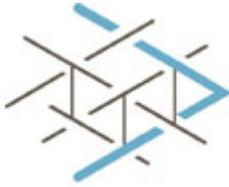


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 8, February 27, 2012

eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

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

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Over the last two years, NARC has lead a substantive and strategic discussion on priorities (that you helped create) with Congress and the Administration on issues in regional and local development. With your help, many of those issues were or are being addressed – for example, solutions to innovative

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)
[PARTNER UPDATE](#)
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

PROGRAM UPDATE

NARC Transportation Conference Calls:

Federal Surface Transportation Authorization and Opportunities for Action: Tuesday, February 28th, at 3:00 pm ET; click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) for NARC’s summaries of H.R. 7 and S. 1813, respectively.

Dial: (773) 945-1018
Access Code: 197-516-530

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New and Small Starts Notice of Proposed Rulemaking discussion: Thursday, March 1, 2012, 3:00pm ET

Dial: (832) 999-1001
Access Code: 538-639-098

Click [HERE](#) after joining the meeting for the Meeting Words link.

NARC Webinar Announcement: Are Regions Adapting to Climate Change?: 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

infrastructure finance through RIIZ's, project streamlining in the transportation authorization proposals, enacting sustainable communities legislation, moving forward a clean water agenda, and fighting to save EDA and the UASI's. However, the current state of politics has put other serious proposals on hold, as well as possibly dismantling the historic partnership between local, state and federal government. You made your concern over this loud and clear at the National Conference of Regions - you want solutions. There are solutions besides acquiescing and they are [HERE](#). Communicate them often. And, as we move through the next few weeks your phone calls, email messages and personal visits with members of Congress are important. Together, we will get back on course.

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

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. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Administration Announces Rural Jobs Accelerator, Additional

Initiatives: Last week, the administration announced three actions designed to create jobs and promote business growth, as a part of the Administration's "We Can't Wait" effort. The initiatives include: a Presidential Memorandum directing the government to increase its purchase of biobased products, the Rural Jobs Accelerator competition which will provide \$15 million in grants for job creation, and a memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor to connect educational institutions with rural communities to promote Health Information Technology. A full press release is available [HERE](#), and NARC will provide additional information, including a link to the Federal Funding Opportunity for the Rural Jobs Accelerator when they are released.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in session.

Federal Budget: The President released his FY13 budget on Monday, February 13, during the 2012 National Conference of Regions. Click [HERE](#) to access a NARC-prepared summary of the budget. Several congressional committees will hold hearings this week on the President's FY13 budget. Additionally, the House Republicans are working on releasing their own FY13 budget blueprint, which is anticipated to be marked up by the House Budget Committee towards the end of March.

Free Webinar on Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network

Legislation: APCO International is hosting a free webinar on Wednesday, February 29th from 11:00 a.m. to Noon (EDT) to discuss Title VI, the Public Safety Spectrum section of H.R. 3630; Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The bill tackles issues, including the allocation of the D Block Spectrum to public safety, the establishment of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) to manage the build out of a nationwide public safety broadband network

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(PSBN), a \$7 billion grant program to fund the PSBN build out, an additional \$135 million grant program to assist State and local planning and implementation of the PSBN in their States and localities, \$115 million for Next Generation 9-1-1, and the give back of T-Band public safety spectrum between 470 – 512 MHz. Click **HERE** to register for the webinar.

Federal Surface Transportation Authorization Update: Recent developments on the federal surface transportation authorization include:

- Facing opposition from the transit community on the elimination of dedicated funding for transit in H.R. 7 and the elimination of about \$15 billion in funding, the U.S. House of Representatives leadership removed the legislation for consideration in its current form. While details on how to move the legislation forward are still being worked through, the prospect of passage in its current form is unlikely. It is anticipated that the reformatted H.R. 7 will contain project expediting and environmental streamlining provisions and will be attached to the energy exploration legislation that passed the House last week.
- U.S. Senate Leaders Reid (D-NV) and McConnell (R-KY) continue to negotiate over how to move the S. 1813, the Senate's federal surface transportation authorization forward. Last week, a procedural vote designed to end debate failed and subsequently pushed back consideration of the legislation. There remains contention over nongermane amendments that deal with foreign aid to Egypt, contraception availability and other issues.

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. Please note that registration is now open; exhibitor information is available **HERE**.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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 Keneda 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.

U.S. DOL Workforce Innovation Fund Grant Opportunity

Application Due: March 22, 2012

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration, will award approximately \$98.5 million in Workforce Innovation Fund grants to support innovative approaches to the design and delivery of employment and training services that generate long-term improvements in the performance of the public workforce system, both in terms of outcomes for job seeker and employer customers and cost-effectiveness. Grants are awarded at three tiered funding levels for new and untested ideas (\$1-3 million per award), promising ideas (\$3-6 million per award) and adapting proven ideas (\$6-12 million per award). Additional information and links to download the SGA can be found [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Using U.S. EPA's GHG Reporting Data Webinar

March 1, 2012, 2:00 pm ET: For the first time, comprehensive greenhouse gas (GHG) data reported directly from large facilities and suppliers across the country are now easily accessible to the public through EPA's GHG Reporting Program. This information can be used by state and local governments to identify nearby sources of GHGs, identify opportunities to improve efficiency and reduce emissions, or to inform policies and programs. Staff from EPA's GHG Reporting Program will take attendees through EPA's online data publication tool that allows users to view and sort GHG data for calendar year 2010 from over 6,700 facilities in a variety of ways—including by facility, location, industrial sector, and the type of GHG emitted—and discuss ways in which state and local governments may be able to use this data. To register, click [HERE](#).

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](#).

Saving with Solar: Understanding Retail Solar Power Purchase Agreements Webinar

March 15, 2012, 2:00 pm ET: This webinar will provide a summary of where and under what conditions, retail Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) work in the U.S. The discussion will mention the intricacies that affect the legality of retail PPAs, including highlighting financial issues. This webinar is free of charge; register [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. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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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