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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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# eRegions

### **NARC LEADERSHIP**

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## 2011 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2011

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, DC

### **REGISTER TODAY!**

### **EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

Colleagues,

There have been recent changes in staff positions that recognize the great work staff has done and which are relevant to moving NARC forward. Jenee Kresge, Lindsey Riley and Shannon Baxevanis have taken on new roles that will assist me and

***The agenda has been updated!*** You're invited to join local elected officials, Councils of Government and Metropolitan Planning Organizations from around the country at the 2011 National Conference of Regions - *Renewing the Regional Commitment*. Click [HERE](#) to access the current draft agenda; click [HERE](#) to register or contact Lindsey Riley at [lindsey@narc.org](mailto:lindsey@narc.org) or 202.986.1032 x220 for more information.

## **PROGRAM UPDATE**

**EPA Assistant Administrator for Water to Leave EPA:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Assistant Administrator for Water Peter Silva

you as members in better aligning NARC's mission, policy and programs. Congratulations to them specifically and to all our staff for the excellent work they do.

I just returned from the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council where I presented on the 112th Congress and the outlook for funding for our regions and local governments. The same day I presented, the House put everything on the table for possible cuts – including CDBG, transit funding, high-speed rail and other programs. It is well within their purview to assess what should and should not be cut from the federal budget. What we need to do is find those areas that have had significant positive impact in our communities and make the case that they are needed programs and projects.

I'm headed to Ohio this week to discuss the beginnings of a rational and sustainable energy policy for our country based on investment, opportunity and economic development.

announced that he will leave his position on February 12. Nancy Stoner will serve as EPA's Acting Assistant Administrator for Water after his departs. Stoner currently is Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water, and has been known as an advocate of green infrastructure for water systems.

**NLC Releases Report on Successful Local and Regional Practices in Response to Foreclosures:** This month the National League of Cities (NLC) released [\*\*Resilience in the Face of Foreclosures: Lessons from Local and Regional Practice\*\*](#), a research report focused on addressing the foreclosure crises facing many regions today. The report highlights six metropolitan regions and their local and regional responses to the increasing rate of foreclosures and neighborhood decline, and offers practical strategies for implementation across the country.

**USDA Updates Online Food Environment Atlas:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently updated their online mapping tool to feature 78 new indicators of the food environment at the county level. The Atlas includes indicators such as availability of food stores and restaurants, food prices, socioeconomic characteristics and health outcomes. The updated Atlas can be accessed [here](#).

**EDA and IEDC Launch RestoreYourEconomy.org:** The International Economic Development Council (IEDC), with support from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), recently launched [www.RestoreYourEconomy.org](#), a website to support regions recovering after a disaster. The website features resources and best practices for planners and the business community to prepare for and recover from major disasters that impact local and regional economies.

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## POLICYUPDATE

*The House is in session. The Senate is in recess until January 25.*

**State of the Union Address this Week:** President Obama will deliver his State of the Union address tomorrow, Tuesday, January 25 at 9:00pm, ET. Congressman Paul Ryan (R-WI) will give the Republican address. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the White House on the address.

**House to Hold Hearing on REINS Act:** The House Judiciary Committee will conduct a hearing today on the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act (HR 10), which would require a congressional check on

This in one area where we as regions, in partnership with our states and local governments, can show a positive future to Congress. If you'd like to know more about this project, energy and our regions please let me know.

I hope to see all of you in a few weeks for our National Conference of Regions.

Best,  
Fred

**NARCSTAFF**

**Fred Abousleman**

Executive Director

**Shannon Baxevanis**

Deputy Director

**Sylvia Bryant**

Office Manager

**Naomi Friedman**

Project Director

**Jenee Kresge**

Economic and  
Community

Development Manager

**Lindsey Riley**

Deputy of  
Communications

**Erika Young**

Transportation Director

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rules that govern federal programs. The Act was introduced by Congressman Geoff Davis (R-KY) and is co-sponsored by several Republicans. If enacted the REINS Act would require a vote from Congress before any regulation with an economic impact of more than \$100 million could go into effect (e.g. U.S. EPA's greenhouse gas regulations which have congressional scrutiny). Click **HERE** for more information on the bill.

**Report Released on Tying Transportation to Economic Growth:** The Bipartisan Policy Center's National Transportation Policy Project recently released the report, "Strengthening Connections Between Transportation Investments and Economic Growth." The report to Congress explains that transportation projects are more than just about job creation and urges Congress to consider diverting funds from existing programs that provide "questionable job-creation, unclear long-term benefits or if the programs are solely an effort to increase short-term employment." The recommend that Congress prioritize projects by balancing job creation with long-term benefits. Click **HERE** to access the report.

**DOT Secretary LaHood Shows Confidence in Moving Transportation Authorization Bill:** U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Ray LaHood told an audience in Atlanta last week that he is confident a multiyear bill to reauthorize the nation's surface transportation programs can be passed by Congress and signed into law before the congressional summer recess begins in August. LaHood restated the Administration's opposition to increase federal gasoline and diesel taxes on gasoline and diesel to fund transportation. Click **HERE** for more on the speech.

**House to Vote this Week on Reducing Federal Spending:** The House Rules Committee approved a resolution (**House Res. 38**) last week that would authorize the chairman of the House Budget Committee to set reduced spending levels for the remainder of the federal fiscal year to FY08 levels or less. The full House is expected to consider the measure today. Under the House rules package adopted on January 5, House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI), was given the power to set a limit on FY11 appropriations in the House in lieu of a budget resolution – this is only for non-security discretionary spending. House appropriators are expected to cut \$55 to \$60 billion.

**Senate to Host First Transportation Reauthorization Hearing:** The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will begin its discussion of a surface transportation spending bill with a hearing this Wednesday, January 26 at 10:00am ET in 406 Dirksen. The hearing, which will focus on job

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[click here to learn  
how.](#)

creation and economic opportunity in the transportation sector, is the first in a series centered on the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU. The hearing will examine the economic boost from transportation projects. Witnesses include: Susan Martinovich, president of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO); William Dorey, director of Granite Construction Inc.; Raymond Poupore, executive vice president of the National Construction Alliance II; and Wayne Johnson, manager of Carrier Relations. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the hearing.

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **U.S. EPA Clean Diesel Emerging Technologies Funding**

**Assistance Program** - *Deadline: January 27, 2011*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals for the Clean Diesel Emerging Technologies Funding Assistance Program. This RFP will support projects that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions in terms of tons of pollution produced and diesel emissions exposure, particularly from fleets operating in areas designated by the Administrator as poor air quality areas. Eligible diesel emission reduction solutions are listed on the Emerging Technologies List, available by clicking [HERE](#). For more info, click [HERE](#).

### **U.S. EPA Accepting Applications for SmartWay Program – Deadline:** *February 10, 2011*

The U.S. EPA's SmartWay Program and National Clean Diesel Campaign are announcing the availability of funding assistance to create finance programs, such as low-cost leases or revolving loan programs, to achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions throughout the United States. The SmartWay Finance Program is soliciting proposals for projects that reduce diesel emissions through the creation of national, tribal, regional, state or local finance program(s). Finance programs include, but are not limited to, those that provide the loan recipient a specific financial incentive (i.e., longer terms or lower rates) to purchase or lease eligible retrofitted vehicles or equipment. The proposed finance program should maximize the total project funds available for financing eligible diesel emission reduction solutions and be sustainable to maintain the program. Eligible entities include regional, state, local, or tribal agencies or port authorities with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality, and certain non-profit organizations and institutions.

### **U.S. DOT's Transportation Infrastructure and Innovation Act Offers**

**Credit Assistance** - *Deadline: February 18, 2011*

The U.S. DOT's Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Joint Program Office announced the availability of funding to support new applications for credit assistance. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

**U.S. HUD to Award \$25 Million through New Rural Innovation Fund –**

*Deadline: February 23, 2011*

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) **announced** that \$25,750,000 will be available for grants made through the Rural Innovation Fund (RIF). RIF replaces HUD's former Rural Housing and Economic Development Program, and will award grants on a competitive basis to state housing finance agencies, community development corporations, state community and/or economic development agencies, local rural non-profit organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes and consortia of these eligible groups. Successful grant applications will propose new and innovative solutions to poor housing conditions and concentrated poverty in rural and tribal areas. HUD is particularly interested in proposals that incorporate an "entrepreneurial approach" to addressing these problems.

Eligible housing and economic development activities include:

Commissioning architectural and engineering plans; Construction of innovative new housing units; Demolition and/or rehabilitation of existing housing units to increase sustainability and/or energy efficiency; Land acquisition; Homeownership counseling Revolving loan programs and microlending programs to establish or grow local businesses and create jobs; and, Direct financial assistance in the form of grants, loans and funding for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) for affordable housing, entrepreneurship and economic development leading to job opportunities.

Additional information is available by clicking [HERE](#).

**FY11 Environmental Workforce Development Grants Available: *Deadline:***

*March 18, 2011*

The U.S. EPA recently announced the availability of \$4 million to fund approximately 13 awards of up to \$300,000 each. Regional councils are specifically named as eligible applicants for the awards, which will support the delivery of environmental workforce development and job training programs focused on hazardous and solid waste management, assessment and cleanup-associated activities. Additional information is available [HERE](#) or at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

**DOL Releases Grant Applications for Trade Adjustment Assistance**

**Community College and Career Training Program - *Deadline: April 21, 2011***

Last week the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training

Administration (ETA) announced the release of \$500 million in grant funds for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) program. While applicants must be institutions of higher education eligible for training under the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, regional councils and Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) have proven to be key partners for similar work undertaken through NARC's *Pathways Out of Poverty* project, also funded by DOL ETA. Projects to expand and improve the delivery of education and career training programs for workers eligible for training under the TAA for Workers program to become employed in high-wage, high-skill occupations will be considered under the TAACCCT program. The full grant announcement is available [HERE](#), and a toolkit for potential applicants is available [HERE](#).

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

### ***10th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference***

**February 3-5, 2011, Charlotte, NC:** Today, more than ever, we are faced with environmental and economic challenges that will define our generation, shape our future, and test our resilience as cities, regions, states and a nation. Join leaders from across the U.S. as we tackle these challenges head-on and demonstrate smart growth solutions that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil, create a green economy, assure a healthy population, and expand transportation and housing options for all Americans. There will be something for everybody, from veteran experts to smart-growth novices, with nearly 90 sessions and workshops. Plan to join us, and others, from across the U.S. for the smart growth event of the year! Visit [www.NewPartners.org](http://www.NewPartners.org) to get more details.

### ***Transportation and Land Use Webinar***

**February 8, 2011, 12:00-2:00 pm ET:** NARC and the National League of Cities will host the next NARC Transportation Committee webinar, focusing on best practice examples of how regions are linking transportation and land use, and how local elected officials can play a role in developing the regions they represent. The agenda is forthcoming. NARC members can attend for free; click [HERE](#) to register.

### ***2011 Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference***

**February 8-10, 2011, Washington, DC:** NARC and its *Pathways Out of Poverty* project team will present a workshop on February 8th on the importance of partnerships in regional workforce and economic development

programs, entitled "Partnerships and Pathways: Keys to Success in Regional Green Jobs Training and Placement." The 2011 Conference is the leading forum for sharing ideas and strategies for building a green economy that creates good jobs, reduces global warming and other environmental problems, and secures America's economic and environmental future. Click [here](#) for a full conference agenda and registration information.

***2011 National Conference of Regions***

**February 13-15, 2011, Washington, DC:** NARC will host its 2011 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 register for the conference.

***2011 Green Infrastructure Conference***

**February 23-25, 2011, Shepherdstown, WV:** The Conservation Fund and its partners will host speakers from across the country to discuss key elements for success and vital lessons-learned. Featured topics include green infrastructure and public health, social equity, transportation, economic development, climate change and more. For more information please click [here](#).

***2011 National Brownfields Conference***

**April 3-5, 2011, Philadelphia, PA:** What began as a response to an overwhelming brownfields concern has become one of the largest environmental conferences in the United States. A partnership between the U.S. EPA and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has developed the National Brownfields Conference into the premier international forum focused on redeveloping America's brownfield properties and promoting environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. Registration is free; visit [www.brownfields2011.org](http://www.brownfields2011.org) for more details.

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Washington, DC 20002

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