

### **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,

Please join me in welcoming our two spring interns—[Seth Cutter](#) and [Nicole Barrett](#). Seth will be working primarily with Erika Young on transportation related issues and Nicole with Shannon Menard on policy work. We're glad to have them on board and look forward to an exciting spring.

This week I was honored to meet with the Florida Regional Planning Council Statewide Association to discuss NARC policy priorities for 2010, national trends in regionalism and Federal policy and legislative initiatives that will impact regional councils.

We are also continuing to closely monitor the United States Environmental Protection Agency's decision to reconsider the NAAQS Ozone standards. As an association, we have expressed a concern of what this will mean for our regions and are working to address the concerns surrounding implementation. I would encourage you to contact [myself](#) or [Erika](#), if you'd like to be included in this discussion. As developments occur, we will be communicating them with you.

NARC is developing support for



## 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
- **Polly Trottenberg**, Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, United States House of Representatives

#### **Homeland Security Session and Discussion**

- **George Rice, Jr.**, Executive Director, Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials
- **Mitchel Herckis**, Principal Associate, Human Development & Public Safety, National League of Cities

#### **Economic and Community Development Session and Discussion**

- **Angie Giancarlo**, Professional Staff Member, Committee on Environment and Public Works, United States Senate

### **ROOM RESERVATION UPDATE:**

If you have not already made your hotel reservation, please be aware that there are no additional rooms available at the conference hotel (the Ritz-Carlton) for the night of Tuesday, February 23rd. We do have an overflow hotel available, the Renaissance M Street Hotel, located one block from the Ritz-Carlton. If you have

NARC is developing support for S 1619, the Livable Communities Act of 2009. This legislation seeks to reinvigorate regional comprehensive planning and implementation; a summary of the legislation may be found [HERE](#). We urge all regional planning organizations and their boards of local elected officials to send letters of support to Senator Dodd and your State's Senate representation. For more information or assistance with an endorsement, please contact [Shannon](#). This topic will be prominently featured at NARC's upcoming 2010 National Conference of Regions. We look forward to holding an open dialogue with Congressional staff, the federal agencies and your regional peers.

Best,  
Fred

## **NARCSTAFF**

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[Sylvia Bryant](#)

Office Manager, x218

[Naomi Friedman](#)

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[Jenee Kresge](#)

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[Shannon Menard](#)

Policy Manager, x217

[Lindsey Riley](#)

Member Services Manager, x220

[Erika Young](#)

Transportation Director, x212

To access past issues of *eRegions*, [visit our website](#).

Make NARC your homepage — [click here to learn how](#).

Renaissance M Street Hotel, located one block from the Ritz-Carlton. If you have not made your hotel reservations and plan to stay over on Tuesday evening, please reserve your room at the overflow hotel:

### **Renaissance M Street Hotel**

**Phone:** 202-828-8217 and ask for the NARC overflow room block

**Online:** Click [HERE](#) to access the online reservation link

If you have any questions, please contact [Lindsey Riley](#), 202.986.1032 x220.

### **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](mailto:shannon@NARC.org).

## **NARCPROGRAM**

**EPA Outlines Seven Priorities:** Earlier this week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lisa Jackson outlined seven priorities for the future of the agency and that will guide the work in 2010:

1. Taking Action on Climate Change,
2. Improving Air Quality,
3. Assuring the Safety of Chemicals,
4. Cleaning Up Our Communities,
5. Protecting America's Waters,
6. Expanding the Conversation on Environmentalism and Working for Environmental Justice, and
7. Building Strong State and Tribal Partnerships.

Click [HERE](#) to read the details of the Administrator's announcement.

### **Free Webinar: The 2007 Economic Census: A Portrait of the Nation's Economy:**

On Thursday, January 21 from 2pm-3pm EST, Paul Zeisset, Special Assistant, Economic Census, U.S. Census Bureau will highlight key early findings, and provide detailed information regarding the 2007 Economic Census data products and release schedules in a free webinar. The webinar will also conduct a discussion of what's new for 2007, including new data tools, as well as comparability issues in assembling time series. Lastly, the webinar will provide participants with an overview of how the Economic Census relates to other business data reported by the U.S. Census Bureau. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**NARC Learning Series Transportation Finance Subcommittee Webinar:** 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 regions negatively affected by these rescissions and how they have weathered the financial downturn. Click [HERE](#) to register. Speakers include:

- **Eric Anderson**, Chair, NARC Transportation Finance Subcommittee and Transportation Director, Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)
- **Joung Lee**, Associate Director for Finance & Business Development and Deputy Director - AASHTO Center for Excellence in Project Finance
- **Jennifer Schaufele**, Executive Director, Denver Regional Council of Governments
- **Warren Henry**, Vice President of Transportation, Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG)

## **NARCPOLICY**

**House Jobs Bill Summary Available:** Please click [HERE](#) to access a brief summary and [HERE](#) to access a detailed analysis of the HR 2847, the Jobs For Main Street Act of 2010, which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on December

**House Jobs Bill Summary Available:** Please click [HERE](#) to access a brief summary and [HERE](#) to access a detailed analysis of the HR 2847, the Jobs For Main Street Act of 2010, which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on December 16, 2009. The Senate is working on a separate version that has yet to be released. Please contact Shannon Menard at [shannon@NARC.org](mailto:shannon@NARC.org) for questions or more information.

**Report Released on Our Nation's Fiscal Future:** A joint Committee of the National Academy of Public Administration and the National Research Council released the report, "Choosing Our Nation's Fiscal Future," which charts a path to a sustainable fiscal future for our nation. The report presents an assessment of challenges, and offers tests for evaluating the fiscal sustainability of any proposed solution. The report also offers a new framework for formulating solutions and four paths that meet the fiscal sustainability test. Click [HERE](#) to download a copy of the report.

**American Society of Civil Engineers Roundtable Discussion:** On Friday, January 15, NARC participated in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) roundtable discussion on one of the ASCE's 2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure's Key Solutions: Develop National, State and Regional Infrastructure Plans. The event allowed a focused dialogue on planning solutions as it pertains to infrastructure, and how to best coordinate national policy, planning and investments to solve the most pressing problems. The results from this meeting will be featured in a Spring edition of *Civil Engineering* magazine, and may help shape ASCE's official policy and activities.

**LaHood to Host Second Listening Session in Minneapolis:** U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood is holding the second in a series of public meetings regarding the next long-term surface transportation authorization bill Jan. 25 in Minneapolis.

## 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.

### *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](#).

### *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°

**MWCOG's Region Forward Recommendations Approved:** The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Board of Directors approved Region Forward<sup>®</sup>, a comprehensive, new guide for achieving environmental, transportation, economic and other regional goals in the 21st century. MWCOG will now ask each of its 21 member governments, in the Washington DC metro region, to support the effort and its regional Compact in the spring. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

**NLC Board Announces 2010 Legislative Agenda:** At their annual planning meeting in Washington, D.C., last week, the National League of Cities (NLC) Board of Directors called for more federal action to help cities create jobs and stabilize their

**NLC Board Announces 2010 Legislative Agenda:** At their annual planning meeting in Washington, D.C., last week, the National League of Cities (NLC) Board of Directors called for more federal action to help cities create jobs and stabilize their budgets. This call to action for a jobs package came in the wake of a [new NLC report](#) projecting that the municipal sector will face budget shortfalls ranging between \$56 billion and \$83 billion over the next three years. In addition to calling for short-term action on a jobs package, the board also called for federal action in 2010 on the following key priorities for cities including: authorizing a new federal surface transportation program; fully funding the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program; and continuing efforts to stabilize the housing market and strengthen neighborhoods.

**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](mailto:lindsey@NARC.org) or Sam Wear, [stw1@westchestergov.com](mailto:stw1@westchestergov.com).

## **PARTNERUPDATE**

**Local Government Trends to Watch in 2010 from ICMA:** The economic downturn colliding with major demographic changes and shifting tides in core businesses have redefined local government management and regionalism. The [cover story](#) of *Public Management* magazine provides an overview of the shifting trends and the new reality local governments face in 2010.



This article gives an overview of the economic downturn and how the financial picture is affecting local governments. It looks at promising local government initiatives to enhance retirement security and improve health care while controlling costs during a time when employee compensation and benefit packages are under increasing scrutiny. Complicating the situation is that the public sector expects many seasoned managers to retire soon, and replacing them will be a challenge.

*Public Management* magazine is published by ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, the international membership organization for local government and regional professionals.

## **GRANTOPPORTUNITIES**

**EDA Announces Available Grant Funding:** EDA's new Community Trade Adjustment Assistance (Community TAA) Program, which was created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), is aimed at helping to create and retain jobs by providing project grants to communities that have experienced, or are threatened by, job loss resulting from international trade impacts. A total of \$37 million is available for grants to support a wide range of technical, planning, and infrastructure projects to help communities adapt to pressing trade impact issues and diversify their economies. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the program.

**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. Proposals must be submitted by February 8th.

- 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.

## **UPCOMINGEVENTS**

**January 19, 1 pm ET, NARC Learning Series Webinar:** Enterprise Rent-A-Car, a NARC Corporate Partner, will present a webinar on Enterprise's WeCar program. The presentation will include information how car sharing may help in cost reduction and improved utilization related to fleets. Additional information about the WeCar program and how your region can benefit will be available soon. Click [HERE](#) to register. NARC members can attend this webinar at no cost.

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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, 3pm ET, Webinar:** The United States Department of Energy is offering a webinar, "The Community Energy Challenge," featuring a Whatcom County, WA program, which uses funding and local partnerships to implement a business and residential retrofit program, including a social marketing campaign to inspire participation. To register for this and other DOE webinars, click [HERE](#).

**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 10-11, Washington, DC:** The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors is hosting its 2010 Annual Meeting. For additional information or to register, contact [Adrienne Gildea](#).

**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. There is no limit to the number of staff from your office who can participate in this interactive half-day workshop by gathering in a training room at your location. One registration fee gives you an access code for one phone line and the URL to view the PowerPoint presentation. 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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