AMPO UPDATE

AMPO's Technical Programs Director
AMPO is pleased to inform you that as of December 1st Caitlin Cook has taken on the role of Technical Programs Director with AMPO.

We are thrilled to have Caitlin join the AMPO team as she brings an impressive background and skillset to our organization. She joins us from the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), a bi-state TMA in Kansas City, MO/KS. In her role at MARC, Caitlin spearheaded the development of a 2020 Data Business Plan to strategically assess and plan for the next three years of data, technology, and training needs within the organization. Her efforts led to the incorporation of recommendations into the UPWP to ensure that needed resources and support were in place to provide ongoing implementation. Among many other accomplishments while at MARC, Caitlin served as the project manager for the Heartland Freight Technology Plan. This effort received funding through the FHWA National Economic Partnerships grant program. Prior to joining MARC, Caitlin served as the MPO Planning Manager for the St. Joseph Area Transportation Study Organization, a bi-state non-TMA in St. Joseph, MO/KS. In this capacity, she oversaw all aspects of the MPO, including the development of the UPWP, TIP, and MTP.

Caitlin holds a BA from Park University in English Literature and Spanish Language and a MUP from the University of Kansas in Urban Planning.

Please join us in welcoming Caitlin to the AMPO team. She can be reached at ccook@ampo.org.

Again, we are excited to welcome Caitlin to the team and look forward to seeing her strengthen and build AMPO's technical programs.

2021 PLANNING TOOLS AND TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

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 provides 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 Proposal deadline has been extended to December 31st.

Submit a Proposal | Learn More

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**TECHICAL UPDATES**

**GIS Working Group Webinar**
Mark your calendars for **December 8th, from 2:00-3:30 PM EDT**, to hear from Bert Granberg, Matthew Silski, Nicole Proulx of the Wasatch Front Regional Council in GIS Working Group's webinar, *Extending the Reach of MPO GIS and Modeling Work*. The WFRC Analytics staff will demo the WC map, introduce the site's architecture and code repo, and briefly share a few other planning-related, open-sourced web map projects.

Register for the GIS WG Webinar

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**Active Transportation Working Group Webinar**
The Active Transportation Working Group will be hosting their introductory webinar **December 10th, from 2:00-3:15 PM EDT**. We are looking forward to hearing from the leadership team and their experience in active transportation planning.

**Presenters:**
**Active Transportation Working Group Leadership Team:**
Rachael Pawlak, East-West Gateway Council of Government
Chelsea Phlegar, Waco MPO
Alex Rotenberry, Mid-America Regional Council
Gena Torres, Hillsborough County MPO
Ellen Zavisca, Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Register for the Active Transportation WG Webinar

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**Public Involvement Working Group Webinar**
Please save the date for the **AMPO Public Involvement Working Group Webinar, Virtual Outreach and Meetings, on Monday, December 14th at 2:00 PM ET**.

**Presenters:**
**Corinne Tucker, Sarasota/Manatee MPO**
Corinne will be discussing the Tuesday Traffic Jam. A podcast developed by the MPO about transportation and long-range transportation planning in Sarasota and Manatee Counties by the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization. Join us and see how it works!

**Amy Elmore, Forward Pinellas**
Though much of the world seems to stand still right now, it is imperative to the wellness of our communities that our planning work continues forward. Many planners will be starting new jobs, forming new relationships, and continuing to network entirely online. In this webinar, Amy will discuss some of the tools, tips, and lessons learned when building relationships and establishing trust in a virtual world.
POLICY UPDATES

Washington Update
12/2/2020

**Coronavirus/Stimulus Bill** – Congress is back in DC to complete the FY21 appropriations process and continue discussion about additional spending to address the health and economic conditions across the Country resulting from the pandemic. Congress and the White House were unable to reach agreement on a relief package before leaving to campaign for the November elections. Both iterations of the House Democrat's HEROES Act spent too much and allocated those resources across too many different programs for the Senate Republicans to accept. Republicans in the Senate wanted to tailor the bill more narrowly to and spend on programs they believed had more impact. Now that lawmakers are back in DC there is renewed effort to pass something in between. This week a bipartisan group of members from both the House and Senate introduced a $908 billion bill that attempts to thread the needle and make a broader number of members comfortable. According to reports the bill does include funding for some transportation sectors but not at the levels those industries have requested. Leaders in the House and Senate have not agreed to move this bill. Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) has put out a new targeted bill which doesn’t include any funding specifically for transportation industries, and the Democratic leadership in the House and Senate have indicated they've sent their own new proposal over to Republican leaders.

**FY21 Appropriations** – House and Senate Appropriation Committee’s have agreed to a top-line dollar amount of $1.4 trillion to spend across the federal government and prevent a shut-down on December 11. This total is divided amongst the 12 appropriation subcommittees and then distributed to the individual agencies and programs withing the federal government. The plan is to aggregate all 12 spending bills into a single omnibus appropriations bill that will close the books on funding for 2021. The White House has sent mixed signals about signing the bill into law. If Congress cannot reach an agreement by the December 11 deadline to keep the federal government open, they will likely pass a short-term CR while negotiations continue.

**President-Elect Biden Transition** – Speculation continues as to who will lead the USDOT, other Cabinet positions. Several names have been floated but we do not want to speculate on who we think will get the job. We look forward to working with whoever is nominated and confirmed by the US Senate.

FEDERAL PARTNERS

**U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $1.37 Million in Grant Awards to Six Projects in Six States to Advance Transit Infrastructure Innovation**

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced grant awards to [six projects in six states](https://www.transportation.gov) totaling approximately $1.37 million in research funding through the [Real-Time Asset Management Program](https://www.transportation.gov). These projects will support infrastructure innovation in the transit industry.

The primary goal of the program is to enhance asset management of infrastructure and
safety by deploying innovative technologies that can provide real-time condition assessment of transit capital and facilities. This program is an opportunity for transit agencies to assess, detect, monitor and track deficiencies related to infrastructure and evaluate the cost-effectiveness and practicality of proposed state-of-the-art solutions.

Links:
Real-Time Asset Management Program
News Release
Project Selections

MOVES3 Posted on EPA Website*
EPA’s Office of Transportation and Air Quality is pleased to announce the web posting of the latest version of the Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator, MOVES3. This state-of-the-science upgrade to EPA’s modeling tools replaces the MOVES2014 series of models as EPA’s latest model for estimating air pollution emissions from cars, trucks, motorcycles, and buses, as well as many categories of nonroad equipment. Compared to the previous MOVES2014 modeling tool, MOVES3 allows users to model the benefits from new regulations promulgated since MOVES2014 was released, incorporates the latest vehicle and emissions data, and has improved functionality. EPA will be publishing a Federal Register notice to announce the availability of MOVES3 for official purposes.

The MOVES web page [https://www.epa.gov/moves](https://www.epa.gov/moves) is the source for MOVES3 software as well as a detailed "Question and Answer" document, MOVES Policy Guidance, MOVES Technical Guidance, technical reports that document the data and algorithms used in MOVES3, tools for use with MOVES, and information on MOVES training.

*Webinar Details below

DOT Five-Year RD&T Strategic Plan (FY 2018-2022)
The DOT RD&T Strategic Plan presents the Department’s research priorities for five years (FY 2018-2022) and describes the activities undertaken by the Department to address those priorities. This plan is an update to the previous Plan, covering FY 2017-2021, and meets the requirements set forth in Section 6019 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub. L. 114-94), "Research Planning" (49 USC 6503). This updated plan has been developed to ensure alignment with the Department’s strategic goals and priorities as defined in the DOT Strategic Plan (2018-2022).

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces First Ever Comprehensive ‘Pedestrian Safety Action Plan’
The U.S. Department of Transportation today released the first-of-its-kind Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. This effort is being overseen by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Administrator Nicole R. Nason and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Deputy Administrator James Owens, with the goal of reducing pedestrian injuries and fatalities on America’s roads. It is the latest in a series of efforts by the Department to improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other road users.

FTA Announces Release of 2019 Data in National Transit Database
FTA has posted the most current national transit-related data online in its 2019 National Transit Database (NTD) data products site. Visit the NTD Data page to view the full set of reports, profiles and trends. Transit agency profiles will be published November 19. Established in 1974, NTD collects financial, performance and service data from all FTA-funded transit agencies. New this year, data users will find zip files for consolidated downloads to improve their ability to analyze and manage data. The NTD site provides electronic versions of data products dating back to 1997.

Links:
National Transit Database
NTD Data page
Tahoe Mobility Forum seeks to find solutions to high traffic volume
The Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) are two key players in the actionable items presented in the forum's report, Berry said. Read more.

Transportation council launches ‘Moving Dutchess Forward,’ new long-range transportation planning effort
The Dutchess County Transportation Council has started its newest countywide planning effort: Moving Dutchess Forward – a long-range, strategic look at improving transportation in Dutchess County over the next 25 years. Read more.

Orlando's transportation network faces major funding shortfall in coming years, says agency
Orlando's transportation infrastructure is getting better by the year, but more work needs to be done. Read more.

OTHER NEWS

Amtrak names Stephen Gardner as president
An Amtrak press release describes the move as “part of a broader set of actions taken under Flynn’s leadership, working with the board of directors, to ensure that Amtrak is well positioned for success in fiscal year 2021 and beyond.” Read more.

Along the crumbling Sonoma Coast, an ambitious project paves the way for ‘managed retreat’
With the realities of climate change looming ever closer, California transportation officials are now moving a key stretch of highway more than 350 feet inland — one of the first major efforts by the state to relocate, or “manage retreat,” critical infrastructure far enough from the coast to make room for the next 100 years of sea level rise. Read more.

Ford says automakers should consider backing California emissions deal
Ford Motor Co is urging major automakers to consider backing a framework deal with California on vehicle emissions in a bid to reach industry consensus before President-elect Joe Biden takes office, according to a letter seen by Reuters on Monday. Read more.

CALENDAR

See More

2021 AMPO Planning
Tools and Training
COURSES & TRAINING

Performance-Based Prioritization Using Multi-Objective Decision Analysis (MODA)- (1.5 PDHs)
How can agencies determine where to invest limited funding across program areas to achieve maximum results? How can agencies balance competing priorities and objectives? The answers to these questions and many more can be found in a NEW web-based training for incorporating a structured, a data-informed, performance-based approach to help prioritize investments across asset classes and performance areas called multi-objective decision analysis (MODA).
The MODA Training Course is available on the TPM Training Hub and is part of the new Transportation Performance Management Category on the AASHTO Store. This course offers professional development hours.
For more information and to register for this training, visit the TPM Training Hub or the AASHTO Store.

MOVES3 Public Webinar
Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 3-4 PM Eastern
The EPA’s Office of Transportation and Air Quality welcomes you to join a webinar introducing the latest version of the Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator, MOVES3. This state-of-the-science upgrade to EPA’s modeling tools replaces the MOVES2014 series of models as EPA’s latest model for estimating air pollution emissions from cars, trucks, motorcycles, and buses, as well as many categories of nonroad equipment.
Use the link above to attend; there is no phone number associated with this webinar.

Case Studies: Application of Economics in Transportation Planning and Prioritization
Thursday, Dec 10, 2020 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT
This webinar will feature three presenters from state DOTs and MPOs who will share their experiences incorporating economic impact and economic benefit analysis into their project prioritization and program planning processes.

Other speakers will be Daniel Hulker from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and Jason Schronce from North Carolina DOT. This is part of the webinar series of TREDIS Transportation Economics.
Registration Link: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3088229505901786896

Register for FTA Transit Asset Management (TAM) Webinar: December 17
Join FTA at 2 p.m. ET Thursday, December 17 for an hour-long webinar, Maintaining MomenTAM, to discuss how agencies can maintain focus and energy around Transit Asset Management (TAM) amid other agency priorities. During this webinar, participants will hear from their peers on notable practices for connecting TAM to other agency strategies and plans, and potential steps they can take to increase the visibility of TAM while addressing time-sensitive challenges.
Presenters include:
Lou Cripps, Senior Manager of Asset Management, RTD-Denver
Tomika Monerville, Director of Planning & Development, Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (LYNX)
The webinar will be recorded and made available on the FTA TAM webpage. Questions or technical problems during the event? Contact TAM@dot.gov
Links:
Register for the Maintaining Momentum TAM webinar
Transit Asset Management (TAM) website

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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