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. 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.

Call For Proposals Deadline is approaching!
Only a few days to submit your presentation proposal before July 15th.

To review a list of COVID and traditional topics, and more information click here.

Submit a Proposal

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
- Outstanding Overall Achievement for a non-TMA MPO
- Excellence in MPO Coordination & Partnership
- Outstanding Elected Official Leadership
- Excellence in MPO Staff Achievement
- The Ronald F. Kirby Lifetime Achievement Award

Additional details can be found by visiting www.ampo.org.
On July 7, the House Appropriations Committee released the text and summary of its FY21 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill. On July 8, the THUD Subcommittee approved the bill. The full Appropriations Committee may take up the bill next week.

The bill provides a total of $108 billion in total gross budgetary resources (Trust Funds & General Funds) for DOT. The majority of funds are derived from trust funds used to support highways, transit, and aviation programs. This is approximately an increase of $21 billion above the FY 2020 enacted level and $19 billion above the President’s 2021 budget request.

The bill also provides an additional $75 billion in emergency funding, of which $25.5 billion would go to USDOT programs. Designating these as emergency spending helps the committee spend funds outside the spending caps that Congress had agreed to years ago.

**Transportation Programs Highlight**

$1 billion for National Infrastructure Investments (BUILD), same as the FY 2020 enacted level and the President’s budget request. The bill requires that 60% be awarded to urban areas and 40% to rural. The bill also increases population threshold of urban to 250,000 for 200,000 in 2018, therefore increasing the number of areas considered rural and eligible to receive up to 100% federal share. Not less than $20 million must be used for grants to support the planning, preparation, or design of eligible projects with an emphasis on transit, transit-oriented development, and multimodal projects. Not less than $20 million must be used for the planning, preparation, or design of eligible projects located in or to directly benefit areas of persistent poverty.

- The bill also includes provisions to extend the deadlines to obligate BUILD grants awarded in previous bills back to 2017.

$10 million is reserved for Transportation Planning Grants to assist areas of persistent poverty under the National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau.

$18.1 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), an increase of $522 million above the FY 2020 enacted level and $618 above the President’s budget request.

- $500 million in additional general funds for discretionary Airport Improvement Grants, an increase of $100 million above the FY 2020 enacted level and $500 million above the President’s budget request.

$62.9 billion for the Federal Highway Administration:

- $61.9 billion, consistent with the INVEST in America Act, for programs funded from the Highway Trust Fund, an increase of $14.7 billion above the FY 2020 enacted level and $11.1 billion above the President’s budget request.
  - The federal share may be up to 100% at the option of the state
- $1 billion in additional general funds for discretionary Highway Infrastructure Programs, a decrease of $1.2 billion below the FY 2020 enacted level and $1 billion above the President’s budget request.
  - The $632,220,000 made available to the state must be suballocated by population.
  - The Federal share may be up to 100%.

$3 billion for the Federal Railroad Administration, an increase of $201.8 million above the FY 2020 enacted level and $1 billion above the President’s budget request.

- $500 million for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements, an
increase of $175 million above the FY 2020 enacted level and $170 million above the President’s budget request.

- $2.05 billion for Amtrak, an increase of $50 million above the FY 2020 enacted level and $1.1 billion above the President’s budget request.
  - $750 million for Northeast Corridor Grants, an increase of $50 million above the FY 2020 enacted level and $424.5 million above the President’s budget request.
  - $1.3 billion for National Network Grants, equal to the FY 2020 enacted level and $689 million above the President’s budget request.

$18.9 billion for the Federal Transit Administration:

- $15.9 billion, consistent with the INVEST in America Act, for Transit Formula Grants funded from the Highway Trust Fund, an increase of $5.8 billion above the FY 2020 enacted level and $4.9 billion above the President’s budget request.
- Up to 100% federal share for funds that have not been obligated to a grant prior to 9/30/2020.
- $2.2 billion for Capital Investment Grants, equal to the authorized level, an increase of $197 million above the FY 2020 enacted level, and $286 million above the President’s budget request.
- $510 million in additional general funds for Transit Infrastructure Grants, equal to the FY 2020 enacted level and $510 million above the President’s budget request.
  - Up to 100% federal share.

**Funding designated as Emergency Spending**

- $3 billion for National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER/BUILD)
- $10.5 million for DOT Cyber Security Initiatives
- $500 million for FAA Facilities and Equipment
- $2.5 billion for FAA Grants-in-Aid for Airport
- $5 billion for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements
- $100 million for Magnetic Levitation Technology Deployment Program
- $5 billion for Northeast Corridor Grants to Amtrak
- $3 billion for National Network Grants to Amtrak
- $5 billion for the Capital Investment Grants
- $125 million for Maritime Administration Operations and Training
- $345.5 million for State Maritime Academy Operations
- $100 million for Assistance to Small Shipyards
- $1 billion for Port Infrastructure Development Program
- $7.5 million for the DOT Office of Inspector General

(Source - [US House Committee on Appropriations](https://www.house.gov))

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**TECHNICAL UPDATE**

**Improving Transit System State of Good Repair and Reliability Webinar and Panel Discussion in Partnership with FTA and APTA**

AMPO is working in partnership with FTA and the American Public Transit Association (APTA) for a webinar and panel discussion on how to leverage transit asset management data and the metropolitan planning process to improve transit system reliability and performance.

**Date:** July 20 at 2:00 PM ET

**Overview:**

The webinar and panel discussion will demonstrate how transit providers can use transit asset condition data to inform decision making and prioritize funding investments to improve transit system reliability and performance.

There will be a demonstration of a new reporting tool in the National Transit Database that provides information on asset condition which can be used to target replacement of assets to improve transit system reliability.
The panelist presentations will include a transit provider (Southeast Pennsylvania Regional Transit Authority) and a Metropolitan Planning Organization to show how asset management data can be applied during the MPO planning process to improve system performance and reliability.

This webinar is at capacity. If you would like to be added to the waitlist, please contact Leslie Reardon at lreardon@ampo.org.

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**FEDERAL PARTNERS**

**FTA's Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Cost-Sharing Policy Statement**
The Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM) just published a Policy Statement that recommends transportation cost-sharing to encourage greater state and local funding coordination. Fully coordinating transportation through vehicle and ride sharing for Medicaid, aging, and other human service transportation trips can result in a 10-percent increase in passengers per hour, which can create significant cost savings for federal, state, and local agencies. Cost-sharing arrangements include both vehicle and ride sharing as well as federal fund braiding for local match across programs.
The statement calls out the Medicaid nonemergency medical transportation and the Veterans Health Administration’s Highly Rural Transportation Grants program as examples where cost-sharing could be used.

Links:
- CCAM Cost-Sharing Policy Statement
- CCAM Federal Fund Braiding Guide
- CCAM Homepage
- CCAM Program Inventory
- CCAM Strategic Plan

**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/standards 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.

**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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Effective</th>
<th>Close Date</th>
<th>Opportunity ID</th>
<th>Grant Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/26/2020</td>
<td>8/24/2020</td>
<td>FTA-2020-007-TR</td>
<td>Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program; Tribal Transit Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Links:
- Press release
- FTA Notices of Funding Opportunity
- FTA COVID-19 Landing Page

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**MPO NEWS**

**Five-year transportation plan receives federal approval**

The Grand Valley Metropolitan Council received notification from the Federal Highway Administration on June 5 that its 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan conforms to
Cabarrus-Rowan MPO plans transportation needs
The Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization plans for regional transportation needs including highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Priority goals of the planning process include:
- Promote the safe and efficient management, operation and development of transportation system.
- Serve the mobility needs of people and freight.
- Public participation and partnership.
- Foster economic growth and development.
- Minimize the negative effects of transportation, including air quality.

Virtual public meetings held for Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045
The Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization held its second of three virtual public hearings Tuesday night on Zoom. The group is planning how we will get around in the next quarter-century. Its plan is called Cape Fear Moving Forward 2045 and outlines proposals for improving roads and other modes of transportation.

OTHER NEWS

Uber, Postmates deal would dominate Los Angeles, Miami markets
Uber Technologies Inc’s plan to buy Postmates Inc could pose problems in Miami and Los Angeles where the two dominate the food delivery market, according to antitrust experts who said it would be difficult to set up an asset sale to resolve the issue.

Face shields AND face masks now mandatory on Qatar Airways
Face masks on flights have quickly become the norm as travelers tentatively return to the skies, but Qatar Airways has taken this a step further, announcing that its passengers will be required to wear a face shield -- in addition to a face mask or face covering.

Pandemic Has Many Europeans Turning To Bikes For Transportation
As thousands of Europeans turn to bicycling during the coronavirus crisis, our correspondents in Paris and London report on how those two cities have responded to the new demand.

Opinion: The Future of Transportation is Personal
Electric mopeds, pedigreed bikes and city scooters are finding new fans—and new investor energy. Test-driving the trend as lockdowns lift.

CALENDAR

2020 AMPO Annual Conference
Week of October 26th
COURSES & TRAINING

[TMIP] Next Gen NHTS Program Webinar
FHWA is hosting on the Next Generation National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) program on Thursday July 23 from 2-3:30 ET. This webinar will share more information on the Next Gen NHTS, core (National Design, Pooled fund data purchase) and moderated (National truck and person OD) data updates, as well offer time for moderated Q&A.
To join the webinar, use the following link: https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/tvt/
Phone: (877)873-8017, access code 7702025

AASHTO Announces the TPM Webinar Target Setting Miniseries
Announcing a special five-part webinar miniseries addressing topics in transportation performance management (TPM). Each session will include an FHWA-led introduction followed by expert presentations and audience Q&A. Register today or learn more on the AASHTO TPM Portal at: https://www.tpm-portal.com/tpmmini

Episode 1: TPM & Target Setting Overview
July 15 | 2:00 PM EDT
This webinar reviews state target setting approaches and lessons learned leading up to the mid-performance period progress report. Topics covered will include target setting in the face of uncertainty and data gaps, coordinating and collaborating on target setting and improving forecasting approaches.
https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7982207434423457803

Episode 2: Safety Target Setting
July 19 | 2:00 PM EDT
This webinar is a deep dive into state target setting approaches for federal requirements for safety performance measures. Topics will include a review of the safety report card results, and the impact of external factors and data lags on safety target setting.
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4648260580274723088

Episode 3: Highway Infrastructure Target Setting
August 5 | 2:00 PM EDT
This webinar focuses on state target setting for federal PM2 infrastructure condition measures. This webinar will cover specific target setting issues related to pavements and bridges, including data considerations, collaboration and coordination with partner agencies and aligning TPM projections and agency plan goals.
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5482954832500877328

Episode 4: Target Setting for System Performance Measures
August 12 | 2:00 PM EDT
This webinar covers transportation agency target setting for federal PM3 system performance and...
reliability, including policy, planning and performance considerations related to target setting. Presentations will address data gaps, modeling and forecasting for system performance targets, and moving the needle on the national system.
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/770863574787794191

**Episode 5: Traffic Congestion and Emissions Reductions Target Setting**
August 26 | 2:00 PM EDT
This webinar focuses on transportation agency target setting for federal PM3 CMAQ measures. Presentations will address decision analysis methods for setting targets, making CMAQ targets meaningful to the public, and target setting and related planning and programming challenges.
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5074559930680718860

**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

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.