

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,

Thank you to our conference attendees, sponsors and partners for making the 2010 National Conference of Regions a tremendous success. Staff is currently working to upload conference materials and contact information to our website. We will let you know as soon as this information is available.

With Washington buzzing about livable communities, infrastructure, jobs, rural affairs, and urban policy, we were fortunate to have representation at our conference from The White House, U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Transportation, Commerce, and Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as well as key experts in a variety of fields.

We also had a successful briefing of the House Livability Task Force by NARC leadership led by President Cassano this past Wednesday. We'll be sending more info out about this as well.

Next week we will launch our 44th Annual Conference and

NARCPOLICY

Rep. Perlmutter (D-CO, 8) Releases HR 4690, "The Livable Communities Act of 2010": Congressman Ed Perlmutter introduced his companion bill to Senator Dodd's S. 1619, the Livable Communities Act of 2009. NARC, along with the National League of Cities and National Association of Counties, sent a letter supporting Perlmutter's bill, HR 4690. This bill, like Senator Dodd's, will provide comprehensive regional planning and implementation funding for consortia of local governments through an established regional planning organization. Click [HERE](#) for Congressman Perlmutter's press release on the bill, which includes quotes from several Congressional Members and a listing of supporting organizations.

Click [HERE](#) for the bill language.

Click [HERE](#) for NARC's letter.

Highway Trust Fund: As of publication, the U.S. Senate adjourned for the week without taking action on legislation to extend expiring tax provisions, including extending the ability of the Highway Trust Fund to continue operations. However, it is being reported that House Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Reid and House T&I Chairman Oberstar have reached an agreement to support the Senate passed language for H.R. 2847, which would be taken up early next week. This deal was cut with promises of support for the House passed language in a subsequent jobs bill in the coming weeks. Oberstar's agreement on the Senate language provides optimism that the coming shutdown of the Highway Trust Fund and furlough of many DOT employees could be ended by midweek rather than by the end of next week. In order for this to happen, the House would have to pass the Senate jobs bill and get it signed into law by Wednesday, March 3 at the latest.

U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) employees are paid through the Highway Trust Fund, and, subsequently may be furloughed; Federal Transit Administration (FTA) employees are paid out of the General Fund and will not be affected. FHWA is required by law to redistribute unobligated American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) highway formula funding on Tuesday, March 2, but it is unclear how the DOT shutdown and pending legislative activities will impact the mandatory redistribution of these funds.

REGIONS360°

TIGER Grants Announced: Congratulations to the [Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments](#), [Mid-America Regional Council](#), [North Central Texas Council of Governments](#), [Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada](#), and [San Diego Association of Governments](#) for receiving funding through the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery discretionary grant program. Additional Information is available by clicking [HERE](#).

RESOURCES

EPA Announces New Website to Help State and Local Governments Tackle Climate Change: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched a new Web site to help state and local governments understand, plan and implement strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their jurisdictions. The State and Local Climate and Energy Program Web site, www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate brings together EPA resources to serve as a one-stop shop for

Next week we will launch our 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition website and registration. Session topics will include transportation reauthorization, transit and economic development, GIS programs, implementing livable communities, shared services, social media training and much more!

And NARC continues to compile comments for HUD's public comment request on their new Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. This is a great opportunity for local governments and regions, and we must ensure a strong, unified regional voice from our colleagues throughout the country. Please send any comments that your organization plans to submit, or ideas you would like us to include, to Shannon Menard, shannon@NARC.org.

Thank you again for your participation and we look forward to seeing you again soon—

Best,
Fred

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and Local Climate and Energy Program Web site, www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate, brings together EPA resources to serve as a one-stop shop for government officials seeking information on climate change and clean energy.

EPA Announces New Website to Increase Transparency of Proposed Regulations: The EPA launched a new Web site giving the public additional opportunity to participate in the agency's rulemaking process. The online Rulemaking Gateway serves as a portal to EPA's priority rules, providing citizens with earlier and more concise information about agency regulations. In addition, EPA has established a Rulemaking Gateway discussion forum to allow the public to suggest enhancements to the website, www.epa.gov/rulemaking. The forum will be open through July 16, 2010, after which EPA plans to make enhancements based on ideas received.

PARTNERUPDATES

The APCO Institute Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Program. Comprehensive. Customized. Cost-Effective:

The public expects 9-1-1 telecommunicators to be prepared for the unexpected. *Are yours?* Give your staff the essential tool for effective response to critical situations—The [APCO Institute Emergency Medical Dispatch Program](#). With in person and online training opportunities, your personnel will be certified to present the EMD course within your agency and begin using customized EMD Guidecards and/or APCO's customized software program. Click [HERE](#) to learn more. at: For questions, contact: APCO Institute at institute@apco911.org or call (888) 272-6911.



GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

NACo now accepting applications for coastal county initiative grants:

Deadline: March 29, 2010. The Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative (CCRI) program, a partnership between the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be accepting applications for the 2010 round of funding. CCRI will provide between \$50,000-\$100,000 to improve stream, river, estuarine and other important marine habitats, and remove barriers such as dams and culverts for fish migration and passage. For more information, please click [HERE](#).

EDA Announces Available Grant Funding: *Deadline: April 20, 2010.*

EDA's 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.

EPA Accepting Applications for National Award for Smart Growth Achievement and for Smart Growth Implementation Assistance: *Deadline: April 5, 2010:*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now accepting applications for the 2010 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. This competition is open to public- and private-sector entities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially and economically. For more information about the award program and how to apply, click [HERE](#).

EPA Accepting Letters of Interest for the 2010 Round of the Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program.

Deadline: April 9, 2010. EPA, with the assistance of HUD and DOT, is offering direct technical assistance from national experts

EPA Accepting Letters of Interest for the 2010 Round of the Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program.
Deadline: April 9, 2010. EPA, with the assistance of HUD and DOT, is offering direct technical assistance from national experts to communities, tribes, regions, and states that want to incorporate smart growth techniques in their development. EPA is also interested in identifying and documenting innovative solutions to complex problems faced by communities as they seek to incorporate smart growth practices. Letters of interest are due by 3:00 pm April 9, 2010. EPA expects to select up to 4 applicants for assistance this year. For more information about the 2010 application process, click [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

February 28–March 2, Arlington, Virginia: The [Appalachian Regional Commission](#) will be hosting their annual Development District Association of Appalachia training conference with a focus on how Local Development Districts (LDDs) can help promote and develop energy-efficiency efforts. The event will feature sessions for LDDs on policy impacting energy-efficiency efforts, and examples of local projects that showcase effective energy savings for local governments, businesses, and homeowners. Click [HERE](#) for the conference agenda, registration and additional information.

March 1, Listening Tour and Webcast Session, 2:30-4:30pm, Albuquerque, NM: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is hosting a *Sustainable Housing and Communities Listening Tour and Webcast Session*. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

March 4, Webinar, 3:00-4:30pm: Join an ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) webinar with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and an expert panel, including NARC Policy Manager Shannon Menard, to discuss the formation of HUD's upcoming \$100 million Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to register.

March 8, Listening Tour and Webcast Session, 1:00-3:00pm, Hartford, CT: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is hosting a *Sustainable Housing and Communities Listening Tour and Webcast Session*. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

March 9 and 11, Listening Tour and Webcast Session, 1:00-2:00pm, Washington, DC: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is hosting a *Sustainable Housing and Communities Listening Tour and Webcast Session*. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

March 23, Webconference: The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) will host a webconference titled *Local Government Collaboration: Success Stories and Lessons Learned*. Shared service arrangements bring local governments an opportunity for cost cutting and improving services. Collaboration is a way of working more effectively—especially for smaller cities and counties. This event will feature the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, the Green River Area Development District and the North Central Texas Council of Governments, and how local government collaborations helped to make the participating jurisdictions stronger and better able to provide services to the community. Additional details and registration information is available by clicking [HERE](#).

March 29 and March 30, Washington, DC: ICMA will host *Ethics at Work* workshop. Based on the core values of public service, these three hour sessions are designed for local government managers and supervisors, and will provide the strategies and tools needed to foster an ethical organization. The workshop will provide skills to introduce and put to work ethics principles within your organization. Begin the work to establish an ethical culture today by registering online, [HERE](#).

June 15-17, Cleveland, OH: Save the date! NARC and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency will host the 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition. Registration and a draft agenda will be available next week. Full conference details will be available on the conference website, available by clicking [HERE](#).

BUILDING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES – LARGE, SMALL, URBAN AND RURAL – THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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