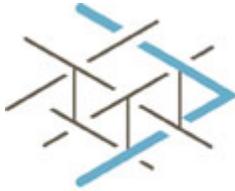


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

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Council
Executive Director,
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana
Regional Council of
Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

We are all very excited about the opportunity that Congressman Geoff Davis (R-KY) sponsored through H.R. 3780 - Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones (RIIZs). We've been working along-side the

[PROGRAMUPDATE](#) [POLICYUPDATE](#)
[REGIONS360](#) [ASSISTANCEREQUEST](#)
[PARTNERUPDATE](#)
[GRANTOPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMINGEVENTS](#)



2012 NATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF REGIONS
FEBRUARY 12-14, 2012

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

Draft Agenda Available: click [HERE](#) to access the draft agenda.

Registration: click [HERE](#) to register.

Click [HERE](#) to visit the conference website.

PROGRAMUPDATE

EPA Extends Effluent Guidelines Plan Comment Period: EPA announced in December that it has re-opened the public comment period for another 60 days for the 2010 Final Effluent Guidelines Plan and the 2011 Effluent Guidelines Reviews. On October 20, 2011, EPA published its final 2010 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan, as required by the Clean Water Act, which

Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) to support this legislation in Congress and give local governments and regional planning agencies one more tool to meet their infrastructure needs. As we've discussed many times – declining federal and state revenue, and a slowly recovering economy necessitate the need for innovation and thoughtfulness to keep our infrastructure in top shape. RIIZs gives us that – the venue through which public and private investment can be leveraged for the maximum public good. You'll hear more about this in the coming weeks and at the 2012 National Conference of Regions (NCR) next month. We've now scheduled three major key notes along with excellent session speakers at the NCR, so please attend.

See you soon,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

identified new or existing industrial dischargers selected for effluent guidelines rulemaking and provided a schedule for such rulemakings. The notice also solicited data and information for the EPA's 2011 Effluent Guidelines Program Reviews. Comments are due on or before February 27, 2012. Click [HERE](#) for the December Federal Register. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Open Comment Period for Proposed EDA Regulations: *Comment Period Closes February 6, 2012.* Last month, the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) published its **proposed revised regulations** based on external and internal feedback gathered through a public comment period earlier this year. Stakeholders may now provide comments on the proposed revised EDA regulations. Please click [HERE](#) to learn more or provide comments, and please provide copies of any comments you plan to submit to [Jenee Kresge](#).

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in session.

Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones: Last week, Congressman Geoff Davis (R-KY, 4) introduced [H.R. 3780](#) to amend the federal tax code to allow for the establishment of Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones (RIIZs). RIIZs would allow businesses or individuals in a community to contribute tax-deductible funds towards the construction or maintenance of public infrastructure – defined as surface transportation, water, waste water and storm water – if that infrastructure is part of an approved regional plan. This effort was led by the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments in conjunction with NARC. For additional information, contact Shannon Baxevanis, at shannon@narc.org or click [HERE](#).

State of the Union: The House and Senate will conduct a joint session tomorrow, Tuesday, January 24 for President Obama's State of the Union (SOU) address. On Friday NARC participated on a White House conference call with state and local government officials and groups to discuss priorities for the President's remarks. The President joined the call and outlined the following as key themes: 1) creating jobs and improving the economy; 2) restoring the security of middle class families; 3) paying down the deficit; 4) infrastructure; and, 5) education.

Federal Budget: The President will release his FY13 budget on Monday, February 13, a week late. The President has asked agencies to identify five

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Economic and

Community

Development Manager

[Lindsey Riley](#)

Deputy of

Communications

[Erika Young](#)

Transportation Director

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percent in cuts with an eye for an additional five percent. Meanwhile, the House is working on several pieces of legislation to change and guide the budget process.

FAA Reauthorization Progress: Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate negotiators came to a tentative deal on the stalled FAA Reauthorization. While issues surrounding long-distance flights at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, the Essential Air Service and the air cargo transport of lithium batteries must still be resolved, the compromise leaves in place a ruling by the National Mediation Board governing how union elections must be conducted. Though another short-term authorization extension may be needed, as the current authorization extension expires at the end of this month, members of Congress expressed confidence that this authorization will be passed by the end of February.

REGIONS360

IARC Partners with Connect Iowa for Broadband Implementation:

Recently, members of the Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC) attended a "broadband university" administered by IARC in partnership with Connect Iowa. With the information learned during the week-long training, member COGs will return home to begin implementing Connect Iowa's Connected community program, which brings together stakeholders to do an assessment of local needs and then develops a plan to provide broadband access in the most efficient way to meet the localized needs and promote economic growth. Information on the event is available [HERE](#).

Florida Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program Recognized by APA: The American Planning Association (APA) has recognized the Florida Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program as a Best Practice in Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning. This program is a culmination of the 11 regional councils of Florida working together and updating the evacuation plans for each of the regions. The program was also recognized by NARC with a 2011 Achievement Award. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about the program.

ASSISTANCEREQUEST

Grant Management: The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) is looking for assistance with the following questions regarding

grants. 1) Does your organization use the services of a grant writer or have an FTE that handles grant management? Can you provide a copy of the scope if you work with a contractor or a job description if it's an employee? 2) If your organization doesn't have a dedicated person responsible for grants, who handles the close-out of grants, the management of your grant(s), etc.? Please contact Roxie Ronsen, DRCOG, directly at rropsen@drcoq.org.

Performance Audit Scope of Work: The Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) is looking for an example of scope of work (SOW) for a Council of Government performance audit. Specifically, they are looking for a performance audit SOW for the organization itself, rather than for a specific program. Has your organization completed a performance audit and could share your SOW? Please contact Michael Cavallaro, RVCOG Executive Director, at mcavallaro@rvcoq.org.

Solar Case Studies: As part of NARC's work with the [SunShot Initiative](#), NARC is developing case studies of regional councils who have done work in the field of solar energy. The goal is to include a variety of examples to be highlighted in a publication. We would love to hear about your experience working to promote solar energy in your region. CONTACT: Kristin Heery, kristin@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x225

PARTNERUPDATE

EcoSummit 2012: The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission will host EcoSummit 2012, September 30-October 5, 2012 in Columbus, Ohio. The Call for Abstracts has been released. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

2012 NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program

January 24, 2012

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), which is hosted by the USGS, sponsors the CAP to promote the technologies, standards, best practices and organizational collaboration vital to data integration, partnerships and collaborations for data investment and speedy delivery of geospatial products to support government and other stakeholders. This year the FGDC is offering a total of \$810,000 to award for up to 41 geospatial related projects that are spread across seven categories. Each project will focus on ways to expand the geospatial data infrastructure that is necessary

to effectively discover, access, share, manage and use digital geographic data. The project awards are scheduled to be announced in March 2012 with obligated work to begin on each project no later than September 30, 2012. More information and a link to the announcement on Grants.gov are available [HERE](#).

U.S. DOE Smart Grid Data Access Funding Opportunity – \$8 million

Application Due: March 1, 2012

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory is seeking applications aimed at empowering consumers to better manage their electricity use by enabling access to electricity consumption data by customers and their authorized third parties, and providing or supporting the use of third party tools and software products that use the available data to deliver a value-added service to the customer.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

The National Endowment for the Arts

Deadline: March 1, 2012

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced funding for the 2012 Our Town grants, which supports creative placemaking projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places. Grants will range from \$25,000 to \$150,000. Click [HERE](#) for guidelines and more information.

Funders' Network: Local Sustainability Matching Fund

Deadline: March 5, 2012

In partnership with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, the Funders' Network is pleased to announce the formation of the Local Sustainability Matching Fund. The Fund has been created with leadership support from four Network members: the Kendeda Fund, the New York Community Trust, the Summit Foundation, and the Surdna Foundation.

The purpose of the [Local Sustainability Matching Fund](#) is: to catalyze partnerships between local government sustainability directors and local, place-based foundations, including community foundations, and to advance important community-based sustainability initiatives. The Fund will provide partnership investments between \$25,000 and \$75,000, with a 1:1 match required by one or more local foundation. The Network anticipates that the Fund will support up to ten partnership projects in the first year in two rounds in the spring and fall of 2012.

The application deadline for the first round is March 5th, and you may

[download the Request for Proposals here](#). Applications must be submitted in MS Word and use the application [Cover Sheet](#). The Network will host a conference call to provide more information on the fund and review the selection criteria. The call will be held on January 24th, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern, and you may register for the call by [clicking here](#).

A selection committee comprised of foundation representatives and urban sustainability directors will make selection decisions on behalf of the matching fund, and awards will be announced on May 5, 2012. For more information on the Local Sustainability Matching Fund, please contact Ann Wallace at ann@fundersnetwork.org or 617-524-9239.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Installing Solar On Municipal Facilities Webinar

January 24, 2012 1:00pm ET: Are you or your members considering installing solar on a municipal facility? This webinar focuses on writing a solar RFP for municipal installations, the importance of building partnerships with utilities and the private sector and financing mechanisms that have helped make municipal solar installations possible. For more information and registration, click [HERE](#).

EDA Webinar: Building Disaster Resilient Economies

Thursday, January 26, 2012, 2pm ET: The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), with the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and the Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC), will host a webinar showcasing successful EDA-funded projects on post-disaster economic recovery, as well as information related to a new federal funding opportunity. Registration and additional information is available [HERE](#).

New Partners For Smart Growth Conference

February 2-4, 2012, San Diego, CA: Register today for this 11th annual event. Additional conference details are available [HERE](#).

Planning for Solar Energy in Your Community: Workshop

February 4, 2012, San Diego, CA: This workshop will be held during the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference and will focus on overcoming planning and zoning barriers to adoption of solar energy technologies—primarily rooftop PV—at the local level. Increased solar adoption supports smart growth

goals. Throughout the workshop, speakers will present zoning tools and innovative financing options that can make communities more "solar-friendly" and case study examples of what communities across the country are doing to address solar in their planning, zoning, and development decisions. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

Working with Your Local Electric Utility Webinar

February 8, 2:00-3:00pm ET: This webinar will provide local government representatives an opportunity to hear directly from a panel of SEPA member electrical utility representatives about the opportunities and limitations pertaining to increased amounts of distributed solar electricity and how they have worked successfully with local governments to implement best practices and policies around solar development and interconnection. This webinar is free of charge; register [HERE](#).

2012 National Conference of Regions

February 12-14, 2012, Washington, DC: Register Today! NARC will host its 2012 National Conference of Regions, which will focus on Obama Administration's priorities, Congressional activities, and critical policy issues and pending federal legislation that will impact regions. Click [HERE](#) to access registration and additional information.

Green Infrastructure Workshop

March 5-9, 2012, Shepherdstown, WV: The Conservation Fund's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV is hosting *Strategic Conservation Planning Using a Green Infrastructure Approach* on March 5-9, 2012. This workshop provides participants with a strategic approach for prioritizing conservation opportunities and a planning framework for conservation and development- integrating the green and the grey. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Transportation Summit

March 30, 2012, Toledo, OH: The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is hosting the 18th Transportation Summit on Friday, March 30th. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

46th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 10-14, 2012, St. Petersburg, FL: Save the Date! Join us for the the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. NARC's Annual Conference and Exhibition is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Registration and additional information will be available

in early 2012.

2012 Executive Directors' Conference

September 24-26, 2012, Boise, ID: Save the Date! Join Executive Directors and senior staff of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations at this premier regional training event. Registration information and a draft agenda will be available in mid 2012.

2012 EcoSummit

September 30-October 5, 2012, Columbus, OH: EcoSummit 2012 will bring together the world's most respected minds in ecological science to discuss restoring the planet's ecosystems. Click [HERE](#) for additional information - now accepting Call for Abstracts!

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