AMPO Update

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
Communities Working Together

AMPO staff would like to extend our warmest welcome to our newest member Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments from Colorado Springs, CO

WELCOME!

The Call for Proposals for the 2021 AMPO Annual Conference is now open!

We are currently moving forward with an in-person event in Scottsdale, Arizona, October 5-8, 2021. Please submit a proposal if you plan to attend the conference. If any decisions are made to host the conference virtually, we will make adjustments to accept proposals for a virtual format.

The AMPO website will have the most up-to-date information and any major changes will be announced. The closing date is April 30th.

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Comments

AMPO formally submitted comments in response to the recommendations made by the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards Review Committee regarding changes to OMB’s metropolitan and micropolitan statistical area standards. AMPO would like to thank its Members, Policy Committee, Technical Committee, and Board of Directors for their assistance in the development of the letter. We will continue to work with our members and keep everyone informed of any new developments regarding this issue. In the meantime, please contact AMPO staff with any questions about the letter or otherwise.

TECHNICAL UPDATE

GIS & Data Visualization Working Group Webinar
Wednesday, March 31st at 2:00 ET
Topic: Communicating Data During COVID-19
Active Transportation Working Group Coffee Chat  
Thursday, April 8th at 2:00 ET  
Topic: Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts  
Contact Caitlin Cook for registration details.

Want to join a working group? Sign up today!

Join a Working Group

POLICY UPDATE

Washington Update

Executive - With the $1.9T American Rescue Plan Act signed into law, the President has been clear that he wants to move on a significant - $3-$4T infrastructure package over the next several weeks. As part of the “Build Back Better” campaign, investments in transportation infrastructure would accompany investments in other infrastructure components, like broadband, school construction, and improvements to the electric grid. The proposal is more than likely going to address other policy issues like climate, income equality, universal pre-kindergarten, and free community college. Of course, the tricky issue of paying for these programs is not at all clear and has already divided Congress. Congressional leaders will have to decide what course to take – raise taxes, cut spending in other parts of the budget, or keep adding to the country’s deficit.

Legislative -

- House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chair, Peter DeFazio (D-OR), and ranking Republican Sam Graves (R-MO), met with Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chair Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), and ranking Republican Rodney Davis (R-IL) to discuss the earmark process for the surface transportation reauthorization bill. Guidance he been provided to House members on how projects can be considered for earmarks. The guidance indicates that members can request as many projects as they want but will be asked to rank their top five. The committee will be accepting submissions from April 1 to April 16. AMPO was asked to provide information to the Committee on the potential impacts to MPO TIPs.

- The Committee leaders have invited members of Congress to testify at a Members’ Day hearing on April 14 at 11 a.m. via Zoom to tell committee members about their priorities for the surface transportation reauthorization. These priorities include projects and policy recommendations.

- The Senate Commerce Committee votes on the nomination of Polly Trottenberg to be deputy Transportation secretary. The Committee is expected to approve the nomination and send it to the full Senate.

- Last week, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing titled “The Business Case for Climate Solutions.” Addressing climate change is a key priority for the Biden Administration and House and Senate Democrats. Last year’s House Democratic infrastructure bill, the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2), included many provisions aimed at reducing GHG emissions from transportation, including a new formula program. H.R. 2, which is likely to be the starting point for this year’s infrastructure bill, is expected to continue in this focus. Over the course of the hearing, Members and witnesses alike referred to provisions in H.R. 2 in anticipation of continued movement on the subject.

A link to the full committee hearing may be found [here](#).
Fredericksburg Metropolitan Planning Organization looking to form a transportation focus group
FAMPO is seeking out focus group members who represent hard-to-reach populations to provide input for a new community engagement plan. Read more.

Region’s new 2045 transportation plan recommended for approval
Regional Planning’s Technical Advisory Committee recommends full board approval for comprehensive transportation plan, which will address significant population and traffic increases in Northwest Arkansas. Read more.

Weekend long reads: Seattle’s vision for an all-electric transportation system
City officials in Seattle detail their plans to move to an almost entirely electric transportation system by the year 2030. The plan addresses inequities in lower-income communities plagued by higher levels of pollution. Read more.

The digital age & EVs - Rethinking & revitalizing transportation
Legacy automakers and original equipment manufacturers, eager to maintain their status in the product and technology space, are exploring new ways to keep up with the inevitability of digitization trends in the automotive industry. Read more.

Virginia accelerates clean transportation
Governor Ralph Northam of Virginia signs the Clean Cars bill and HB1979, two pieces of legislation included in a suite of other steps meant to address emissions standards and cleaner driving alternatives. Read more.

CALENDAR

See More
TransPlex (Transportation Planning Exchange) Web Series
TransPlex (Transportation Planning Exchange) is Florida's premier event for collaborating with transportation planners, engineers, and policy makers throughout the state to Plan, Connect, and Innovate our way into Florida's future. TransPlex brings cutting edge content through a variety of in-person and virtual conferences, as well as our new Web Series.

Click here for registration information and additional details on upcoming events.

Webinar Opportunity on US Census Urban Areas for the 202 Census - Proposed Criteria Discussion
Please join AASHTO for a free, registration required webinar on Tuesday, March 30, at 2:00pm EASTERN on the Urban Areas for the 2020 Census—Proposed Criteria. Census geographers will discuss and explain the most significant proposed changes as suggested in the Federal Register notice of February 19, 2021. More information is available at the Federal Register. Comments to the proposed changes close on May 20, 2021. Join for a presentation and robust Q and A with census geographers and LEHD staff.

For registration information, click here.

NADO to Offer Federal Grants Management Webinars Beginning in March; EDA to Participate in the Indirect Cost Fundamentals for Non-financial RDO Staff Webinar
Federal grants management expert, Bob Lloyd, will be featured during upcoming NADO webinars that will focus on distinct aspects of federal grants management.

The next webinar in the series will be held on Wednesday March 31 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. ET. Playing Well with Others: Effective Collaboration in all Directions will encourage and support examination of your Regional Development Organization’s existing "vertical and lateral" relationships and will identify federal policies that can be used to fashion sensible and effective alternatives.

The last webinar in the series, Purchasing with Federal Grant Funds: Proper Procedures and Allowable Costs, will explain the purchasing methods that are acceptable when spending federal grant funds and will demonstrate how to justify and document the costs of the most common goods and services you buy to support your awards. This webinar will be held on Wednesday April 7, 2021 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. ET.

All webinars will be recorded and made available to all registrants. The discounted rate for NADO members is $50 per webinar; the registration fee for non-members is $125. Registration is separate for each webinar and registration links are below.

Indirect Cost Fundamentals for Program Directors and Other Non-financial RDO Staff, March 24, 2021 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET
Playing Well with Others: Effective Collaboration in all Directions, March 31, 2021 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. ET:
Register here.
Technical Assistance Program - Call for Applications

To assist in the strengthening of urban freight practices, the Urban Freight Lab (UFL) at the University of Washington is launching a six-month Technical Assistance Program for cities, government agencies and nonprofits from outside of the Puget Sound region. We are inviting agencies and organizations who share the same passion and vision for solving urban freight challenges with UFL, to apply for the program.

If your organization/agency would be interested in working with UFL, we would love to see an application from you; and if not, we would greatly appreciate your help in spreading the word with your network.

Applications may request any type of assistance in the broad field of Urban Freight and Logistics that the agency/organization is interested in and deem useful for pursuing with UFL. The Urban Freight Lab is particularly interested in supporting cities in:

- Developing collaborative relationships with private sector freight companies
- Building more data-driven urban freight programs to accurately understand commercial activities
- Developing robust data collection plans
- Reviewing and critiquing municipal urban freight practices
- Charting a pathway to zero-emission urban freight

UFL will contribute to the effort by providing 1:1 match funds in terms of staff and/or research assistants time to complete their tasks in support of the project.

**Applications are due Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 5 pm Pacific time**, and more information about application content and structure can be found [here](#).

Financial Planning for Transportation Asset Management

**FHWA-NHI-136002V (Virtual Delivery)**

Having an effective Transportation Asset Management (TAM) financial plan can be beneficial when managing your organization's assets.

The National Highway Institute (NHI) will help you to develop your organization's TAM financial plan by attending our virtual Financial Planning for Transportation Asset Management (FHWA-NHI 136002V) training in May.

This blended course provides learners with the valuable tools and information needed to develop a financial TAM plan, through access to expert instructors, workshop activities, and engaging peer-to-peer discussions.

The web-based training component (NHI-136002A) of this training enhances learners’ foundational knowledge of financial planning in the context of TAM and reviews common vocabulary and background information. The instructor-led, web-conference training session covers key content areas of a financial plan and the approaches to developing one.

**SESSION DATES/TIMES:**

- May 18, 2021 11:00AM-3:00PM EST
- May 19, 2021 11:00AM-3:00PM EST
- May 20, 2021 11:00AM-1:45PM EST

**POINT OF CONTACT:**

Barbara Szostek | Barbara.Szostek.CTR@dot.gov | (703) 235-0553
Who Should Register?
This online training is ideal for asset managers, program managers, financial officers, and managers involved in developing a financial plan. Executive officers from state departments of transportation, operations directors, and legislative liaisons can also benefit from this training.

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.