



Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #808 March 25, 2022

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Call for speakers: PNWA Summer Conference, June 21-23

We're pleased to invite you back to Spokane and the Historic Davenport Hotel this June for our 2022 Summer Conference! This event, slated for June 21-23, is a favorite among members. As always, it will be packed with timely and relevant information about our region's working waterways, key issues, and future opportunities. *Waterfront views in Spokane, Washington*
Image credit: Austin Frostad via Unsplash



We are planning in earnest and seeking speakers from across our membership and partner organizations! Please contact PNWA Office Manager Randi Besser at randi.besser@pnwa.net or 503-234-8550 by April 30 to submit proposed topics and speakers.

[Learn more about the 2022 Summer Conference.](#)

Coast Guard seeks comments from maritime stakeholders on I-5 Bridge replacement

The U.S. Coast Guard has issued a [public notice](#) and is soliciting navigation-related comments concerning the proposed



replacement of the Interstate 5 Bridge between Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington.

The Coast Guard highly encourages maritime transportation system stakeholders (vessels and facilities) to carefully review this notice and provide comments regarding the proposed bridge's ability to meet the needs of navigation, including mariner requirements for horizontal navigation clearances and vertical navigation clearances. The Coast Guard is particularly interested in receiving comments from maritime stakeholders with current and or future vertical navigation clearance requirements of greater than 116 feet.

Comments are due by April 25, 2022.

Learn more, including how to submit comments, [here](#).

USDOT Notice of Funding Opportunity: Mega, INFRA, and Rural grant programs

The U.S. Department of Transportation posted a combined Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) March 23 that includes the Mega, INFRA, and Rural grant programs. This is known as the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) opportunity, and includes:



- **Mega:** \$1 billion of Fiscal Year 2022 funding for the National Infrastructure Project Assistance grants program, known as the Mega Grants program;
- **INFRA:** Approximately \$1.55 billion in Fiscal Year 2022 funding to be made available for the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects grants program, known as INFRA;
- **Rural:** \$300 million in Fiscal Year 2022 funding for the Rural Surface Transportation Grant program, known as Rural.

USDOT is combining these three programs into a single NOFO to provide a more efficient application process for project sponsors. While they remain separate programs for the purposes of award, the programs share many common characteristics, including a larger project size, multimodal eligibility, and many shared statutory project requirements. Because of these shared characteristics, it is possible for many projects to be eligible and considered for multiple programs using a single application.

MPDG opportunity applications must be submitted through Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. EDT on May 23, 2022.

View the [MPDG announcement](#) to learn more about this opportunity, including how to apply, frequently asked questions, and upcoming USDOT grant funding webinars.

USDA selects Seattle for pop-up site to address supply chain needs

The Northwest Seaport Alliance is partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on a 49-acre pop-up site at the Port of Seattle that will accept both dry and refrigerated agricultural products for temporary storage. The pop-up site is part of the USDA's efforts to partner with ports and other intermodal container facilities to help American farmers and agricultural producers move their product to market.

[Read more.](#)



Washington wheat farmer elected National Association of Wheat Growers' president

Nicole Berg was elected March 10 as President of the National Association of Wheat Growers. Berg is a fourth-generation farmer from Paterson, Washington, where her family grows dryland and irrigated wheat, blue grass seed, field corn, sweet corn, sweat peas, green beans, and alfalfa.

Berg also sits on the Board of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation and previously served on the Board of the Conservation District.

[Read more.](#)



EPA adds Bradford Island near Bonneville Lock & Dam to the Superfund list



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has added a portion of Bradford Island, which lies within the Bonneville Lock & Dam complex and is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Portland District, to the National Priorities List.

[Read the USACE news release.](#)

Save the Date! Federal Affairs webinar series starts April 5

Join us in April and May for a series of four webinars featuring federal experts in rail, agriculture, funding, and maritime issues. The Federal Affairs webinar series kicks off April 5 and includes the latest information as well as panel discussions about national infrastructure and agricultural issues, non-freight activities at ports nationwide, funding packages, maritime grant opportunities, and much more.

- **Rail Panel Discussion** - Tuesday, April 5, 10 a.m. PST/1 p.m. EST
- **Agriculture Panel Discussion** - Wednesday, April 20, 10 a.m. PST/1 p.m. EST
- **Presentation: GAO Report on Non-Freight Activities at Ports** - Tuesday, May 3, 10 a.m. PST/1 p.m. EST
- **MARAD Programs and Issues Update** - Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 10 a.m. PST/1 p.m. EST

Learn more about each of these webinars and RSVP [here](#).

Webinar speakers are subject to change based on availability. You must RSVP for each webinar you wish to attend to receive the attendance link.

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