

NARCLEADERSHIP

President Stephen Cassano,
Selectman,

Town of Manchester, CT

Chair Anthony Reams,

Executive Directors Council

President, Toledo Metropolitan Area

Council of Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Welcome to 2010 – Happy New Year and I hope everyone had wonderful holidays. In the coming months, I look forward to continuing our successes from 2009 and work on an exciting agenda for 2010.

Right from the start we have a lot of work to do with you – new air quality standards, a continuation of climate change discussions, a new jobs bill, livable communities, transportation, public safety, water and economic development among many other issues. In 2010, we will come together to ensure that the discussions, policy and legislation coming out of D.C. is beneficial for our regions, local governments and citizens. We will formally continue this discussion next in February at the 2010 National Conference of Regions (NCR), which promises to be a fantastic event.

This NCR will showcase new opportunities for regions and our local constituents, and present the latest in the on-going discussions around economic recovery, livable communities, climate change and air quality standards, among others. Rooms at the conference hotel are at a premium – we expect attendance to be high so please register as soon as possible. If you have difficulty reserving your hotel room, contact [Lindsev Riley](#).



2010 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 21-23, 2010

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

“Energizing Regional Leadership and Shaping Administration and Congressional Priorities”

SPEAKERS CONFIRMED

Conference information and a copy of the draft agenda is available [HERE](#).

Keynote Presentations

- **Adolfo Carrion**, Director, Office of Urban Affairs, White House

Exploring the DOT-HUD-EPA Sustainable Communities Partnership

- **Beth Osborne**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation
- **Tim Torma**, Development, Community and Environment Division, The Smart Growth, Program, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Livability and What it Means to Cities and Counties

- **Don Borut**, Executive Director, National League of Cities
- **Larry Naake**, Executive Director, National Association of Counties

Transportation Session and Discussion

- **Susan Binder**, Senior Policy Advisor, Committee on Environment and Public Works, United States Senate

CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS

While you are in Washington, on Wednesday, February 24th, we encourage you to visit your members of Congress. If you need assistance in setting up meetings or preparing materials, please contact Shannon Menard, shannon@NARC.org.

NARC PROGRAM

MEMBER FEEDBACK REQUESTED: U.S. DOE Energy Efficiency Block

Grants: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded approximately \$2 billion in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) to eligible cities and counties across the country from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Due to ARRA spending requirements, DOE is eager to spend out the funds and see on-the-ground progress as quickly as possible. DOE is interested in learning about the barriers localities are confronting that may be delaying their EECBG efforts. Please contact Naomi Friedman at naomi@NARC.org or 202.986.1032, x224 to share your EECBG story or for more information on DOE's request. For a list of communities receiving funds, please

have difficulty reserving your hotel room, contact [Lindsey Riley](#).

We have also announced our January *Learning Series* webinar sessions – including sessions with our partners Public Technology Institute and Enterprise Rent-a-Car. I ask that you please share these sessions with staff, members and others in your community of practice. Additional details are included in this update.

I was honored to present at the [Integrated Justice Information Systems \(IJIS\) Institute](#) leadership meeting this week on the unique opportunity we have as regional organizations to assist in the development and implementation of public safety, security and criminal justice programs. This area of activity will continue to be a focus for us again in 2010 and I hope to report on more opportunities with IJIS and their corporate and public partners in the near future.

We are finalizing our recommendations from our successful meeting we had and co-sponsored with NACo, NLC, USCM, the Brookings Institution and the White House Office on Livable Communities. These recommendations will be presented to the White House shortly – they flow from our Livable Communities report published last year and continue to emphasize the need for greater regional collaboration and support for local governments of all sizes.

I look forward to working with you throughout the year and encourage you to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

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information on DOE's request. For a list of communities receiving funds, please click [HERE](#). Please click [HERE](#) for general information about the EECBG program.

U.S. EPA Announces Proposal to Tighten Ground-Level Ozone Standards: On January 6, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to strengthen the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone, the main component of smog. EPA is proposing to lower the 8-hour "primary" ozone standard, designed to protect public health, to a level within the range of 0.060-0.070 parts per million (ppm). The agency has also proposed a distinct cumulative, seasonal "secondary" standard, designed to protect vegetation and ecosystems, within the range of 7-15 ppm-hours. The EPA intends to hold public hearings on the proposal, the details of which can be found [here](#).

EPA's Office of Air met with NARC prior to this announcement to discuss members' concerns and needs; NARC also sent a letter to the EPA Administrator to discuss local concerns about the efficacy and timing of the change to this standard. The timeline established to implement this process is as follows:

- January 2011: States make recommendations for areas to be designated attainment, nonattainment or unclassifiable.
- July 2011: EPA makes final area designations.
- August 2011: Designations become effective.
- December 2013: State Implementation Plans, outlining how states will reduce pollution to meet the standards, are due to EPA.
- 2014 to 2031: States are required to meet the primary standard, with deadlines depending on the severity of the problem.

For more information, provided by EPA, on this announcement, click [HERE](#). To view the communication sent to EPA by NARC, click [HERE](#). For information about NARC's activities in response to this announcement, please contact Erika Young, erika@narc.org or Naomi Friedman, naomi@narc.org.

FCC to Release Broadband Plan in March: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will release a congressionally-mandated report on how to expand broadband throughout the country in March 2010. The "National Broadband Plan," mandated as part of the economic recovery package (PL 111-5), will be a strategy document to help lawmakers and the administration bring high-speed broadband to every American home and business. A preliminary framework was released by the FCC in December 2009. The final report is expected to address infrastructure access, spectrum issues, set-top boxes, consumer information, the new media landscape, broadband adoption, accessibility and public safety, as well as education, energy, health care, civic participation and other items. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

EDA Wants to Hear from You: The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is continually looking for economic development success stories and best practices that can be shared with economic development professionals across the nation. If you have a success story – either EDA funded or not – that you'd like to share, please email the subject and a brief description to lpangretic@eda.doc.gov for possible publication in a future issue of EDA Update.

EPA Seeks Public Input in New Stormwater Rule: The EPA will hold five listening sessions for the public and accept written comments about a potential rule to strengthen stormwater regulations and establish a comprehensive program to reduce stormwater from new development and redevelopment. The primary regulatory considerations to be addressed include: expanding the area subject to federal stormwater regulations; establishing specific requirements to control stormwater discharges from new development and redevelopment; developing a single set of consistent stormwater requirements for all municipal separate storm sewer systems; requiring those sewer systems to address stormwater discharges

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single set of consistent stormwater requirements for all municipal separate storm sewer systems; requiring those sewer systems to address stormwater discharges in areas of existing development through retrofitting the sewer system or drainage area with improved stormwater control measures; and, exploring specific stormwater provisions to protect sensitive areas. The listening sessions will be held:

- January 19, 2010, at EPA Region 5 Office, Chicago, IL
- January 20, 2010, at EPA Region 9 Office, San Francisco, CA
- January 25, 2010, at EPA Region 8 Office, Denver, CO
- January 26, 2010, at EPA Region 6 Office, Dallas, TX
- January 28, 2010, at EPA HQ Office, Washington, DC

EPA will also hold a virtual listening session via webcast on February 3, 2010. Registration is required for all listening sessions; click [HERE](#) to register and for more information. EPA will accept written comments on the preliminary rulemaking considerations until February 26, 2010. Please click [HERE](#) for additional information on the potential rule.

FEMA Announces Appointments to National Advisory Council: The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) last week announced the newest appointments to the [National Advisory Council](#) (NAC)—comprised of emergency management and law enforcement leaders from state, local and tribal government and the private sector to advise FEMA on all aspects of disaster preparedness and management to ensure close coordination with all partners across the country.

Category	Appointee
Emergency Management	<i>Joseph Bruno</i> , Commissioner of New York Office of Emergency Management
Emergency Response	<i>James Featherstone</i> , General Manager of the Emergency Management Department, City of Los Angeles <i>Brigadier General Donald P. Dunbar</i> , Adjutant General, State of Wisconsin
In-Patient Medical Provider	<i>Dr. David Markenson</i> , Director for the Center for Disaster Medicine, School of Public Health, New York Medical College and Chief of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center
Cyber-Security	<i>J. Michael Phillips</i> , Special Agent Supervisor, Florida Division of Law Enforcement, Florida Computer Crime Center
State Elected Official	<i>Hon. John Wesley Hines</i> , Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives (House District 50)
Local Elected Official	<i>Hon. Jane Halliburton</i> , Supervisor, Board of Supervisors, Story County, State of Iowa
Local Non-Elected Official	<i>Charles H. Ramsey</i> , Police Commissioner, Philadelphia Police Department, State of Pennsylvania
Disabilities	<i>Richard Devylder</i> , Special Advisor to the Secretary, California Emergency Management Agency
Homeland Security Advisory Committee Emergency Responder Senior Advisory Committee	<i>Ellen Gordon</i> , Associate Director of Executive Education and Faculty, Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security
FEMA Administrator Selections	<i>Joseph Becker</i> , Senior Vice President of Disaster Services for the American Red Cross <i>Larry A. Larson</i> , Executive Director of the Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc. <i>Diana Rothe-Smith</i> , Executive Director of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) <i>Teresa Scott</i> , Public Works Director, City of Gainesville Public Works Department, State of Florida

NARCPOLICY

Thomas.gov Launches Comprehensive Congressional Outreach Tool: The Library of Congress' online resource site, www.thomas.gov, recently launched a new feature for easier communication with Members of Congress. Click [HERE](#) to access a page of tips and direct contact access.

Congress Returns to Address 2010 Priorities: Both the House and Senate have convened in pro forma sessions to kick off the 2010 session of Congress. Most lawmakers, however, will return to DC later in January. No votes will be held in either chamber until Tuesday, January 12 for the House, and Wednesday, January 20 for the Senate.

When the Senate returns they will look to take up legislation to raise the nation's debt ceiling, and create a special process to reduce future debt and deficit levels. Last month, the President enacted [HR 4314](#), which continued the funding of the government and raised the statutory debt limit by \$290 billion to \$12.394 trillion, giving the U.S. Department of Treasury the ability to continue borrowing until mid-February 2010. Congress will look to debate this further at the beginning of 2010, and may examine changes to federal spending programs and the tax code that would reduce future deficits. Congress may use this bill to offer amendments on priorities.

Congress will take up tax policy concerns and a jobs/stimulus legislation. The Senate expects to take up companion legislation to the House's \$154 billion jobs bill, [HR 2847](#). The House bill would provide \$48 billion for infrastructure investment, \$26.7 billion to help preserve or create public service jobs, and \$79 billion in assistance to families and small businesses. The House bill also includes longer extensions of certain policies to help the unemployed, such as unemployment insurance and insurance subsidy assistance.

Congress will also reassess highway and aviation programs. Currently, the federal highway and transit programs are running under a two-month extension that was included in the Defense spending bill, and the aviation programs have been extended three months.

President Obama Works on FY11 Budget: President Obama's fiscal year 2011 budget is due February 1, 2010, the first Monday in February. The administration has not released details on the President's spending priorities, but federal agencies are expected to have reduced funding levels, particularly for discretionary spending. In June, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) asked the federal agencies to prepare two alternative budgets — one at FY10 requested level and the other with a five percent reduction.

LEARNINGSERIES



NARC is committed to providing programs, conferences, webinars and expertise uniquely designed to meet the changing needs of its members. As such, in 2009, NARC launched *The Learning Series*, bringing industry leaders and professionals, along with the best information, directly to your desktop. Throughout the year, *The Learning Series* webinars will highlight innovative program-specific issues, policy roundtables and management topics. Below are the webinars currently scheduled for the month of January, which NARC members can attend for FREE. We encourage you and your staff to register for these webinars.

Seven Trends that will Transform Local Government through Technology

Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 1 – 2 pm ET; [Registration Link](#)

This webinar will examine the “Seven Trends that will Transform Local Government Through Technology” and how these trends will impact regional councils and their members. Presented by Dr. Alan Shark, Executive Director of the Public Technology Institute (PTI), the webinar will cover spending & investment; IT governance; network computing, operations and security; regionalism/shared services as a necessity not a luxury; broadband deployment; social networking; and leadership in energy efficiency. The webinar will include a discussion on opportunities for collaboration between regional councils, NARC and PTI on technology issues that impact local government.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car and their WeCar Program

Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 1 – 2 pm ET; [Registration Link](#)

Enterprise Rent-A-Car, a NARC Corporate Partner, will present a webinar on Enterprise's WeCar program, a potential money-saving car share solution for your municipal fleet. WeCar is a membership-based car sharing program for people who are looking for an alternative method of transportation that lowers the cost and reduces the hassles of traditional mobility. The presentation will include information how car sharing may help in cost reduction and improved utilization related to fleets. For additional information about the WeCar program and how your region can benefit click [HERE](#).

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NARC Transportation Finance Subcommittee

Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 12 – 2 pm ET; [Registration Link](#)

Over the past year, several actions have taken place with respect to the rescission of transportation funding that has financially hampered the efforts of several regions. This webinar will provide an update on actions to date, as well as information from the MPOs negatively affected by these rescissions on how they have weathered the financial downturn.

NARC Green Infrastructure

Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 1 – 2 pm ET; [Registration Link](#)

Two of NARC's *Regional Centers of Excellence*, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (Philadelphia, PA) and the Bay Lake Regional Planning Commission (Green Bay, WI) will discuss ways to integrate green infrastructure considerations into regional planning, including land use, transportation and regional food supply activities. The U.S. Forest Service will also share highlights on the Administration's national priorities related to green infrastructure.

REGIONS360°

VPVC Executive Director Recognized for Distinguished Leadership, Service: Timothy Brennan, Executive Director of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, was recently honored by the American Planning Association-Massachusetts Chapter as part of its 2009 Awards Program. He accepted the Professional Planner Award for Distinguished Leadership/Service at the APA-MA awards luncheon December 18 in Boston. The Professional Planner Award is given for sustaining contribution to the planning profession through distinguished practice, teaching or writing. Additional information about this award is available by clicking [HERE](#).

NARC GIS User Group: NARC, in partnership with Sam Wear, Westchester County GIS Manager, has created a NARC GIS User Group for GIS managers and technicians. The purpose of the group is to collaborate with other GIS managers and technicians from regional planning organizations across the country to open a dialogue and share information among one another. This group is open to all individuals, but focused on those GIS managers and technicians. If you are interested in learning more or joining, please contact Lindsey Riley, lindsey@NARC.org or Sam Wear, stw1@westchestergov.com.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

DOT Announces Funding For Urban Circulators Projects: The US DOT [announced](#) the availability of \$280 million for urban circulator projects such as streetcars, buses and bus facilities to support communities, expand business opportunities and improve people's quality of life while also creating jobs. The money is the first batch of funding by the Obama Administration for its DOT-HUD-EPA Sustainable Communities Partnership. The official Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be released in the next few days.

- A maximum amount of \$25 million per project will be made available from approximately \$130 million in unallocated discretionary New Starts/Small Starts Program funds. Eligible projects include streetcars and other urban circulator systems. Priority will be given to projects that connect destinations and foster the redevelopment of communities into walkable, mixed use, high-density environments.
- A second pot of money totaling \$150 million in unallocated discretionary Bus and Bus Facility funds will be available for projects that will foster the preservation and enhancement of urban and rural communities by providing new mobility options which provide access to jobs, healthcare, and education, and/or contribute to the redevelopment of neighborhoods into pedestrian-friendly vibrant environments. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) plans to announce grants early in 2010.

EDA accepting applications for Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund assistance: EDA's Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund (GCCMIF) was established to strengthen the linkages between economic development and environmental quality. The purpose and mission of the GCCMIF is to finance projects that foster economic development by advancing the green economy in distressed communities. The GCCMIF supports projects that create jobs through, and increase private capital investment in, efforts to limit the nation's dependence on fossil fuels, enhance energy efficiency, curb greenhouse gas emissions and protect natural systems. Click [HERE](#) for more detailed information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 14, 1 pm ET, NARC Learning Series Webinar: This webinar will examine the "Seven Trends that will Transform Local Government Through Technology" and how these trends will impact regional councils and their members. Presented by Dr. Alan Shark, Executive Director of the Public Technology Institute (PTI), the webinar will cover spending & investment; IT governance; network computing, operations and security; regionalism/shared services as a necessity not a luxury; broadband

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January 15, 1 pm ET, Audioconference: ICMA is hosting an audioconference, titled: *Baldrige Basics: Steps to Becoming a High Performance Organization*. Join your colleagues for this 90-minute interactive audioconference to discover how the systematic, comprehensive approach of the Baldrige model can help you meet the challenges of greater citizen demands, improving quality with decreasing funds, maintaining a desirable organizational culture, and delivering cost effective results. Click [HERE](#) to register and for additional information.

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January 28, 1 pm ET, Audioconference: ICMA is hosting an audioconference, titled: *Turning Employee and Public Ideas into Big Savings and Increased Revenue*. Join your colleagues for this 90-minute interactive audioconference to learn about the highly successful program, called C.A.R.E., that is enabling the city of North Miami Beach, FL to proactively cope with the economic downturn, increase positive communication between the public and government agencies, implement positive change and see tangible budget benefits. Click [HERE](#) to register and for additional information.

January 28, 3 pm ET, Webcast: Gain insight into the future of construction as expert economists provide an in-depth look at residential and nonresidential construction activity including the institutional, industrial and heavy engineering sectors. Click [HERE](#) to register for this free webinar.

February 4-6, Seattle, WA: The Local Government Commission will host the 9th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities" conference. Click [HERE](#) for additional information or to register.

February 17, 1 pm ET, Web Workshop: ICMA is hosting a web workshop, titled: *Creating a Culture of Leadership*. This Web workshop will focus on strengthening your own leadership skills as well as on developing a culture of leadership throughout your organization. Click [HERE](#) to register and for additional information.

February 21-23, Washington, DC: NARC will host the 2010 National Conference of Regions. A draft agenda is available on the conference website. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to register for the conference.

June 15-17, Cleveland, OH: Save the date! NARC and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency will host the 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition. Additional information will be available in the coming months.

BUILDING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES – LARGE, SMALL, URBAN AND RURAL – THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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