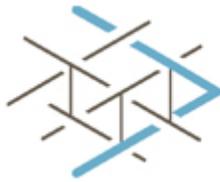


November 10, 2016

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



Please update your files with
NARC's new address:

660 NORTH CAPITOL ST NW
SUITE 440*

WASHINGTON, DC 20001

**Please note that the suite number has changed.*

CONGRESS BRIEF

Change is Afoot after Historic Election

Tuesday's election of Donald J. Trump as the nation's 45th president came as a surprise to many, both inside and outside the Beltway. However, one thing is certain: one-party rule has returned to Washington, D.C. for the first time since 2010. This time, Republicans will control both chambers of Congress and the White House. Specifically, House Republicans lost six seats but hold a 238-193 advantage with four races yet to be called; Senate Republicans lost two seats and hold a 51-48 advantage with Louisiana's Senate seat headed to a runoff election; and President-elect Trump is likely to end up with more than 300 electoral votes, despite losing the popular vote.

What this means in terms of policy is still coming into focus, but is certain to mean a very different direction on nearly every policy front. First to take hit will likely be a number of issues that were front and center during the campaign: Obamacare, including a push to repeal the law and replace it with an alternative proposal; climate policy, including the cancellation of billions of dollars in payments to United Nations climate initiative; government regulation, including the repeal of executive orders put in place by President Obama; financial regulation, including a push to repeal the *Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act*; trade, including the reopening of the North American Free Trade Agreement; and immigration, including an effort to fulfill Trump's campaign promise to build a wall on the nation's southern border.

A robust infrastructure package may also be part of Trump's first 100 days. On the campaign trail, Trump promised a \$1 billion infrastructure investment over ten years, but offered scant details as to how he would pay for such a package. It is unclear at the moment if a near-term package would include new money or a series of tax code changes and other financing mechanisms that won't have as much direct impact.

The immediate impacts of the election will be apparent when the 114th Congress returns to Washington next week for a lame duck session. Their primary work will center on funding the government. A short-term continuing resolution (CR) passed in September funds much of the

government through December 9th. By that date, Congress will either have to pass an additional CR to carry things into next year (and the next Congress) or finalize the 2017 spending measures for the remainder of the fiscal year. While both courses of action seem feasible and advantageous for Republicans in both chambers, they have yet to reach consensus on how to proceed. Other issues that could be considered in the lame duck session include the *Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)*, which passed both chambers and is currently being conferenced, and the Trans Pacific Partnership, which is particularly unlikely with Trump's election.

More to come as the transition takes shape...

Transportation-related Committee Changes

As a result of retirements, Election Day losses, and Republican chairman term-limits, there are changes coming for the congressional committees that deal with transportation. **Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee** will see significant changes at the top. Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-OK) is term-limited as committee chair and will be replaced by John Barrasso (R-WY). Ranking Member Barbara Boxer is retiring at the end of this Congress, and there are several candidates to replace her. Senator Tom Carper (D-DE) is next in line, followed by Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT). All three, however, may opt to stay in leadership positions on other committees, which could elevate Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) to EPW Ranking Member. Senator David Vitter (R-LA) is retiring. **Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee**, which has jurisdiction over transit, will also have a new Chairman in the 115th Congress. Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL), who is term-limited as chair, will be replaced by Michael Crapo (R-ID). Sherrod Brown (D-OH) will remain as Ranking Member. Two members won't be with the committee next year: Vitter and Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL), who lost his reelection. **Senate Appropriations Committee** is expected to be chaired again by Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), but Ranking Member Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) is retiring. Mikulski will be replaced by one of: Richard Durbin (D-IL), Patty Murray (D-WA), or Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). Kirk, who currently serves on the Transportation Subcommittee, is the only other member of the current committee that will not be back next year.

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee leadership will remain the same in the 115th Congress. Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) survived a reelection challenge from a fellow Republican who ran in an open Democrat slot, and Peter DeFazio (D-OR) will return as ranking member. Surface Subcommittee Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO) and ranking member Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) also both won reelection and are expected to return to their respective slots. There will be a number of open slots on the committee, as nine members will not return to Congress. Representatives John Mica (R-FL), former committee Chairman, and Crescent Hardy (R-NV) both lost their reelections. Representatives Candice Miller (R-MI), Donna Edwards (D-MD), Janice Hahn (D-CA), and Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ) sought other offices. Representatives Richard Hanna (R-NY) and Reid Ribble (R-WI) retired. And Corrine Brown (D-FL) lost in her primary earlier this year. **House Appropriations Committee** will see new leadership at the top, with Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) expected to replace the current and term-limited Chairman, Hal Rogers (R-KY). Ranking Member Nita Lowey (D-NY) is expected to stay for her third term in that role. Transportation Subcommittee Chairman Mario Diaz Balart and Ranking Member David Price (D-NC) were both victorious. One member of the subcommittee, David Jolly (R-FL), lost his reelection and will not return for the 115th Congress.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

FAA Awards \$90 Million in Infrastructure Grants to Airports

Last week, more than \$90 million was awarded to Huntsville International Airport, Kansas City International Airport, Bismarck Municipal Airport, Portland International Airport, McGhee Tyson Airport, and Jackson Hole Airport as part of the Airport Improvement Program (AIP). AIP provides more than \$3 billion annually to maintain the safety, security, capacity, efficiency, and environmental stewardship of our airports. These grants will be used to reconstruct runways, repair taxiways, and complete other overall infrastructure improvements.

FAA Awards \$33.7 Million in Environmental Grants to Airports

In addition to the Airport Improvement Program grants, nine airports around the country have received grants to reduce emissions and improve air quality as part of the FAA's Voluntary Airport Low Emission (VALE) and Zero Emissions Airport Vehicle (ZEV) programs. The \$31.1 million in

VALE grants was awarded to Chicago O'Hare International, Memphis International, George Bush Intercontinental Airport Houston, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, Los Angeles International Airport, Portland International Airport, San Francisco International Airport, and Boise Airport. The remaining \$2.6 million ZEV grant was awarded to Indianapolis International. Projects funded by these programs range from purchasing electrical charging stations to installing a solar-powered system to heat water for the terminal.

Newly Released UDSOT-ITSJPO Publications

USDOT has released five new reports for the planning community on its latest Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) research initiatives and findings. Three of the reports relate to connected vehicle impacts on transportation planning and include a desk reference, outreach guide, and primer. The other two documents focus on Tampa and the THEA Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment outreach plan and participant training and stakeholder education plan.

REGIONS BRIEF

2016 State & Local Transportation Investment Ballot Measures

In a big year for state and local transportation initiatives, 69 percent of the 280 transportation ballot measures up for vote across the country were approved with results still pending in seven local areas. In California, 15 of the 26 measures worth \$133 billion were passed by the two-thirds majority required and voters in Georgia passed a sales tax that will raise nearly \$4 billion for road and transit projects in Atlanta. According to the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), 74 percent of transportation ballot initiatives passed in 2016, which is in line with the 10-year average but slightly lower than past presidential election years when voters approved 77 percent in 2012 and 76 percent in 2008. View [the ARTBA map](#) for a list of transportation initiative results by state.

Pima Association of Governments' Technology and Transportation Summit

Last month, the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) held a Technology and Transportation Summit in Tucson, Arizona focused on the development of policies to address emerging technology. The inaugural summit attracted over 300 participants to hear from panels on issues such as "connected and autonomous vehicles relating to safety, air quality, and efficiencies; the next steps in the world of electric vehicles and electric vehicle infrastructure; the role of government and industry regulations; trends in shared transportation, and technologies that manage traffic flow." The summit **included a discussion** on investment in charging infrastructure versus electric vehicles.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Planning Manager, Community and Economic Development

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

Economic Development Planner

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, Kelso, WA

OPPORTUNITIES

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

EPA's Travel Efficiency Assessment Method: Evaluating the Potential to Reduce Emissions in Three Case Study Areas

November 16, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality invites you to join a webinar describing EPA's recent case studies examining the potential for travel efficiency strategies (such as transit, road and parking pricing, land use changes, bike and pedestrian infrastructure) to reduce emissions of criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases. During this webinar, EPA and its partner agencies in these case studies will provide an overview of the TEAM analytical process, the travel efficiency strategies each agency considered, and their potential emission reductions. Partner agencies include Atlanta Regional Commission, East-West Gateway Council of Governments, and Metroplan Orlando.

Development of a Risk Analysis Methodology for Quantifying the Uncertainty of Travel Demand Forecasts

November 16, 2:30 – 4:30 PM ET

All travel demand models are abstractions of complex systems. The impacts of the abstractions should be understood and reflected in the forecasts produced by the model. In addition, future conditions that are either embedded as assumptions or are included as inputs into the model cannot be predicted with certainty. Most decision-makers rely on point forecasts, and thus, fail to recognize the uncertainties that accompany predicted outcomes. The California High Speed Rail Authority has recognized the importance of addressing uncertainty within travel demand models and has advocated developing a range of HSR ridership and revenue forecasts in its business planning. To incorporate uncertainty into the California High-Speed Rail ridership and revenue forecasting process and provide decision-makers with a better understanding of the likelihood that forecasts will fall within a specified range, a risk analysis approach was developed that expresses forecast results as probabilities of achieving different outcome levels. Join this webinar to learn more about the California High-Speed Rail model.

NARC Webinar! Clean Cities: Tools and Resources to Support Alternative Fuel Deployment

November 17, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

The U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities program supports local actions to cut petroleum use in transportation through nearly 100 local coalitions around the country, some of which are housed in regional councils. The program maintains a variety of unbiased information resources and interactive, data-driven online tools that fleets and consumers can use to learn about ways to lower emissions, save money, and use less petroleum. This set of tools allows users to calculate a fleet's footprint, including economics, greenhouse gas emissions, and petroleum use; compare alternative fuel vehicles and technologies; locate alternative fueling stations; identify relevant incentives and laws; find case studies on how public and private fleets are using alternative fuels; identify and track trends in alternative fuel deployment; get answers to technical questions; and much more. Join us to learn about Clean Cities and its initiatives, take an in-depth look at some of these tools, and hear how your organization and its stakeholders can benefit from using them.

EPA's National Port Strategy Assessment

November 29, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

December 15, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

On September 22nd, EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality released the *National Port Strategy Assessment: Reducing Air Pollution and Greenhouse Gases at U.S. Ports*. EPA developed this national scale assessment to examine current and future emissions from a variety of diesel sources operating in port areas, and to explore the potential of a range of available strategies to reduce emissions from port-related trucks, locomotives, cargo handling equipment, harbor craft, and ocean-going vessels. Diesel engines are important for the American economy, and although they can be reliable and efficient, older diesel engines can emit significant amounts of air pollution, including fine particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, air toxics, and carbon dioxide, which impact human health and the planet. This assessment supports the vision of EPA's Ports Initiative to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases through a collaboration of industry, government, and communities. These stakeholders can use this assessment as a tool to inform their priorities and decisions for port areas and achieve more emission reductions across the U.S.

Safe Routes to Healthy Food: Where Food Access and Active Travel Intersect

December 1, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

This webinar introduces the concept of Safe Routes to Healthy Food, that is, the work of overcoming the transportation barriers to accessing nutritious foods. This webinar will make the case for why active transportation advocates and food access advocates can and should collaborate and provide examples of how communities across the country are working to make it easier, safer, and more convenient for people to walk, bike, or take transit to access healthy foods.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Procurement

This National Highway Institute FHWA course will provide an overview of strategies for successfully deploying ITS projects that build on systems engineering principles and practices and will present an approach to defining ITS projects and desired outcomes. The focus of this course is on the procurement stage of the overall acquisition process. For this course, the procurement stage

spans from identifying what you need to developing a procurement that helps you get what you need through contractor selection. This course will provide you with tools to develop the key aspects of a request for quote (RFQ), request for proposal (RFP), invitation for bid (IFB), or goods contract advertisement to ensure a successful procurement.

CONTACT US

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