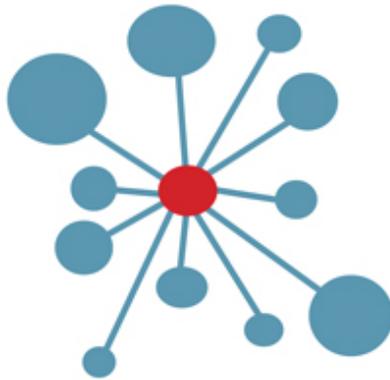




NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



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CONGRESS BRIEF

Dingell Reintroduces Vehicle Innovation Act

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-MI) reintroduced the *Vehicle Innovation Act* last week to promote investments in the research and development of clean vehicle technologies. Congressmen Matt Cartwright (D-PA) and Mark Pocan (D-WI) joined as original cosponsors of the legislation. The bill would reauthorize the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Vehicle Technologies Office and direct DOE to build on successful research programs. It encourages the development of a wide array of technologies that have the potential to improve fuel efficiency and reduce traffic congestion, including vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) communications systems, mild hybrids, engine down speeding, hydrogen and natural gas refueling, and electric vehicle charging technology.

The Vague Infrastructure Package

It remains to be seen whether or when an infrastructure package will be introduced, but the administration continues to hold meetings and identify it as a priority. Several Senators from the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee and Senate Finance Committee met with the White House yesterday to discuss infrastructure and tax reform. Senators revealed that key details are still lacking, especially on funding and timing, but that the administration is developing a proposal. Senators expressed their own ideas and were reassured that a plan will come. Meanwhile, the president met with members of the Senate Finance Committee on tax reform and briefly discussed using it to pay for infrastructure while reiterating his distaste for public-private partnerships.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Greenhouse Gas Measure Repeal

FHWA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal Register repealing the greenhouse gas (GHG) measure that was included as part of the MAP-21 performance measures rulemaking related to system performance. The system performance rule was **published January 18, 2017** and became effective on May 20, 2017, but the administration put an indefinite hold on the GHG measure. The administration later allowed it to **go into force** to avoid a lawsuit, and then indicated that they planned to move ahead with a formal repeal of the GHG measure. This rulemaking provides additional opportunity for public comment and

submission of information. Comments must be received on or before November 6, 2017. The **docket** is available online.

Texas Resilience and Planning Workshop: Summary Report

Last June FHWA held a workshop to identify opportunities for MPOs and other transportation agencies in Texas to assess and address their vulnerabilities to climate change and extreme weather, and incorporate resiliency into the transportation planning process. The group brainstormed resilience strategies and funding options. The North Central Texas Council of Governments and Capital Area MPO presented regional examples for addressing their vulnerabilities.

REGIONS BRIEF

Multi-town Bike Share Would Connect 16 Boston-area Communities

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) in Boston recently announced a new project to bring a broader bike share network to its region. The current Boston bike share system, Hubway, launched in 2011 and has 190 stations and 1,800 bikes. MAPC will expand the system to likely include dockless bikes and e-bikes to encourage farther out suburbs to use the bike share system. MAPC plans to formally solicit proposals from bike sharing companies in mid-November. Several towns have already expressed interested in being a part of this project including Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Chelsea, Concord, Everett, Lexington, Malden, Medford, Milton, Newton, Revere, Winthrop, Quincy, Waltham, and Watertown.

MAG Large-Scale Regional Travel Surveys and Bottleneck Survey Webinar

Yesterday the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) gave a webinar presentation on their extensive regional household survey and bottleneck survey. They used GPS to improve the data they collected, and social media, email, and paid ads to increase household participation. MAG also performed several pilot tests ahead of their final study to perfect their techniques for having households fill out the surveys, assigning GPS trackers, and validating data to create an extensive data set for planning. The bottleneck survey used helicopters and ground cameras to capture congestion, which can be seen in an **interactive bottleneck report**. You can find the webinar slides **HERE** and **HERE**.

Waymo Safety Report: On the Road to Fully Self-Driving

Google's self-driving car company, Waymo, publicly released a technology report they produced for USDOT. The report, *Automated Driving Systems 2.0: A Vision*, addresses the federal policy framework for autonomous vehicles (AV) and discusses the company's safety protocol to help sway leery policymakers and the public.

Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute Report on Aging in Place and Transportation

The Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute recently released a report prepared for USDOT titled *Aging in Place in Small Urban and Rural Communities*. The **study was conducted to determine** "the current state of aging in place in small urban and rural settings throughout the country and quantify the costs for residents to live at home and ride public transportation versus moving to an assisted living facility." The results of the study showed that the cost of assisted living is almost always higher than alternative options. Older adults could save thousands of dollars per year by living at home and using home health services and public transportation. The report asks policymakers to consider the saved costs associated with aging in place initiatives and to increase the accessibility and availability of public transportation for seniors.

Microbuses May Become the Leading Edge of the AV Movement

MayMobility, a startup company in Ann Arbor, Michigan, is trialing a three-quarter mile fixed-route AV shuttle service for a local commercial real estate firm. The six-passenger microbus will start by traveling from a parking garage to a nearby office building. The French mobility company Navya is also planning to produce AV microbuses near Ann Arbor, and plans to deploy one at the University of Michigan later this fall. Because these vehicles only go up to 25 miles per hour, it may pave a faster way to widespread adoption than personal AV vehicles. As *Route Fifty* concludes, "While other players are trying to solve the entirety of the future AV problem in a single grand sweep, the AV microbus space seems to be aiming for a smaller, but interestingly, a more practical and manageable target."

JOBS

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Senior Business Development Analyst

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Senior Policy Analyst – Transportation

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Director of Planning & Economic Development

City of Springfield, IL

OPPORTUNITIES

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Resilience Webinar Series: Post-Hurricane Sandy Transportation Resilience Study

October 26, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

The confluence of four extreme weather events—Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, the Halloween N’oreaster, and Superstorm Sandy—within a fifteen-month period in 2011 and 2012 illuminated a range of transportation resilience issues in New York City’s multi-state metropolitan region. To assess the information generated by these disparate events for use as a basis for a regional resiliency planning process, FHWA partnered with the DOTs of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, four of MPOs in the multi-state metropolitan region, and two major transportation-focused public authorities in that region to undertake a transportation resiliency study. This webinar will provide an overview of the recently completed research study, which assembled a massive amount of information on the impacts of these events, forecasted potential future conditions using assumptions of climate change and sea level rise, identified transportation system vulnerability by type and location on a regional basis, and explored potential adaptation measures to mitigate the vulnerabilities.

4th Annual NACDD Walkability Action Institute

RFA Opens October 30

The RFA application period for the 4th Annual National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) Walkability Action Institute (WAI) will go live the week of October 30 and will remain open until Friday, December 8 (anticipated). WAI is a multi-day course hosted by NACDD that challenges interdisciplinary teams comprised of public health, transportation, planning, elected officials, and a variety of other diverse disciplines to create more walkable communities through new and supportive policies, systems, and environments. The course includes a variety of learning methods and incorporates both indoor and outdoor learning activities. The event will take place April 9-12 in Decatur, GA.

U.S. and European Examples of Urban Freight Fleet Electrification

November 1, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM ET

This webinar will focus on the deployment of electric freight vehicles in both the U.S. and Europe, sharing examples of how the public and private sectors have collaborated to improve metropolitan freight operations while reducing emissions. The Houston-Galveston Area Council will describe the organization’s recent partnership with DOE and UPS to pilot 18 electric delivery trucks. The City of Rotterdam will discuss their own electric freight vehicle pilot, which was part of the Freight Electric Vehicles in Urban Europe (FREVIEWE) project, a European-wide program which deployed more than 80 electric freight vehicles in eight cities. The speakers will provide information about their city’s partnership with private firms such as Heineken, TNT, and UPS to pilot these vehicles.

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.

Tackling Gentrification and Displacement in Creating Vibrant Communities

November 15, 2:00 PM ET

Jobs, affordable housing, and transportation are three pillars of providing opportunities and supporting human potential and well-being. As advocates for active transportation and connected mobility options, these pillars are essential to our work and it is important that we continue to explore ways they come together in developing healthy, active, and engaged communities. By doing so, we create opportunities for new jobs, economic vitality, and community cohesion. Join this webinar to expand your knowledge of work promoting different forms of community development; learn from those working to address some of these challenges and their views as to how their work intersects with walkability; and strategies for public, private, civic, and neighborhood leaders to work together to support these new patterns of growth in their communities.

Regulations and Policies Impacting AV/CV Introduction in Transit

November 16, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

Explore issues related to connected vehicle and automated vehicle use in public transportation during this webinar featuring contributors to ***Impacts of Laws and Regulations on CV and AV Technology Introduction in Transit Operations***, a recent report by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program. The webinar will discuss potential barriers imposed by operating policies, agency regulations, and laws related to the transit environment. Without adjustment, the combination of new technology with old rules could result in delays and restrictions to deployment, which may reduce the societal benefits of automated technologies. The report presents a road map of activities that industry groups, legislatures, the federal government, and others could undertake to facilitate automated roadway transit operations.

CONTACT US

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