



**MEMBER REQUEST: Salary Survey**

Tippecanoe County Area Planning Commission in Indiana requests the following salary information (numbers or ranges are fine) for the following positions:

- MPO Director
- MPO Deputy Director
- GIS Specialist
- Entry-level Planning Staff

Please also include the total population that your organizations serves in your response, and send this information to [anna@narc.org](mailto:anna@narc.org) by December 12.

**LEGISLATIVE BRIEF**

**CRomnibus (Hopefully) Nearing Finish Line:** The fiscal year 2015 spending bill, dubbed “CRomnibus” (part continuing resolution and part multi-bill omnibus), is working its way through Congress today. As of press time, however, the U.S. House of Representatives has gone to recess and final passage is far from assured. The bill in its present form spares transportation programs from major cuts. The TIGER grants program received \$500 million, which is below last year’s appropriation but well above the \$100 million called for in the version adopted by the House. Unlike last year, however, this year’s TIGER appropriation does not provide for planning grants. The final bill also undoes the severe Amtrak cuts that were included in the House bill, though it does target more funds to maintenance than capital spending. The bill also includes \$830 million for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, an \$11 million increase over last year. **Chairman Announces Republican Additions to T&I...** Earlier this week, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Bill Shuster (R-PA) announced the new Republican members of the full committee that will be added with the seating of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress in January. The new members are: Rob Woodall (GA), Todd Rokita (IN), John Katko (NY), Brian Babin (TX), Crescent Hardy (NV), Ryan Costello (PA), Garret Graves (LA), Mimi Walters (CA), Barbara Comstock (VA), Carlos Curbelo (FL), David Rouzer (NC), and Lee Zeldin (NY). Click [HERE](#) for the press release.

**...and Staff Changes for the Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee:** Shuster announced the departure of Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Staff Director John Anderson. Geoff Bowman will take his place. Anderson served as the Staff Director for the last nine years and oversaw passage of the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act* (WRRDA) of 2014. Bowman has served on the subcommittee since 2003 and has played a prominent role in the development of WRRDA. Prior to becoming a member of the subcommittee, Bowman served as Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Walker Jones of North Carolina.

## ADMINISTRATIVE BRIEF

**Goods Shipments Increase:** In 2012, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Commodity Flow Survey, the total value of U.S. shipments reached \$13.8 trillion, an increase of \$2.2 trillion since the last survey in 2007. For the first time, this Commodity Flow Survey collected and included information on temperature-controlled shipments. These temperature-controlled shipments include mixed-freight items that ship food for grocery and convenience stores as well as supplies for restaurants and food chains. All of these temperature-controlled shipments accounted for 187.7 million tons and valued at \$529.3 billion. The survey conducted by the Census Bureau's economic census is partnered with the U.S. Department of Transportation's (U.S. DOT) Bureau of Transportation Statistics and works as the primary source of national, state, and selected metropolitan areas statistics on domestic freight shipments. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

## REGIONAL BRIEF

**Community Leaders Gather to Discuss Regional Transportation Decision-Making:** Leaders from around the Washington D.C. region recently gathered for the Transportation Planning Board's 13<sup>th</sup> Community Leadership Institute. This meeting was held for participants to discuss how transportation decisions are made in the region and how community leaders can become more involved in the decision-making process. Over the course of three days, participants engaged in numerous experiential learning activities and group discussions to build a greater shared understanding of regional transportation issues. One of the most significant activities highlighted the challenge of accommodating future growth in the region given the funding constraints.

**Gasoline Prices and Home Values:** A paper published by Adele Morris and Helen Neill from Brookings Institution entitled *Do Gasoline Prices Affect Home Values?* highlights the effect of gasoline prices on home values and explores the degree to which the relationship varies across Las Vegas. Morris and Neill collected data from 930,702 homes sales from 1976 through 2010 in Clark County, Nevada. In the conclusion of their study, they found that gasoline prices had significantly different effects on the sales price of homes in different neighborhoods. Click [HERE](#) for the full report.

**\$163 Billion Needed to Fix Nation's Aging Surface Transportation System:** The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) released the *2015 Bottom Line Report*, which estimates that the U.S. needs to invest \$120 billion in the nation's highway and bridge network and \$43 billion in America's public transportation infrastructure over the next 6 years. Currently, \$83 billion is invested in roads and bridges and \$17.1 billion in public transit. These investment needs are calculated based on an analysis of demand trends and current network performance. Click [HERE](#) for the full report.

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

## OPPORTUNITY BRIEF

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

**WEBINAR: “Infrastructure 102”**

*December 15, 2014 1:00-2:00 PM ET*

Shoshana Lew and Paul Baumer from U.S. DOT will host a webinar continuing their discussion on the President’s *Build America Investment Initiative*, focusing on financing transportation infrastructure projects. They will describe the newly established *Build America Transportation Investment Center* and discuss specific U.S. DOT programs and grants that can enable public-private partnership investments and projects in regions, states, and communities. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**WEBINAR: Freight Advisory Committees- Overview from Committee Organizers**

*December 17, 2014 1:00-2:30 PM ET*

This Federal Highway Administration webinar will provide an overview of MAP-21 provisions encouraging state freight advisory committees and the benefits of freight advisory committees in general. One initiative pursued by many public sector agencies is the creation of such committees for their organizations. Though the creation of state freight advisory committees is encouraged in MAP-21, many states and metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) have independently worked to create such committees. This webinar will review the performance of these committees as well as discuss the activities conducted by state departments of transportation and MPO-organized freight advisory committees. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**CONFERENCE: NARC's 2015 National Conference of Regions**

*February 8-10, 2015 - Washington, DC*

Registration is open for the National Conference of Regions. This conference is a forum for locally-elected officials and their Regional Councils to explore federal policy issues, and discuss NARC’s legislative priorities for the 114th Congress. Click [HERE](#) for the draft agenda and conference webpage.