

October 27, 2016

[View this email in your browser](#)



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

House T&I Democrats Argue for Better Transit

Earlier this year, House Speaker Paul Ryan released the GOP's election-year agenda, *A Better Way*, which covers six policy areas with ideas on how to tackle some of America's biggest challenges. In response, Democrats on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (House T&I) released a new report on the gaps they see in the GOP report regarding infrastructure, transit, and their relation to poverty. The report focuses on the need to improve transit to connect low-income Americans to jobs, highlighting several cities that need critical transit projects. The conclusion of the 13-page report calls for increasing public transit funds and addressing the \$86 billion backlog of transit deferred maintenance.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Local Empowerment for Accelerating Projects (LEAP) Pilot Program

FHWA recently announced a pilot program to permit, on an experimental basis, direct delivery of federal-aid funding to up to five Local Public Agencies (LPAs). Respective state DOTs will have to sign off on the arrangement, but will be relieved of direct oversight and accountability for LPA-led projects funded under the LEAP pilot program. The pilot will be carried out for a period of five years to see if LPAs can deliver federal-aid projects more expeditiously and at lower costs via innovative approaches to project delivery. Applications for this program are due November 25.

NHTSA Proposed Motor Vehicle Cybersecurity Guidelines

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has released proposed motor vehicle cybersecurity guidelines to protect vehicles from unauthorized access and malicious cyber-attacks. The guidance highlights the importance of the issue and suggests that automobile companies prioritize cybersecurity by looking at a vehicle's full life-cycle and facilitating rapid response and recovery from cyber-attacks. The guidance also suggests best practices for researching, investigating, testing, and validating cybersecurity measures. NHTSA is soliciting

public comments on the proposed guidance for 30 days on the federal register for docket NHTSA-2016-0104.

REGIONS BRIEF

U.S. Judge Approves \$14.7 Billion Deal in VW Diesel Scandal

This week, a San Francisco judge signed off on the impending Volkswagen settlement that includes more than \$10 billion to buy back vehicles and compensate owners, and \$4.7 billion on environmental programs to offset the excess emissions. The company is expected to promote electric vehicle charging infrastructure and zero-emission ride-sharing fleets to boost non-petroleum burning car sales. Up to 490,000 people will take part in the settlement and Volkswagen expects to begin buying back the vehicles next month. Volkswagen still faces lawsuits in at least 16 other states as well as U.S. Department of Justice fines for violating clean air laws.

Uber Self-Driving Truck Makes Beer Delivery in Colorado

A self-driving 18-wheeler completed the first commercial shipment by traveling more than 120 miles to deliver Budweiser beer from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs, with a police escort. Uber and AB InBev teamed up to show that the technology is available and self-driving trucks will be a reality in the future. However, the software still has a long way to go and drivers will most likely need to be in the truck to supervise. Even with a driver still riding along, AB InBev said that it could save \$50 million a year in the U.S. if it could deploy autonomous trucks because of reduced fuel costs and a more frequent delivery schedule.

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.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Transit Grants Administration

Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento, CA

Analyst I or II

Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento, CA

OPPORTUNITIES

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

Quarterly Technical Assistance Webinar: NPMRDS

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 FHWA contractors will provide an overview of the probe data set, demonstrate data applications, and respond to technical assistance questions. This webinar is open to U.S. DOT, state DOT, MPO, academic, and private sector participants.

Clean Corridors Meeting/Workshop

November 3-4, Troy, NY

Transportation, energy, environmental, and industry leaders are invited to participate in an informative, action-driven day-and-a-half program focused on setting priorities for programs and

infrastructure to support clean freight corridors in the Northeast and throughout the U.S. This Clean Corridors Meeting is broken into two discussion-focused workshops that will advance collaboration across agencies, states and disciplines, and inform the development of tools and guidance to aid in developing clean freight corridors.

Health Impact in 5 Years: An In-Depth Look at Safe Routes to School

November 7, 3:00 PM ET

Join the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a webinar on Safe Routes to School as a community-wide intervention with a 5-year impact. This webinar is part of the CDC's new Health Impact in 5 Years (HI-5) initiative and is an excellent opportunity for advocates to learn how to pitch Safe Routes to School to health partners. The HI-5 initiative highlights a list of non-clinical, community-wide approaches with a proven track record. Each intervention listed is associated with improved health within five years and is reported to be cost-effective or cost-saving over the lifetime of the population or even earlier. Public and private organizations can use this list to quickly assess the scientific evidence for short-term health outcomes and overall cost impacts of community-wide approaches. This webinar will provide stakeholders with the opportunity to hear real-world examples of how local and state-level organizations have implemented Safe Routes to School to meet the needs of their communities.

EPA Technical Assistance Opportunity: GHG Planning and Travel Efficiency Assessment

Letters of Interest Due: November 30 (via email)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Transportation and Air Quality is seeking to partner with state, tribal, regional and local agencies that are interested in transportation-related greenhouse gas (GHG) planning activities, including developing GHG emissions inventories from the on-road transportation sector, developing travel efficiency emission reduction strategies, and assessing potential emissions reductions under alternative travel efficiency scenarios. EPA would like to document the effort in case study reports to further demonstrate the Travel Efficiency Assessment Method.

Decide with Data: Strengthen Your Sustainability Efforts

December 13, 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET

Strong, sustainable communities start with great decision makers – and all good decisions are rooted in data. This type of insight is notoriously difficult to access, analyze, and share. During this webinar, Stephen Hardy, Chief Operating Officer at mySidewalk, will demonstrate how local leaders everywhere are tackling this great dilemma and making informed, confident decisions using data (both local and federal) to build stronger communities. This webinar is a part of EPA's Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Seminar Series.

CONTACT US