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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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2011 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2011

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, DC

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

We were in Ohio last week to meet with the Ohio Association of Regional Councils. Many thanks to their President and NARC Executive Directors Council member Howard Maier for the invitation.

REGISTER TODAY!

***HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and Congressman Ed Whitfield
Confirmed As Keynotes!***

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 or 202.679.6116 for more information.

PROGRAM UPDATE

We are headed to Pittsburgh this week for the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission's Board Retreat.

Rapidly approaching is our National Conference of Regions. We announced yesterday the confirmation of HUD Secretary Donovan; have confirmed Congressman Ed Whitfield (Chair, House Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment, which oversees the Clean Air Act); and are working to confirm Congressman John Mica. In addition to our keynotes, we have exciting experts on a variety of topics who will also be joining us.

This conference is timed well, as we are catching Congress during one of their weeks in Washington. They are on recess until February 7; we encourage you to meet with them while they are in district. If you need assistance in scheduling meetings or other information, please let us know.

Best,
Fred

Dept. of Interior Announces Goals for America's Great Outdoors:

Secretary Ken Salazar, Department of the Interior, released the Department's Strategic Plan for 2011-2016, outlining the Department's goals for America's Great Outdoors, commitments to American Indian communities and responsible natural resource development. The five-year plan also emphasizes the Administration's commitment to stronger science-based decision-making, higher ethical standards for employees, as well as greater transparency and accountability to the American public. The blueprint sets out mission priorities and guides our investments and allocation of resources for stewardship of America's Great Outdoors, sustainably managing natural resources and strengthening our nation-to-nation relationship with American Indian Tribes and Native Alaskans. The plan also underscores our focus on enhanced safety for offshore energy development, stronger environmental protection and support for renewable energy technologies. Click [HERE](#) to access the plan.

POLICYUPDATE

Summary of the State of the Union Address: Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's summary of the President' State of the Union Address, as well as the Republican response.

Administration Working on Clean Energy Standard: Following the State of the Union Address, President Obama outlined key elements in a "Plan to Win the Future by Producing More Electricity Through Clean Energy." The clean energy plan focuses on the following goals: double the share of clean electricity in 25 years; draw on a wide range of clean energy sources; deploy capital investment to sustain and create jobs; drive innovation in clean energy technologies; and, complement the clean energy research and development agenda. Click [HERE](#) to access the plan.

Senate's Work this Week: This week, the Senate will focus on the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), including aviation programs and funding for those programs, which has been operating through short-term extensions since the end of FY07. Additionally, the Senate Budget Committee has scheduled a series of hearings examining the state of the economy, tax reform proposals and government efficiency.

House Future Activities: Last week the House adopted H Res 38 calling for a cut to "2008 levels or less" when House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) sets new budget spending levels Republican House leaders are still

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determining where to set non-security discretionary spending for the fiscal year. Talk has been that leaders are looking to set the cap to the FY08 spending levels for the remaining months of the fiscal year, and would reflect a \$55 billion to 60 billion reduction in spending.

CBO Projects New Federal Debt Numbers: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects that the 2011 federal budget deficit will reach nearly \$1.5 trillion, or 9.8 percent of the gross domestic product, if current laws remain unchanged. Click [HERE](#) to read the full analysis in the agency's 2011 Budget and Economic Outlook.

PARTNERUPDATE

International City/County Management (ICMA) Annual Conference: Have you been part of a successful public-private partnership? Share your story with the local government community! At each [ICMA Annual Conference](#), ICMA hosts a series of hour-long sessions – what's called the Solutions Track – that provide a unique opportunity for private sector organizations to share their ideas, products and services with ICMA members. These sessions are highly valued for the exposure they provide to new information related to challenges and opportunities local government professionals are facing around the world. The submission period is now open for 2011 Solutions Track session proposals. We are looking for case studies sponsored by the private sector that feature a local government perspective. Learn more about the Solutions Track and proposal process [here](#) and submit your ideas by 5:00 pm ET on February 11, 2011.

National League of Cities (NLC) Releases Report: NLC released a new report, *State of the Workforce in America's Changing Economy*. To better gauge the current state of the workforce in America's cities and to better understand how local governments are responding, NLC included a section on workforce development in the 2010 State of American Cities Survey. Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

NLC Releases the Latest Emerging Issues Column: William Barnes published his latest article, *A Unique Time in Municipal Finance: Not For Hunkering Down*. Click [HERE](#) to access the article.

Regional Excellence: *Do Regions Have a Role in Federal Agency Reform?* Former NARC Executive Director Bill Dodge authors this column and can be reached at WilliamRDodge@aol.com. Click [HERE](#) to access the

column.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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](#).

Environmental Justice Small Grants: *Deadline: March 31, 2011*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting grant applications for \$1.2 million to support projects to research, educate, empower and enable communities to understand and address local health and environmental issues. Eligible applicants include non-profit community based organizations (e.g. faith groups, environmental justice groups) and tribal governments. COGs/RCs may want to partner with such entities. Forty grants of up to \$25,000 each to support projects that address local environmental issues through partnerships, and four grants of up to \$50,000 each to gather science on the environmental and health impacts of exposure to multiple sources of pollution. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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.

Citizenship and Integration Direct Services Grant Program Deadline: *Deadline: April 1, 2011*

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Citizenship will provide federal funding to nonprofits or local governments to prepare Lawful Permanent Residents for citizenship. The grants provide up to \$75,000 per year, for a total of \$150,000 per grantee to provide citizenship instruction for the civics and English portions of the naturalization test. Additional information and a full application packet is available [here](#).

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](#).

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 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. Contact [Jenee Kresge](#) if you plan to attend the conference.

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](#).

24th Annual GIS-T Symposium

March 28-30, 2011, Hershey, PA: For more information on this event, 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 for more details.

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