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eRegions

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

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Simultaneous events are moving in D.C. this week and next; we will have profound discussions of them at next week's National Conference of Regions (NCR). The Presidents' budget will be released, Congress is considering a multi-year

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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 Delays Release of Stormwater Rulemaking: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on January 31 that additional time is needed to develop a schedule for the release of the proposed and final EPA stormwater rules. This short-term extension pushes the release of the rulemaking schedule back from January 30 to March 16. It is expected that the proposed rule will be released no sooner than this Fall. Analysis to

transportation program, and Congress is two months into deficit reduction discussions. NARC will be releasing analysis of the transportation proposals from the Senate and House, along with providing a significant amount of time, keynote speakers and session discussion at the NCR. We will also hear from the White House and other speakers on the budget and deficit reduction talks, while Staff provides analysis of the budget and deficit actions for this year and next.

Of concern in all this activity is the fundamental shift away from a long and successful Federal/local partnership both from funding and programmatic standpoints. The NCR will be a pivotal venue for our regions to come together and set a course for collective action on protecting our role in supporting local governments.

Hope to see you all there!
Fred

support the rulemaking will continue through this short-term extension. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Solar America Cities Podcast, *Solar in San Antonio*: Check out this podcast highlighting the City of San Antonio's work as one of the Department of Energy's 25 Solar America Cities. The podcast explores the city's successes, challenges and lessons learned. To access the podcast, click [HERE](#).

Open Comment Period for Proposed EDA Regulations

Extended: *Comment Period Extended through February 15, 2012.* 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](#). *Note: Despite service disruptions for EDA email and websites, the links above and comment submission site remains online at this time.*

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in session.

Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones: 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](#).

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

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PARTNERUPDATE

FAQs re: Cities. 4U & for all of us: Bill Barnes, Director of *Emerging Issues* at the National League of Cities (NLC), publishes his latest column on Citiwire.net. Click [HERE](#) to access the article.

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.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

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

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.

Measuring the Economic Impact of Tourism: Webinar

February 14 and 16, 2:00 pm ET: Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) cordially invites you to a webinar on the economic impact of tourism. Using

REMI's PI+ model, Senior Economic Associate, Rod Motamedi, will discuss the methodology behind modeling the impact of tourism on the economy. PI+ was used for the impact analysis of Missouri casinos, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Eastern States Exposition. Motamedi will develop a framework for similar projects by looking at the economic impact of President Obama's tourism plan. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar on the 14th and [HERE](#) to register for the webinar on the 16th.

Developing a Sustainable Communities Project Selection Tool Webinar

February 21, 2012, 12:00 pm ET: Join ICF for a webinar focusing on the development, testing, and application of a project selection tool for use by Rhode Island state agencies and nonprofits to evaluate applications for competitive funding. The tool was developed through a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Smart Growth Implementation Assistance grant to the KeepSpace Partners, a coalition of state agencies and nonprofits. The webinar will discuss the research conducted on existing smart growth scorecards, project selection frameworks, available funding, and appropriate project types for evaluation. It will also outline the process used to develop the tool with KeepSpace partners, other state agencies and nonprofits, and communities. This includes discussions of alternative project selection approaches (to meet KeepSpace/smart growth/livability/sustainable communities criteria), appropriate criteria weighting, and appropriate processes to meet state and local needs for project selection and evaluation. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar and [HERE](#) for additional information.

Creating a Sustainable Pathway: Inaugural Eagle Ford Shale Consortium

February 29 - March 2, 2012, San Antonio, TX: Highlights of the conference will include regulatory oversight, education and workforce development, advances in drilling and hydraulic fracturing, economic development and infrastructure development. A pre-conference session on February 29 will focus solely on housing challenges and opportunities. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about the event.

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](#).

Are Regions Adapting to Climate Change? Webinar

March 15, 2012, 1:00 pm ET: NARC is wrapping up a multi-year project funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to understand what regional organizations are doing to adapt to climate change. Different from mitigation, adaptation is focused on the planning actions and strategies that can be implemented to respond to the impacts of climate change (e.g., flooding, extreme weather events, drought, sea level rise). The study included a survey of regional organizations, a joint NOAA-NARC workshop, and case study research. Join this free webinar to learn about and discuss the key findings of this study, including an analysis of survey results and comments from the case study organizations. Registration information will be available soon.

Get the Right Answers from Your Police and Fire Chiefs - Full Day Workshop

March 15, 2012, Palo Alto, CA: Policy decisions involving your police and fire departments could have huge public safety implications, but these departments are the toughest from which to get accurate, measurable information. Join us for a full day ICMA University Workshop, Asking Your Police and Fire Chief the Right Questions to Get the Right Answers, to learn how to understand the needs of your jurisdiction's public safety agencies and employ methods to evaluate their performance; reduce costs and improve services. The workshop will include an expanded presentation about workload analysis and EMS sections and include a discussion of mergers and consolidations including public safety departments. Click [HERE](#) for details and to register.

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.

Get the Right Answers from Your Police and Fire Chiefs - Full Day Workshop

April 20, 2012, Lake Forest, IL: Policy decisions involving your police and fire departments could have huge public safety implications, but these departments are the toughest from which to get accurate, measurable information. Join us for a full day ICMA University Workshop, Asking Your Police and Fire Chief the Right Questions to Get the Right Answers, to learn how to understand the needs of your jurisdiction's public safety agencies and employ methods to evaluate their performance; reduce costs and improve services. The workshop will include an expanded presentation about workload

analysis and EMS sections and include a discussion of mergers and consolidations including public safety departments. Click [HERE](#) for details 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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