



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress is in recess today in observance of Rosh Hashanah. When lawmakers return to Washington, they will have two-and-a-half weeks to develop a deal on a continuing resolution or risk a shutdown of the federal government on October 1, when current authorized spending expires.

Feds: Highway Funding Will Last Until June 2016

According to the latest estimates by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) is expected to have adequate funding resources through June of 2016, six months later than previously thought. The *Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015*, which transferred more than \$8 billion from the General Fund to the HTF and was signed by the President in July, was expected to carry the account only through December of this year. But with outlays lower than estimated over the winter, funding is now expected to last well into 2016. This new estimate has caused concerns regarding the fate of a long-term bill, as it eases the pressure on Congress to get something done by the end of 2015.

House Delays Transportation Bill Release

Despite initial indications that a House transportation reauthorization bill would be released last Thursday, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) said late last week that his committee is still working out the details and the release would be delayed until late September or early October.

White House Announces Funding to Prevent Youth Substance Use

On Tuesday, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy announced 697 Drug-Free Communities Support Program grants, totaling \$86 million. The grants will provide local community coalitions funding to prevent youth substance abuse, including prescription drugs, heroin, marijuana, tobacco, and alcohol. Click [HERE](#) for infographics, maps, and other information concerning the Drug-Free Communities Support Program.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Want your organization featured here? Send details to anna@narc.org.

SEMCOG's Green Infrastructure Tour

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) has made green infrastructure a regional priority for several years. In order to get a firsthand look at some of the benefits of green infrastructure, SEMCOG arranged for a group of members to take a bus tour of on-going projects around their community. The group met with technical experts to learn the best techniques for reinventing spaces and solving problems. One stop was a site of new bioretention gardens that now occupy a once vacant lot. This practice helps address pollution from stormwater runoff in a vacant field differently from how porous asphalt addresses the same problem in a municipal parking lot.

MEMBER REQUESTS

Email responses to anna@narc.org

Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization

Does your MPO/COG contract out transit service using Section 5307 funds from the Federal Transit Administration? And how much of your service is contracted out? If your MPO/COG does contract out the service, how do you handle matching requirements (e.g. does the contracted transit company provide the matching funds? Does the contractor partner with others to pay for the matching funds)?

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Senior Planner – Regional & Community Planning

Capital Area Council of Governments, Austin, TX

Assistant Data Analyst

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Outreach Principal

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Executive Director

Western Illinois Regional Council and Community Action Agency, Macomb, IL

Energy Conservation Service Technician

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Columbus, OH

Human Resources Generalist

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

National Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Competitive Grants Program: Regional Center Grants to Enhance Food Safety

Application Deadline: November 3

FDA announces the availability of funding and requests applications for National Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Competitive Grants Program: Regional Center Grants to Enhance Food Safety for fiscal year (FY) 2016. The intention of this program is to begin building an infrastructure that will support a national food safety training, education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance system and provide significant opportunities for funding through subcontracts and for partnerships with eligible stakeholder groups, including community-based and non-governmental organizations.

Call to Action: Every Body Walk! Collaborative Micro Grants

Application Deadline: October 15

In response to the Surgeon General's Call to Action, *America Walks* will fund 10-15 community groups for activities designed to increase local walking programs and stimulate community demand for infrastructure improvements that provide accessible, safe, and walkable places for the entire community. This micro grant program is designed to assist groups and organizations in setting priorities and implementing targeted projects to get them started.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress, and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Transportation

September 18, 12:00 - 1:00 PM ET

At the first event in Volpe's new speaker series, *Beyond Traffic 2045: Reimagining Transportation*, Dr. Andrew McAfee will discuss the rapidly shifting technology landscape and its implications for transportation.

MAP-21 Freight Provisions – Status Review and Discussion

September 23, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

MAP-21 included a new emphasis on freight transportation by establishing requirements for a *National Freight Strategic Plan* and National Freight Network, as well as introducing provisions related to performance measurement, state freight plans, and state freight advisory committees. Staff from FHWA's Office of Freight Management and Operations will provide an update on the status of these provisions.

CONTACT US

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