

National Association of Regional Councils



2006 NARC Policy Brief

NARC policies are developed yearly from consultations with and information provided by the association's working groups, committees and its membership. The policies provide a context for NARC's national agenda on significant national and legislative issues. Each policy brief includes a rationale for NARC's position on topics relevant and important to America's regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations, metro and rural, large and small.

Highway Trust Fund and Infrastructure Finance

Issue: Highway Trust Fund and Infrastructure Finance

Background: The Highway Trust Fund—the principal source of transportation funding—could become insolvent as early as 2010 due to inflation and gasoline conservation. These revenue forecasts indicate that current levels of transportation funding are unsustainable. Reform of the Highway Trust Fund is needed to build the necessary infrastructure to relieve congestion, move freight, and grow the economy. New sources of transportation funding or alternative methods of raising funds must be explored.

NARC is committed to helping Congress and the Administration find new sources of revenue or new ways of thinking about funding transportation. Included in the options being explored are public/private finance, innovative finance and infrastructure banks.

Policy Recommendations:

- NARC encourages the preservation of funding for core funding programs.
- NARC will participate in discussions on reform of the Highway Trust Fund.
- NARC will support exploration of alternatives to the Highway Trust Fund system, including public/private partnerships and other innovative approaches.

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