

OCTOBER 22, 2015

[View this email in your browser](#)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

CONGRESS BRIEF

House T&I Markup of Transportation Reauthorization

The conference markup of the House transportation reauthorization bill – the **Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform (STRR) Act** (H.R. 3763) – began this morning at 10:00 am ET. With 150 amendments filed, the markup took approximately five hours to complete. It was passed by voice vote at 3:15pm ET.

Earlier in the day, an amendment supported by NARC to increase STP suballocation was offered by Representatives Rodney Davis (R-IL) and Dina Titus (D-NV) was brought before the committee. The Davis-Titus amendment would have significantly increased STP suballocation, increasing to 67% the portion of STP that is distributed by population. The amendment would have also increased transparency to give a better view of how states distribute STP dollars to areas under 200,000. Despite strong bipartisan support and statements of support to the committee from Representatives Davis, Titus, Donna Edwards (D-MD), and Lois Frankel (D-FL), the amendment was withdrawn and no vote was taken. Though the outcome was disappointing, it was in keeping with much of today's markup, during which most amendments were withdrawn without a vote. Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) did commit to working with Representative Davis on this issue before the bill gets to the floor of the House.

As for the bill itself, the STRR Act is written as a six-year bill, but would require congressional action on funding to ensure the last three years of the bill. The intention is that only the first three years of the bill will be funded when the bill comes to the floor. In total, the bill would provide \$325 million in contract authority over the entire six-year life of the bill. See **NARC's updated summary of STRR** on the specific legislative items NARC has been following most closely. A more detailed analysis will be forthcoming.

Path is Clear if Ryan Wants to be Speaker

Following weeks of turmoil and surprises in the race for Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan (R-WI) said Tuesday that he would consider the Speaker job if support from the caucus could be guaranteed. Ryan is looking specifically for support from the House Freedom Caucus, the Republican Study Committee, and the Tuesday Group in order to create a unified GOP front and risk being undermined right out of the gate. The Freedom Caucus, which did not formally endorse the speaker, did indicate that a super-majority of its members would vote in favor of Ryan, clearing the way for Ryan to become Speaker if he chooses.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

USDOT Releases New Freight Transportation Data

Earlier this week, the first product of the newest *Freight Analysis Framework* was released by FHWA and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS). This set of comprehensive publicly accessible data produces information on freight movement and can help transportation planners target resources to improve operations or increase capacity. The release of the *Freight Analysis*

Framework comes after USDOT released the draft *National Freight Strategic Plan* with specific policy solutions to address freight challenges.

REGIONS BRIEF

Birmingham's Zyp BikeShare Officially Gets Rolling

Birmingham became the latest city to debut a bikeshare program this month with the launch of Zyp BikeShare. This initiative put 400 bikes on the streets and is a collaboration on planning and funding coming from corporate and public entities. This program is the first in North America to have electric pedal assist bikes which can help riders up hills and will have a pay-per-use or annual membership structure.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Data Coordinator

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Transportation Planner

Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, Omaha, NE

Regional Data Analyst

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Planning Manager – Transportation

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

OPPORTUNITIES

[View full list of grants and events!](#)

Beyond Traffic Forum: Piedmont Atlantic Mega Region

Charleston, South Carolina

October 23, 12:30 – 4:00 PM ET

Join this interactive discussion on the draft *Beyond Traffic Framework* and the future of our nation's transportation system. The draft outlines key trends facing our nation's transportation system and potential policy considerations. Participants include representatives from across the Piedmont Atlantic Mega Region, including elected officials, MPO directors, transportation industry partners, businesses, and community leaders from Atlanta, Raleigh-Durham, Charleston, Columbia, and Charlotte. Following a town hall style forum with senior DOT leaders, participants will have the opportunity to provide direct insights on the draft *Beyond Traffic Framework*.

Beyond Traffic Forum: Front Range Mega Region

Denver, Colorado

October 27, 2:00 – 5:30 PM MT

Join this interactive discussion on the draft *Beyond Traffic Framework* and the future of our nation's transportation system. The draft outlines key trends facing our nation's transportation system and potential policy considerations. Participants include representatives from across the Front Range Mega Region, including elected officials, MPO directors, transportation industry partners, businesses, and community leaders from Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Colorado Springs, and Denver. Following a town hall style forum with senior DOT leaders, participants will have the opportunity to provide direct insights on the draft *Beyond Traffic Framework*.

(SRFreight) NPMRDS Quarterly Webinar

November 3, 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 in this webinar. Officials from Florida DOT and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) will also review examples of how their agencies have used NPMRDS.

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2015 National Association of Regional Councils, All rights reserved.