



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 11-14, 2018
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Registration is Open!

MEMBER REQUEST

Policinski to Testify on Freight Movement at Senate EPW

Mark Policinski, executive director of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments in Cincinnati, Ohio, is **testifying next week** at the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on freight movement. His testimony will address implementation of FASTLANE and INFRA grants. Do you have suggestions or insights in how the implementation can be improved? Please contact Erich at erich@narc.org ASAP with any comments to help improve these federal programs for regional councils.

CONGRESS BRIEF

Tax Overhaul Deal

Yesterday Republicans **struck a final deal** on tax reform, which they plan to send to the president next week. The final bill has not yet been released, but a few details have leaked out. The agreement includes a corporate tax rate of 21 percent, higher than the 20 percent rate in each chamber's legislation. The final bill also reduces the top rate for highest earners, from 39.6 percent to 37 percent. The electric-vehicle tax credit and wind production credits **were spared from being cut**, as they had been in the House bill. Securing America's Future Energy and the Electrification Coalition worked with the City of Atlanta to recruit mayors from twenty-two cities to **support preserving the electric-vehicle credit**. The final bill also puts an end to the Obamacare mandate that requires all Americans to have health insurance. Republicans still need to finish writing the final agreement text, but expect to release it tomorrow.

Infrastructure Package Up in 2018?

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) met with President Trump, Secretary Chao, and other transportation officials this week to discuss the president's infrastructure principles. Senior administration officials indicate that the White House will release a set of principles intended to form the basis for an infrastructure package in January before the State of the Union address. **Shuster reported** that the meeting went well and is

looking forward to working together on the proposal.

Caution is still warranted, however. The rumor mill is churning on this one, but it appears that a portion of the bill's funding will be directed to states and localities that generate new funding for projects and that can put up a large share of project costs. The bill will also include a substantial section on rural projects, which would be directly funded through the bill and not require as much local funding. The bill is also likely to include funding for "transformation" projects, and a set of regulatory changes. The plan still calls for allocating \$200 billion in federal funds over ten years to spur at least \$800 billion in other funding. Still, there are no details regarding how the bill would be funded.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

FHWA Nominee Withdraws

Paul Trombino III, the president's nominee to lead FHWA, has withdrawn himself from consideration. Trombino was nominated in September, approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and was awaiting a vote from the full chamber. A USDOT spokesperson said that Trombino plans to stay in Iowa to care for his ailing father. He is currently the president of McClure Engineering Company. Previously, he ran Iowa DOT and served as president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials from 2015 to 2016.

FTA Strategic Transit Automation Research Plan Roadmap

Earlier this month, FTA released its five-year *Strategic Transit Automation Research (STAR) Plan*, which defines a research agenda with three work areas to explore the use of automated driving systems in bus transit. The three focus areas that the research projects fall into are: enabling research, integrated demonstrations, and strategic partnerships. The plan lays out each year and gives a brief description of each project. For example, year one has a project that will explore user acceptance of automation for transit involving bus drivers, passengers, and other transit users. Additionally, FTA will publish seven notice of funding opportunities for demonstration projects over the course of the plan.

U.S. Census Bureau Releases 2012-2016 ACS Five-Year Estimates

The 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates are now available online from the Census Bureau. The ACS provides up-to-date social, economic, housing, and demographic information every year. These statistics cover all geographic areas regardless of size, down to the block-group level.

REGIONS BRIEF

Former Obama Officials Tapped by Real Estate Developers to Build Infrastructure Fund

Related Cos., one of the largest real-estate developers in the U.S., has hired former Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and former senior Transportation Department official Andrew Wright to build an infrastructure arm called Related Infrastructure. The new venture will invest in businesses that develop and operate airports, toll roads, ports, and other infrastructure. Unlike other infrastructure efforts by major financial businesses, Related Infrastructure will buy stakes in construction companies, management firms, and other infrastructure businesses owned by public and private sources, rather than privatizing core infrastructure projects.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Transportation Performance Measures Planner

Pima Association of Governments, Tucson, AZ

RFP for an ITS Architecture Comprehensive Update

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, Cleveland, OH

Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordinator

Green River Area Development District, Owensboro, KY

Senior Planner

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Springfield, MA

TX Serves Intake Specialist – Part Time

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

OPPORTUNITIES

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

Pitney Bowes Confirm Intelligent Infrastructure Management Solution

The Pitney Bowes Confirm asset management tool uses GIS and data management to provide information on assets, including roads, sidewalks, bridges, water and stormwater systems, power lines, and waste management. The system works with other enterprise systems and is available as either a software or a service delivery.

Advancing Transportation Data Utility While Mitigating Privacy Risk

January 17, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Transportation safety and mobility applications rely on time-sequenced location data, which could allow bad actors to discover an individual's travel patterns. Simply deleting identifiers such as names and addresses from the data does not eliminate the risk that people's identities could be inferred from their travel patterns. Such concerns lead organizations to limit data releases, thereby restricting efforts to openly share transportation data that can offer tremendous benefits. USDOT has developed a method to limit the risk of traveler identification using a combination of map data and information theory. The result is context-specific strategies for hiding sensitive location and route information. This approach preserves precise location data characteristics that are necessary for effective safety and mobility applications but reduces the risk of the data unintentionally revealing any individual's travel patterns. Moreover, it ensures that data quality remains high enough to support improved transportation operations and planning.

EDC-5 Call for Ideas

Submissions Due: January 18

EDC is a state-based model that identifies and rapidly deploys proven, yet underused innovations to shorten the project delivery process, enhance roadway safety, reduce traffic congestion, and improve environmental sustainability. FHWA works with state DOTs, local governments, tribes, private industry and other stakeholders to identify a new collection of innovations to champion every two years that merit accelerated deployment. FHWA is seeking information from state, local, and industry partners and the public on proven processes or technologies that have the potential to provide efficiencies. Specifically, FHWA is interested in innovations and in processes that have the potential to transform the way the highway transportation community does business by enhancing roadway safety, shortening project delivery time, reducing traffic congestion, and/or improving environmental sustainability. The information may assist FHWA identify proven, market-ready innovations for potential deployment through the fifth round of EDC (EDC-5) in 2019-2020.

CONTACT US