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ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

Economic Case for a National Per-Mile Driving Fee: Eric Jaffe at *The Atlantic's* CityLab uses the recent report by American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to highlight the advantages and drawbacks of a per-mile user fee. Even a modest per-mile fee could produce \$246.31 billion by 2020. A penny-a-mile fee on typical passenger vehicles would generate \$175.58 billion by 2020 and a 4 cent-a-mile fee on trucks would bring another \$70.73 billion over the same period. Click [HERE](#) to read this analysis.

Report on Extreme Weather Events: Assessing the vulnerability of coastal transportation facilities to extreme weather events and climate change, including sea-level rise, storm surge, and waves, is a growing topic of study. This approach uses risk-based, data driven concepts to produce a report that can be used for risk and vulnerability assessments, coastal floodplain management, planning activities, and design procedure development. Click [HERE](#) for the full report.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

2014 Midterm Elections Mean Changes for Transportation: We'll have much more to share about the election during our webinar next Thursday, November 13 at 2:00 PM EST, but a few quick transportation-related items are worth noting now...

Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) lost his election, and though the result was not unexpected, it does leave a spot for a new top Democrat on the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) has expressed his intention to run for the seat; however, he may not be uncontested. Yesterday, Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) announced his intention to vie for the seat as well. Democrats typically stick to fairly strict standards of seniority, and Garamendi has only been on the panel since 2009. DeFazio joined in 1987.

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Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) is expected to take Chair of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, a position he held from 2003-2007. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), the current Chair, is expected to remain on the committee as the Ranking Member. Inhofe was Ranking and Boxer was Chair during passage of the most recent authorization legislation, MAP-21.

To learn more about what the election means for local governments and regional planning, sign up for our upcoming webinar [HERE](#).

FAA Reauthorization Hearing: The House T&I Committee will hold a hearing on November 18 to address reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). With the current authorization expiring in September 2015, lawmakers have started talking about new legislation. However, a number of hot-button issues could arise to stand in the way of a bill. Click [HERE](#) for more information concerning the hearing.

REGIONAL BRIEF

Infrastructure Spending Can Boost Income: Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago President Chris Evans recently stated that the best time for infrastructure investment is during a “period of low interest rates and widely available unemployed and underemployed labor.” Evans, who spoke at the Chicago Fed conference titled “Infrastructure and Economic Growth: Measuring the Impact of Funding Models Conference,” believes that the time to make these investments is now. He cited the American Society of Civil Engineers 2013 [report](#), saying that roads, bridges, water systems, mass transit, schools, and energy grids may soon fail to meet society’s needs. Click [HERE](#) for more information

Protected Bike Lanes More Popular Among State DOTs: Municipal transportation agencies, bicycle advocates, and less experienced cyclists are embracing the idea of protected bike lanes, which are lanes that physically separate cyclists from automobile traffic. Until now, cities often faced push back from state departments of transportation because the benefits of protected bike lanes were unclear. According to the *Green Lane Project*, more than 53 cities in 24 states have installed these facilities. Many States recently opened the door to protected facilities by formally endorsing the National Association of City Transportation Officials’ *Urban Street Design Guide* or reviewing their own state design standards to make room for innovative new design practices. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Brookings Mapping Freight Report: A recent Brookings Institution

report takes a fascinating look at the movement of goods within the U.S. and between individual states and regions. The report attempts to fill the gap in data about freight movement between states, which limits the country's ability to coordinate freight policies and investments. Click [HERE](#) for the full report.

OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

Click [HERE](#) to view the list of grants and events still open!

NARC Webinar: *What the Midterms Mean For You*

November 13, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

Join NARC for a webinar designed to help you navigate the new Congressional landscape. We'll review what the results of the 2014 elections will mean for regional and local governments. Topics will include potential Committee leadership and the issues we expect to top the agenda in each Chamber next year. We will also look ahead to the upcoming lame duck session to discuss what may happen during the final session of the 113th Congress. Click [HERE](#) to register.

INPUT NEEDED: Connection Vehicles

November 14, 2014

The U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) wants input on the proposed Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) *2015 Guidance for Connected Vehicles* and the formation of a V2I Deployment Coalition. With the plan to produce deployment guidance in 2015 on connected vehicles for transportation infrastructure owners and operators, the FHWA welcomes input and feedback from state and local departments of transportation, transit operators, and infrastructure owners who are starting to plan for the deployment and use of connected vehicles technologies. Click [HERE](#) to provide comments.

CONFERENCE: NARC's 2015 National Conference of Regions

February 8-10, 2015 - Washington, DC

The National Conference of Regions is NARC's forum to determine key policy issues and a legislative agenda for the year ahead, targeting topics central to our members' missions and their local elected officials' focus. Additional information will be available in late 2014.