opportunities through public-private partnerships and "value capture." FTA specifically seeks feedback from MPOs on XPEDITE. The online dialogue will run through October 30.

CONTACT US

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