



aMPO eMAIL

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2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATES

2020 AMPO Annual Conference Update

Save the date! The 2020 Annual Conference will be held the week of October 26th!

This is an evolving situation and we will continue to evaluate conference options and share important information with our members. In July, we will be hosting a webinar on the Annual Conference providing details, dates, and a plan for the months leading up to the conference. For regular updates and additional information, please visit the AMPO website, [2020 AMPO Annual Conference](#).



AMPO 2020 Annual Conference: The Call For Proposals

We are accepting traditional and COVID-19 related proposals and have extended the submission date to **July 15th**.

Be apart of the 2020 AMPO Annual Conference, submit a presentation proposal or view more information, [here](#).

AMPO 2020 Annual Conference: Award Nominations

We are now accepting nominations for **AMPO's 2020 Awards!** Please review the categories below and submit your nominations online by clicking below.

Outstanding Overall Achievement for a TMA MPO

AMPO honors the efforts of a TMA MPO that has successfully advanced and promoted metropolitan transportation planning.

Outstanding Overall Achievement for a non-TMA MPO

AMPO honors the efforts of a non-TMA MPO that has successfully advanced and promoted metropolitan transportation planning.

Excellence in MPO Coordination & Partnership

AMPO honors outstanding efforts in coordination and partnership, recognizing strong collaborative projects and practices among MPOs, transit agencies, state DOTs, etc.

Outstanding Elected Official Leadership

AMPO honors outstanding efforts in transportation planning and leadership of an elected official who has served as a champion for their community and has successfully advanced or promoted transportation planning in the public arena. Any member of an MPO Policy Board is eligible to be nominated for this Award.

Excellence in MPO Staff Achievement

AMPO recognizes achievement in MPO staff leadership and distinguished contributions to the MPO region. This award is given to an MPO staff member who has demonstrated strong leadership within their agency and through their work in transportation planning has made significant contributions to the region.

The Ronald F. Kirby Lifetime Achievement Award

Ron will be remembered as a leading expert in transportation planning and a key figure in the MPO community. The Ronald F. Kirby Lifetime Achievement Award honors the contributions and advancements that Ron made to transportation planning. With this award, AMPO honors outstanding efforts in transportation planning and leadership from an individual who has served as a champion of transportation planning and advanced or promoted the practice, not only within his or her local community, but throughout the greater MPO community. Any member/former member of an MPO staff is eligible to be nominated for this Award. Please note that while all nominations will be carefully and thoughtfully reviewed, given the prestige and meaning of this Award it is not necessarily bestowed annually.

Honorable Mentions

Please note that in some cases the AMPO Awards Committee may consider awarding honorable mentions for the categories of Outstanding Overall Achievement for a TMA MPO, Outstanding Overall Achievement for a non-TMA MPO, and Excellence in MPO Coordination & Partnership.

Award Nomination

POLICY UPDATE

Washington DC Update

House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Approves HR 2 the INVEST in America Act and Leadership Takes Over

Last week the HR 2 was approved and reported from the T&I Committee on a party line vote of 35-25. Democratic Leadership in the House elected to expand the infrastructure provisions beyond transportation as a part of a \$1.5 trillion package. The 5-year, \$495 billion surface transportation bill has been repackaged as the Moving Forward Act (still HR 2). The revised bill still includes the transportation provisions approved in committee, including the one-year extension. The bill now includes provisions on aviation, water infrastructure, clean water, broadband, drinking water, pipelines, hydro-power and dam safety, energy efficiency, healthcare infrastructure (hospitals and labs), school construction, telecommunications at national parks, a host of tax credits for energy (alternative fuels, offshore wind, vehicles...), housing, and much more. With these additional provisions, the bill has grown to over \$1.5 trillion with no clear funding plan. The House is expected to pass HR 2 in June/July before they adjourn for a short 4th of July break.

So what does all of this mean? Politics and the November elections have officially set in. It is not expected that the US Senate will take up this bill. In May, there was some discussion of advancing the Senate EPW surface transportation bill with a water infrastructure bill, but that has not received much attention lately. HR 2 will pass the House with Democrat votes (and maybe a few Republicans). Democratic Leaders in the House will continue to press the President to act on infrastructure, but that tactic

has not moved the President yet.

September is quickly approaching, and Congress will need to extend both surface transportation programs, and appropriations before the end of that month.

Thus far, over 300 amendments to HR 2 have been filed under the House Rules Committee. The full list can be found [here](#).

AMPO will continue to provide additional analysis and information.

FEDERAL PARTNERS

U.S. Department of Transportation Offers a Connected Vehicle Pilot Data Story to Help Practitioners Navigate Datasets

[ITS DataHub](#) currently hosts connected vehicle data from the Tampa and Wyoming Connected Vehicle Pilot sites, with the New York Connected Vehicle Pilot site's data expected to be added in the future. Datasets include Basic Safety Messages, Traveler Information Messages, and Signal Phase and Timing messages, all of which are transmitted via dedicated short-range communications.

To help practitioners more easily understand the data available and how to access it, the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) developed a [Connected Vehicle Pilot "Data Story."](#) This story provides an overview of each Connected Vehicle Pilot, describes the types of data available, and walks users through how to access the various datasets.

ITS DataHub provides a single point of entry to discover publicly available U.S. DOT ITS research data. By providing access to these data, the U.S. DOT aims to enable third-party research into the effectiveness of emerging ITS technologies, preliminary development of third-party applications, and harmonization of data across similar collections.

To access the all of ITS DataHub's datasets, please visit: www.its.dot.gov/data.

National Cooperative Highway Research Program 2021

Each year, HEP supports several research projects funded through the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) NCHRP program. The projects, which will be funded in FY2021, were recently announced, and cover exciting project topics across HEP's areas of research. With over \$1.5 million in funding, these projects are invaluable investments towards research that will improve transportation planning, environmental decision making, and real estate management.

Design Guidance and Standards for Resilience

The research, coordinated with the Office of Infrastructure will identify state and national regulations, design standards, and guidance that are most at risk from extreme weather and climate change. The research will also develop tools and guidance to help state DOTs evaluate and balance the potential costs and benefits of incorporating updated guidance/standard that account for climate change into their project development process. Staff Contact: Robert.Kafalenos@dot.gov, 202-366-2079

Best Practices for Using Online Tools in Public Involvement Processes

This research project would compile best practices for selecting, implementing, and addressing input received using online public involvement tools. The research product would be a best practice guide with lessons learned and recommendations for: selecting, creating, and using online public involvement tools; integrating online and in-person public involvement; and priorities for online public involvement with specific population segments. Staff Contact: [Carolyn Nelson](#), 202-860-6173

Explore U.S. Mobility during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Trips by Distance data has information on how many people are staying at home or not staying at home. Dive into the map below to see what percentage of the population is staying at home in your state or county. You can also use the Select A Metric drop-down to see state or county-level measures for the average number of

daily trips people are taking and more.

Links

[View "Map of Activity by State or County" here](#)

[View the web page here](#)

FHWA Publishes “PMF Input Fields for Mid-Performance Period Progress Report”

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has published a new document on its [TPM website](#) entitled “Performance Management Form (PMF) Input Fields: Mid Performance Period (MPP) Progress Report Due October 1, 2020.” This document represents FHWA’s web-based Performance Management Form (PMF), which will be open for use September 1, 2020. This document includes all the required contents for the 2020 Mid Performance Period (MPP) Progress Report described in 23 CFR 490.107, and illustrates the input options and general functionality of the web-based form.

CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program provides funding to State and local governments for transportation projects and programs that reduce emissions and help improve air quality and congestion. FHWA has developed the CMAQ Emissions Calculator Toolkit, a spreadsheet tool for transportation agencies to use in determining the emissions benefits of their projects. There are 10 tools currently available which cover a wide range of CMAQ-eligible project types, including Bicycle-Pedestrian Improvements, Transit Service and Fleet Expansion, Alternative Fuels and Vehicles, Diesel Retrofit/Repower, and Traffic Flow Improvements. Tools and documentation can be found here:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/toolkit/

Extending Current Competitive Grant Deadlines Amid Coronavirus (COVID-19)

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao recently announced during a transit industry call that deadlines for [current FTA competitive grant programs](#) will be extended for 30 days amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The 30-day extension applies to grant programs administered by FTA with active notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs).

Date Effective	Close Date	Opportunity ID	Grant Program
6/03/2020	7/02/2020	FTA-2020-009-NADTC	Technical Assistance & Standards Development - 5314(a)
5/26/2020	7/17/2020	FTA-2020-013-TRI-TIR	Real-Time Transit Infrastructure and Rolling Stock Condition Assessment Research and Demonstration Program
5/26/2020	8/24/2020	FTA-2020-007-TR	Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program; Tribal Transit Program

Links:

[Press release](#)

[FTA Notices of Funding Opportunity](#)

[FTA COVID-19 Landing Page](#)

MPO NEWS

A streetcar resurrection? In nearby Arlington, candidates not so sure

During the debate over the streetcar proposal, transportation planners acknowledged that the system would not necessarily improve travel times. The project was viewed by many proponents as a spur to economic development along the Columbia Pike corridor and out to Skyline in Fairfax County.

A half-century ago, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority had plans in place for a heavy-rail subway line running down Columbia Pike and points west.

[Read more.](#)

Proposed four-year plan calls for \$222 million in transportation projects in the Casper Area

The Casper Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (which assists Casper, Mills, Evansville, Bar Nunn, and Natrona County governments) are proposing amendments to a plan that would involve \$222 million for various road, trail and bus projects in urban areas of Natrona County over the next four years. [Read more.](#)

Low census response could impact transportation funding

Concern continues to grow amongst local public officials regarding the 2020 census and what low response rates due to coronavirus and the sudden departure of thousands of college students could mean for federal funding in the future. A message sent out by Tompkins County Tuesday focused on what low response and population misrepresentation could mean for transportation including road infrastructure, trailways and bus service.

[Read more.](#)

OTHER NEWS

U.S. traffic has rebounded to about 90 percent of pre-pandemic levels, analysts say

Three months after [roads emptied](#) amid the coronavirus outbreak, U.S. traffic has rebounded to about 90 percent of pre-pandemic levels as states lift more restrictions, “[quarantine fatigue](#)” continues to take a toll and summer weather draws people out, according to travel analysts. [Read more.](#)

California Accelerates Clean Transportation Policy, Targeting 500,000 Electric Trucks By 2040

California is about to shift the electric trucks market into high gear. On June 25th, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) will vote on its proposed Advanced Clean Trucks rule, which would require about 60 percent of new medium- and heavy-duty trucks sold in the state to be zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) by 2035. The rule would be America’s first electric vehicle standard for trucks, creating a market for up to 500,000 electric trucks by 2040. [Read more.](#)

The Great Compression: The coronavirus pandemic could drive a long-overdue consolidation of the global auto industry

- The coronavirus pandemic brought about the previously unthinkable in the auto industry: a near total global shutdown of production.
- Throughout the industry, a wide-ranging discussion has developed about what the post-COVID-19 car world could look like.
- The industry has long suffered from excessive manufacturing capacity and what the late Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne trenchantly decried as an addiction to capital.
- Post-COVID, the auto industry could undergo a massive consolidation, with mergers and partnerships preparing automakers to compete in a new world.

[Read more.](#)

CALENDAR



2020 AMPO Annual Conference

[See More](#)

COURSES & TRAINING

Public agency staff are invited to register for the 2020 TAM Roundtable.

Due to the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency, the 2020 TAM Roundtable scheduled for July in Boston has been moved to a virtual event, taking place on July 28, 2020, from 1-3:00 p.m. ET. This session will feature a panel of transit agency executive leadership and updates from FTA. Open registration for public agency staff is available [here](#).

Links:

[Roundtable Registration](#)

[FTA TAM Website](#)

Value Capture Strategies Virtual Peer Exchanges/Workshops

The Federal Highway Administration is hosting a [series of webinars](#) through October 22, 2020 on value capture strategies. Transit stakeholders and FTA staff are welcome to participate.

FHWA's Value Capture Virtual Peer Exchanges/Workshops feature experts who have successfully used value capture techniques such as transportation impact fees, special assessments districts, tax increment finance, transportation utility fees, joint development, and naming rights to fund infrastructure projects. [Registration](#) is free but limited to 300 participants.

Non-DOT users, including State DOTs, must [request access](#) to the FHWA External Portal for webinars.

Links:

[Register for Value Capture Virtual Peer Exchanges/Workshops](#)

[How to Request an FHWA Account](#)

TCRP: Data Sharing Guidance for Public Transit Agencies – Now and in the Future is available

The TRB Transit Cooperative Research Program's TCRP Research Report 213: Data Sharing Guidance for Public Transit Agencies – Now and in the Future is designed to help agencies make decisions about sharing their data, including how to evaluate benefits, costs, and risks.

Many transit agencies have realized benefits from sharing their internal data sets, ranging from improved customer information, to innovative research findings that help the transit agency improve performance.

Links:

[View TCRP: Data Sharing Guidance for Public Transit Agencies](#)

Register for FTA's free online course on Environmental and Sustainability Management Systems

FTA is pleased to announce the availability of a new FREE training course:

[Environmental and Sustainability Management Systems \(ESMS\) Introductory Online Course](#).

This online training course is designed for transit agencies interested in understanding

the fundamentals of an Environmental and Sustainability Management System (ESMS). ESMS is a tool that transit agencies can use to increase operational efficiencies and to manage and reduce their environmental impacts. The course is comprised of self-paced modules that introduce ESMS concepts from FTA's intensive [ESMS Training and Technical Assistance Institute](#) for transit agencies. [Register](#) for the course through the National Transit Institute. For any questions, please contact Antoinette.Quagliata@dot.gov.

Links:

[Environmental and Sustainability Management Systems \(ESMS\) Introductory Online Course](#)

[ESMS Training and Technical Assistance Institute](#)

[Register for the course](#)

Please forward this bi-weekly email newsletter to members of your staff that may be interested in its contents. To subscribe or unsubscribe to AMPO Email, please send an email to staff@ampo.org and indicate your request. AMPO's distribution list will be updated approximately every two weeks.

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