CONFERECE REGISTRATION IS OPEN

2020 AMPO Virtual Conference
We hope you join us! Registration is now open for the 2020 AMPO Virtual Conference. The conference will be held October 27-29. We hope you join us for an exciting three half-days of engaging sessions, networking, and special events!

REGISTER   DRAFT AGENDA

GOLD SPONSORS

EcoInteractive
MODERN eTIP SOFTWARE
CAMBRIDGE SYSTEMATICS
iteris

SILVER SPONSORS

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

BRONZE SPONSORS
2021 AMPO Planning Tools and Training Symposium

The AMPO Planning Tools and Training Symposium brings together MPO staff and practitioners to share information on a variety of MPO technical issues and provided peer-to-peer training for the MPO community to discuss challenges, opportunities, and implementation strategies with regard to current planning tools and applications. The symposium will take place over the course of two and a half days from May 17-20, 2021 in Fort Lauderdale Florida.

The Call for Proposals closes November 6th.

SUBMIT A PROPOSAL  LEARN MORE

POLICY UPDATES

Federal Update
10/2/2020

Federal Budget – On September 30, the US Senate passed a stopgap spending bill keeping the Federal government open until December 11, 2020. The measure also included a one-year extension of the FAST Act, the surface transportation law that was set to expire on September 30. The President signed the bill shortly following its passage. The bill extends about $1.4 trillion in government funding until December 11, which will necessitate Congress to return to Washington to pass additional spending for the remainder of fiscal year 2021, or to at least keep the government open past December 11. The Senate passed the bill in a bipartisan 84-10 vote.

Coronavirus Relief – House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin continued to try and reach an agreement on pandemic response legislation, but compromise looks to be unlikely due to major disagreements over issues like state and local relief funding. Meanwhile, the House voted along party lines to pass an updated $2.2 trillion version of the HEROES Act as the Senate leaves for recess to campaign in their home states.

Census – Included in the House coronavirus relief bill is an additional $10 million of emergency funding for the Census Bureau’s Working Capital Fund in the Current Surveys and Programs account. This is in addition to the $400 million from previous legislation addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and related delays and disruptions. The revised HEROES bill also includes language from the 2020 Census Deadline Extension
Act (H.R. 8250) with a requirement that “the Census may not conclude the Nonresponse Follow-up operation or the Self-Response operation before October 31, 2020.”

Census Litigation - On September 30, a federal court of appeals denied the Administration’s request for a temporary stay on a lower court’s ruling that the 2020 Census count should be extended. A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit found, 2 to 1, that blocking the ruling would allow the Census Bureau to continue winding down operations as it had started to do before a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction this month. There remains uncertainty as to when the count will conclude with the Census Bureau announcing that October 5th would be the end of the count, which does not comply with a prior ruling by the District Court. More filings have been submitted to continue the count.

---

**TECHNICAL UPDATES**

GIS Working Group Quarterly Webinar
In case you missed the September 16th webinar, *Applications of Enterprise GIS for Transportation (AEGIST) & Enterprise Data Enhancement for Planning through Geospatial Enabled Linear Referencing (MPO/LRS)*, the link to the recording and a copy of the presentation are available below.

Link: [Click here to listen to the webinar AEGIST & MPO/LRS, FHWA Presentation Slides](#)

---

**FEDERAL PARTNERS**

**U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao Announces $1 Billion to Upgrade American Infrastructure**
U.S. Secretary Elaine L. Chao today announced that the Trump Administration will invest $1 billion in American infrastructure through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program. The funding has been awarded to 70 projects in 44 states.

Link: [FY 2020 Awards](#)

**New Test Tracking Tool**
As automated driving systems developers continue to improve their systems, they validate their laboratory and track-testing with controlled testing on public roads. Now, states and companies can voluntarily submit information about automated vehicles and testing to NHTSA, as part of the AV TEST Initiative web pilot. Below is the interactive tool the agency developed so the public can view the information. Please note that this is intended to be a tool that will be updated frequently as participants add or modify their information, as new participants are added, and as data fields are added or modified.

Link: [NHTSA Autonomous Vehicle Online Tracking Tool](#)

**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

---

### MPO NEWS

**After years of planning, Christensen Road overpass nears finish line**
Back in 2015, the Cheyenne Metropolitan Planning Organization identified the need for an additional crossing over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks on the east side of town. [Read more.](#)

**Councilwoman Sandoval Supports AAMPO's Updated Scoring for Call for Projects**
The Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) unanimously approved the October 1, 2020 Call for Projects. This year’s Call for Projects introduces Environmental Justice and Equity into scoring criteria for the first time in the history of the agency. [Read more.](#)

**Scott Robinson Appointed Director of Bloomington Planning and Transportation**
Bloomington Mayor John Hamilton has appointed Scott Robinson director of the City of Bloomington Department of Planning and Transportation, pending approval by the City’s Plan Commission at its next meeting, scheduled for October 12. [Read more.](#)

---

### OTHER NEWS

**U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces Over $1.2 Million for Capital Improvements in Alaska**
The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has selected five projects in two states to receive more than $6.9 million in Special Transportation Circumstances (STC) Grants made available by the Consolidated Appropriations Acts of 2019 and 2020. This includes more than $1.2 million directed grant funding for two projects in Alaska. [Read more.](#)

**Massachusetts transportation grants emphasize partnerships to cut emissions**
A Massachusetts clean energy agency has awarded $1.4 million in grants to nine transportation projects that promise to speed the spread of electric vehicles and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. [Read more.](#)

**Pandemic Brings More Biking And Fewer Crashes — But Can It Last?**
Bike advocates are thrilled by the recent boom in biking and a drop in cyclist injuries. But they say new public policy is needed to ensure that trend continues once the pandemic is over. [Read more.](#)

**PennDOT moves forward on Highly Automated Vehicles**
The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced Thursday that it is moving forward in its national leadership in the realm of Highly Automated Vehicles (HAV). [Read more.](#)
AMPO Board of Directors Election Closes
October 16, 2020, 5:00 PM EST

2020 AMPO Virtual Conference
October 27-29, 2020

2021 AMPO Planning Tools and Training Symposium
Call for Proposals closes November 6th
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
May 17-20, 2021

COURSES & TRAINING

Webinar: Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning Notice of Funding Opportunity (October 14, 2020)
FTA will host a webinar at 2:00 p.m. EST Wednesday, October 14, 2020 about the Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), which was announced last week. The webinar will offer potential applicants an overview of the program, describe eligibility requirements, and allow an opportunity to ask questions.
The FY20 Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning will provide $6.2 million in funding to support comprehensive planning that improves access to transit and encourages mixed-use development near public transportation projects. The NOFO was published in the Federal Register on September 29, 2020. Proposals
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.