



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS

CONGRESS BRIEF

CR Passes the House

The current continuing resolution (CR) funding most of the federal government runs out tomorrow. It is unclear whether or when Congress will pass final spending bills for 2018, so the House and Senate have been focused on passing another short-term CR. GOP leaders introduced a **short-term CR** over the weekend, which passed the House by a 235-193 vote within the last hour to fund the federal government through December 22. The Senate is expected to vote on the same bill as early as later tonight.

Senate AV Bill Stalls

Senators from both parties placed holds on the AV START bill as it went through the hotline process last week. The hotline process involves informal communications to identify potential issues that would keep a bill from being brought under unanimous consent. Senators Ed Markey (D-MA), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Roger Wicker (R-MS) have placed holds on the bill. Concerns include the safety and privacy issues of the bill and the exclusion of trucking measures. The co-authors of the bill, John Thune (R-SD) and Gary Peters (D-MI), are optimistic that enough compromises can be made to push the bill to the Senate floor. The House has already passed driverless car legislation.

Coalition Calls for Preservation of PABs

NARC joined a number of national organizations – including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, and National Association of Counties – on a letter calling for the preservation of Private Activity Bonds (PABs) and advance refunding bonds in the final tax bill. PABs and advance refunding bonds provide efficient & low-cost financing for critical investments in infrastructure projects that have a clear public purpose (e.g. hospitals, airports, affordable housing, seaports, water and sewer systems). Currently, it is expected that PABs will be preserved in a final agreement, but advanced refunding will be eliminated.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

GAO AV Report: Comprehensive Plan Could Help DOT Address Challenges

A new report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) evaluated USDOT's current policy and readiness to address automated vehicle challenges and determined that a comprehensive plan is needed to guide activities going forward. USDOT has made some progress, GAO found, but lack of a timeline and goals will not allow USDOT to tackle challenges effectively and enhance federal leadership on the issue. USDOT concurred with the recommendation, but believes it is premature to publish a comprehensive plan and will pursue a similar framework to manage activities.

REGIONS BRIEF

Ford Will Move Production of Electric SUVs From Michigan to Mexico

Ford Motor Company will shift production of a small electric SUV to a plant in Mexico rather than using its Michigan factory as planned. The shift will reduce costs for the model through lowered labor costs and allow more output of self-driving vehicles at its Michigan factory. The new SUV

will go 300 miles on a single charge and is a part of the \$4.5 billion overhaul of Ford's lineup to catch up with the GM Chevy Bolt and Tesla models.

WFRPC Hosts 2017 Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium

The West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC) hosted the Emerald Coast Transportation Symposium on November 8-9 with more than 150 attendees. The symposium provides a forum for leadership in transportation to explore cross-organization collaboration, develop lasting local and regional partnerships, share best practices, and give innovators a platform to inspire others. A diverse and unique collection of panel discussions and special speakers filled the day-and-a-half event with valuable and cutting-edge information on topics, including complete streets, public transportation, intelligent transportation systems, emerging transportation technologies, public involvement, tourism, freight, and more.

MARC to Host Tenth Annual Sustainable Success Stories

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) has announced six successful sustainable programs as the honorees for their tenth annual Sustainable Success Stories program. Since 2008, the program has recognized 79 honorees that serve as models for sustainability in the region, including urban agriculture, green buildings, green infrastructure, complete streets, and workforce development. At the December 14 recognition event, honorees will share their progress, best practices, and plans for expanding their success.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Planner II – Economic Development

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

Planner II – Data Analyst

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

Bexar Area Agency on Aging Care Specialist

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Executive Director

Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization, Lady Lake, FL

Database Administrator

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Criminal Justice Research Analyst

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

OPPORTUNITIES

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

Automated Vehicle Technology and People with Disabilities

December 12, 4:00 – 4:30 PM ET

The rise of automated vehicle technology has the potential to offer greater independence to people with disabilities by reducing transportation barriers. Join Eno, Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE), and the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) on December 12 for a **webinar** to discuss this technology's potential, legislation before Congress, and next steps.

Transportation in a World that is Gray, Delayed, Small, and Female

December 13, 12:00 – 12:45 PM ET

The Ongoing Transformation of the Global Transportation System, a series of discussions from the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center series, explores challenges and opportunities affecting the advancement of transportation systems. This edition will feature Joseph F. Coughlin, PhD, founder and Director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology AgeLab.

How to Leverage FAF4 Freight Data for Transportation Analysis: Example Cases

from the Oregon and Tennessee DOTs

December 14, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

The Oregon DOT (ODOT) will discuss ODOT's use of FAF4 data to support transportation investment decision-making, including how ODOT has used FAF4 data for bottlenecks, commodity flows, and freight flow forecasting analyses. Tennessee DOT (TnDOT) and the University of Memphis will discuss their joint effort to develop a resource allocation model using FAF4 and other datasets. By applying this model, TnDOT identified low-cost, high-impact transportation projects as well as when, where, and which projects should be implemented. The speakers will also discuss how FAF4 data and the model support TnDOT's overall transportation planning and policy decision-making activities.

Beyond Gadgets: Public Safety in the Digital World

December 14, 1:30 – 2:30 PM ET

In an increasingly digital world, public safety organizations are awash with data. From body worn cameras, to smart citywide sensors, to social media feeds, new sources of data and evidence are cropping up constantly. Tune in to this digital *Route Fifty* event, as experts sort through the ramifications for government and citizens of this ever-growing ocean of digital information.

Safety Performance Measures for Pedestrians and Bicyclists

December 14, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Statistics compiled and released each year have shown a consistent rise in the number of pedestrians and bicyclists killed annually. Unfortunately, fatalities represent only a small share of those injured or involved in crashes, and additional performance measures are needed to gain a full understanding of the safety problem. During this webinar, NHTSA and FHWA will discuss safety performance measures for bicyclists and pedestrians involved in crashes with motor vehicles. They will describe reporting requirements and what they mean for state, regional, and local transportation agencies.

Curb Your Enthusiasm: Managing High-Demand Curbside Passenger Loading Zones

December 15, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

With an increased demand for curbside space—for parking, loading, deliveries, turn pockets, and other uses—cities across North America are recognizing the value of their curbsides as flexible zones that can vary along a corridor or throughout the day to accommodate a variety of needs. The increase in for-hire vehicle pick-ups and drop-offs has dramatically increased demand for curbside loading zones in some areas. Curbsides become especially congested and hotly contested in vibrant areas near bars, restaurants, and clubs; near sports venues; or along other high-demand corridors. Leading cities like Washington D.C. and San Francisco are finding ways to manage curbs to avoid compounding congestion. Hear from experts in these cities about how they have begun using flexible curbsides to make dedicated room for for-hire-vehicles where and when demand is highest.

Good Practices in MPO Freight Planning

December 20, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

Freight transportation planning has become more prominent at all levels of government, including the metropolitan region level. In recent years as freight transportation volumes have grown, freight transportation delivery patterns have diversified, and freight transportation policies (such as the FAST Act) have been implemented. MPOs of all sizes have been taking steps to improve their freight planning initiatives. Some of these steps have included developing regional freight transportation plans, creating and convening regional goods movement committees that include public and private sector representation, examining/better understanding regional freight transportation flows, and identifying freight generating land uses within their jurisdictions. Larger MPOs with more staff and resources have been able to implement various initiatives that have broadened the state of the practice in MPO freight planning, but smaller MPOs have also been able to increasingly integrate freight transportation into their MPO transportation planning initiatives through noteworthy practices, despite their more limited staffing and resources.

CONTACT US

