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*Building Regional Communities*

# A Perspective from Washington



**SNHPC**

**Southern New Hampshire**

**Planning Commission**

May 23, 2017

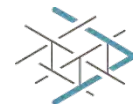
**Presented by:**

**Erich W. Zimmermann, Director of  
Transportation Programs**

**National Association of Regional Councils**

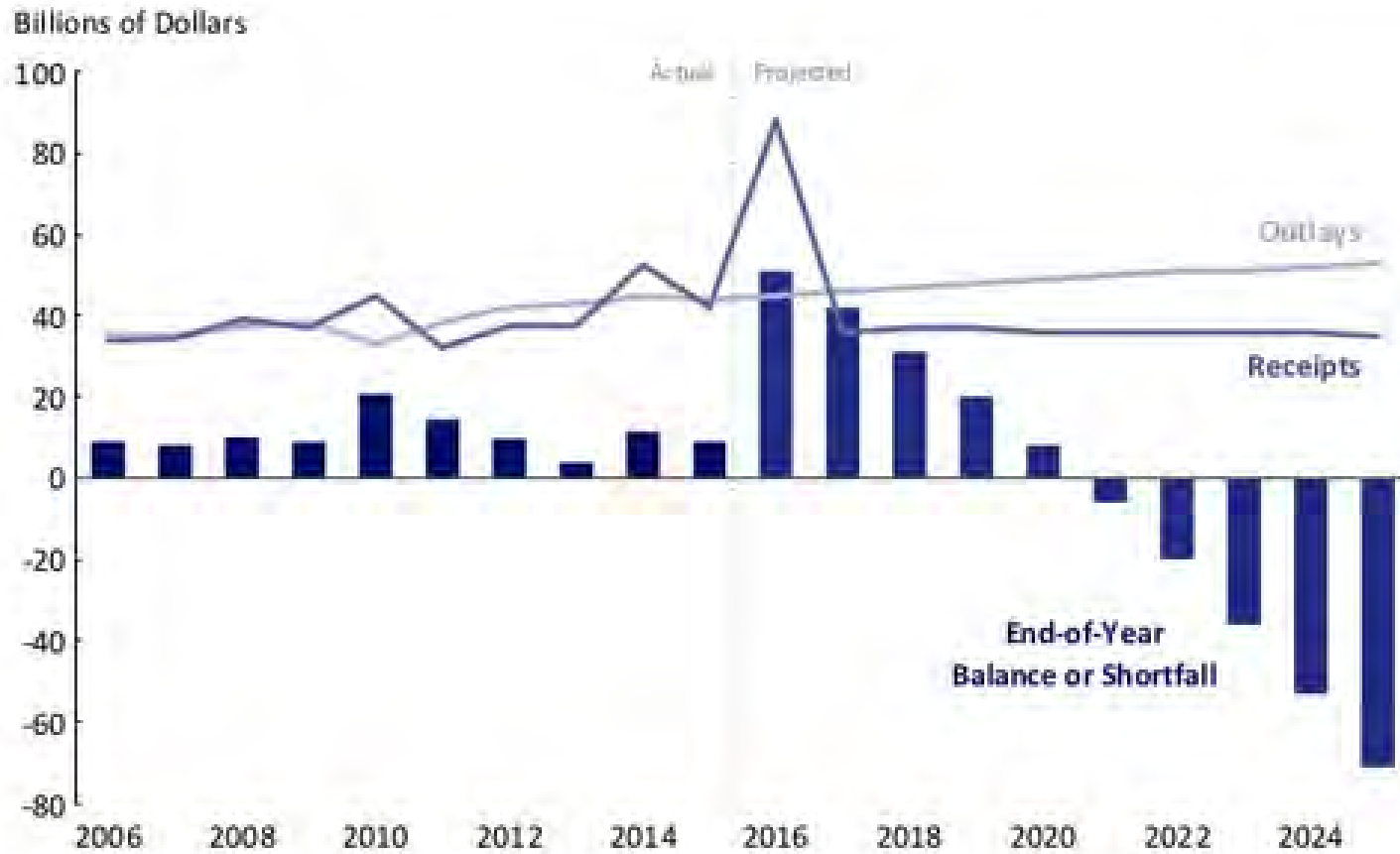
# Broader View

- This really is different (ie. it's weird, getting weirder)
- Nobody knows
- Big distractions



# Federal Picture

## Status of the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund



- FAST Act transferred \$71 billion; \$52 billion to Highway Account, \$18 billion to Transit Account; total transfers more than \$130B
- CBO expects the account to become insolvent by 2021
- Cumulative shortfall of \$139 billion by 2027 (highway and transit accts.)



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# Infrastructure Package

- Based on Ross and Navarro proposal
- Congress would authorize \$100-200 billion in tax credits, would leverage private investments, and allow for borrowing to spur a trillion dollar infrastructure investment
- Challenges/problems
  - Based primarily on *financing*, not funding
  - Designed for projects with revenue stream
  - What about rehabilitation or maintenance, transit?
  - Some portion will go to companies that would have invested anyway
  - Fails to bring in sources of funding from entities that don't have federal tax liability



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# Trump Infrastructure Package

- Timing, funding remain very open questions
  - Too many predictions and pronouncements to count
- Covers many facets of infrastructure: airports/air traffic, bridges, highways and roads, transit, ports, waterways, high-speed internet and telecommunications, freight railroads, pipelines, dams, levees, water and wastewater facilities, electricity transmission
- Also mentioned: schools, veterans facilities, hospitals
- Makes \$1 trillion look pretty small



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# Infrastructure Package

- What does it do for local investment?
  - Unknown. Could be almost entirely private.
    - What does this mean for local priority setting? Regional planning?
  - We are suggesting new funding sources, through previously established mechanisms (ie. STBGP)
- No longer a first 100 days priority, maybe not a 2017 priority
- New funding?
- Reduced to a bill to remove regulatory barriers?



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# Trump Infrastructure Package

Six Categories of change to jumpstart infrastructure improvements and proposed action plans/deliverables for each:

1. Launch new projects
  - Develop prioritized list of major new projects
2. Expedite existing projects
  - Identify key existing projects and specific actions to expedite each one
3. Adjust policies
  - Identify policy changes ranging from internal memos to Executive Orders
4. Adjust regulations
  - Regulatory audit and strategy to modernize regulations unduly limiting infrastructure development
5. Adjust statutes
  - Identify outdated statutory restrictions on the development of critical infrastructure
6. Expand funding
  - Comprehensive financing strategy to close infrastructure investment gap

Source: National Economic Council

# A few things to watch

- Gas tax
  - Trial balloon popped
- Appropriations: 2017
  - Full funding under FAST
    - Provides an additional \$1B for highways, \$400M for transit
  - TIGER preserved
- Appropriations: 2018
  - Same/increased worries
  - Balanced budget w/in 10 years?
  - Increases indicate more agreement than we thought?
  - No movement yet (less than four months)
- Tax Reform? Healthcare? Debt ceiling...FAA...CHIP...FISA
- Where are the worker bees?
- Mid-terms already loom
- Didn't even mention autonomous vehicles



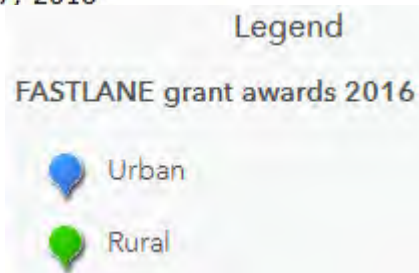
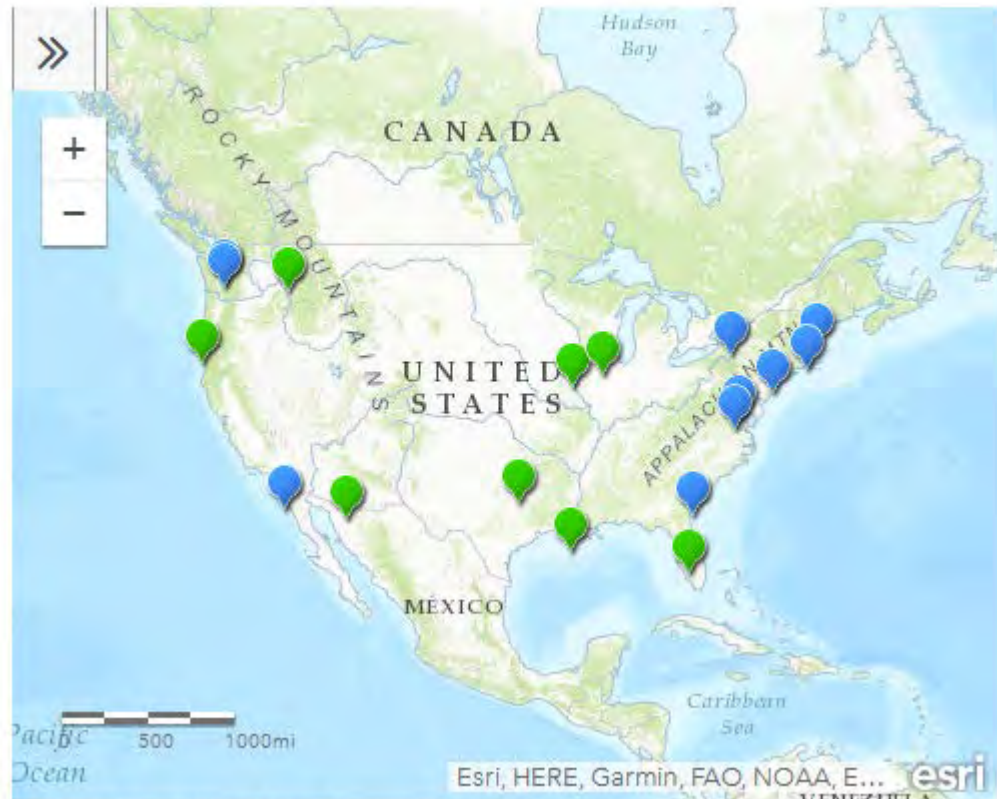
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# FASTLANE Grants

## FASTLANE Grants Awarded



- Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grants
- USDOT received 212 applications, including 76 in rural areas
- Awarded 18 projects for nearly \$800 million in the first round
  - Zero for MPOs, few for cities
- Second round of applications were due December 2016 for \$850 million

# High Note

One Hundred Fifteenth Congress  
of the  
United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday,  
the third day of January, two thousand and seventeen*

An Act

To repeal the rule issued by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration entitled  
“Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform”.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. REPEAL.**

The rule issued by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration entitled “Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform” (81 Fed. Reg. 93448 (December 20, 2016)) shall have no force or effect, and any regulation revised by that rule shall be applied as if that rule had not been issued.

Senators: Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Todd Young (R-IN), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV)  
Reps: Dan Lipinski (D-IL), Chris Stewart (R-MN), 29 co-sponsors

# Join us!



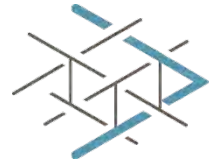
NARC's 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference & Exhibition  
Monterey, California  
June 4-7, 2017

**2017 NARC Annual Conference**

Monterey, California

June 4-7, 2017

# Thank you!



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## My contact info:

erich@narc.org

202-618-5697

www.narc.org