



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

TRANSPORTATION THURSDAYS



2017 NATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 12-15
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

Happy Holidays. This is the last issue of *Transportation Thursdays* for the year. Please look for the next issue in early January!

CONGRESS BRIEF

A Hint at How Transportation Secretary-designate Chao Will Lead

The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee has posted the questionnaire completed by Transportation Secretary-designate Elaine Chao. The Committee posts the non-confidential portion of these informational forms to increase transparency in their confirmation process. It includes Chao's personnel information as well as a detailed professional history with employers, association memberships, awards, and speaking engagements. The questionnaire also asks nominees to list political contributions. Chao listed enforcing safety measures, promoting equity between urban and rural areas, and addressing planning and permitting bottlenecks as some of her priorities in the questionnaire.

ADMINISTRATION BRIEF

Latest Cabinet Picks

President-elect Trump recently named Representative Mick Mulvaney (R-SC) as director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The OMB Director plays a key role in the government, overseeing all federal spending and regulatory actions by the government. Mulvaney was elected to the House in 2010 and quickly became one of the most outspoken fiscal hawks in Congress. He has been an advocate for spending cuts, often taking on his own party to push for more aggressive curbs to government spending.

Outstanding Cabinet positions include Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

WIFIA Rules Published in the Federal Register

Both the interim final implementation rule, **Credit Assistance for Water Infrastructure Projects**, and the proposed fee rule, **Fees for Water Infrastructure Project Applications under WIFIA**, were posted in the Federal Register on Monday. The WIFIA program welcomes public comment on or before February 17. See these **PowerPoint slides** from a webinar series that EPA/WIFIA hosted in November and December.

Upgrades for Better Rail service along the Northeast Corridor Recommended

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) released their recommendations for improving rail service along the Northeast Corridor. The recommendations include: adding new tracks to accommodate additional demand and provide more frequent service, increasing regional train service, and adding more direct routes in several locations. FRA's recommendations would improve travel time from NYC to Boston by 45 minutes, and from NYC to DC by 35 minutes. It would also create 47,000 jobs per year.

NARC, NADO, MTC and MPOAC Comments on the Final MPO Coordination Rule

The Eno Center for Transportation published a piece last week in *Transportation Weekly* that included comments from several organizations on the Final MPO Coordination Rule from USDOT. NARC provided comments along with several other stakeholders. Our comments highlighted the need for a more robust dialogue between USDOT and MPOs and the unintended consequences of a one-size-fits-all approach.

REGIONS BRIEF

National Center for Sustainable Transportation Leadership Council

Erich Zimmermann, NARC's Director of Transportation Programs, has recently been appointed to the National Center for Sustainable Transportation (NCST) Leadership Council. NCST is a USDOT University Transportation Center lead by the University of California, Davis. The National Center, founded in 2012, **recently received** a five-year grant totaling \$14 million to fund research in different areas of sustainable transportation. NARC will be looking to members for input and ideas to give MPOs and regional councils a voice on future research and activities of NCST. Zimmermann will serve among other highly qualified transportation experts from a variety of organizations such as Lyft, the California Air Resources Board, and two NARC-members – CEO-elect James Corless of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments and Executive Director Hasan Ikhrata of the Southern California Association of Governments.

JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Principal Planner – Mobility Programs

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Newark, NJ

Planner IV (Lead Demographic/ Data Analyst)

Maryland Department of Planning, Baltimore, MD

OPPORTUNITIES

View full list of grants and events!

FHWA Course: Performance-based Planning and Programming

A new FHWA course, Performance-Based Planning and Programming (PBPP), is now available through the National Highway Institute (NHI). This two-day instructor-led course familiarizes transportation agencies with the key elements of a PBPP framework, how PBPP supports Transportation Performance Management (TPM), and how both PBPP and TPM relate to the requirements for transportation planning and transportation performance.

The course is recommended for transportation professionals at state DOTs, MPOs, RPOs, transit agencies, and USDOT who are responsible for developing and implementing PBPP and/or integrating and linking related requirements. Participants should have knowledge of the planning process and the collaboration needed for it.

Register today! 2017 National Conference of Regions

February 12-15 – Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Ave NW 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 soon. Capitol Hill Day is the final day of the conference, February 15, 2017.

CONTACT US

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