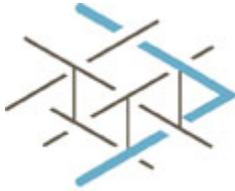


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XI, No. 10, March 14, 2011

eRegions

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EXECUTIVEBRIEF

Colleagues,

It has been a devastating week in Japan and our prayers rest with the Japanese people and all those effected around the world. It is sobering glimpse into what can happen to even the most prepared countries when such devastation

REGISTER TODAY!

You're invited to join local elected officials, senior staff, planners and programmers from Councils of Government and Metropolitan Planning Organizations around the country at the largest event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education - NARC's 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition. A draft agenda will be available soon. Click [HERE](#) to register or contact Lindsey Riley at lindsey@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x220 for more information. *A draft agenda will be released soon; if you are making travel arrangements, we recommend traveling on Sunday, June 12th and Thursday, June 16th.*

occurs.

However, the Tsunami warning system here in the U.S. worked to the best of its ability; states on the west coast had time to prepare for unknown size waves. The ability of federal, state, local and regional responders and officials to come together is a testament to our continued commitment to support coordinated planning, emergency communication, evacuations and response. Our thoughts are with Japan and all those working to assist. For those interested in relief efforts, information about supporting the American Red Cross can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

Thank you,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Sylvia Bryant

Office Manager

Naomi Friedman

Project Director

Jenee Kresge

Economic and

PROGRAMUPDATE

Commenting Period for EDA Regulations Extended: Last week, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced that it will be extending the deadline for submitting comments on its regulations through April 11, 2011. EDA is requesting comments from stakeholders to help the agency update its regulations to more effectively partner with communities and organizations to create jobs and economic growth. Details are available in a Federal Register Notice (available [HERE](#)) and comments can be posted directly on [EDA's website](#). Please share any submitted comments with Jenee Kresge, jenee@narc.org.

Center for Clean Air Policy Releases Green Infrastructure Report

The Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP) recently released [The Value of Green Infrastructure for Urban Climate Adaption](#), a report that provides information on the costs and benefits of many green infrastructure practices, as well as how local governments can utilize these techniques to reduce climate risks and maintain resilience. Additional information on this and other reports is available [HERE](#).

NOAA Sponsors National Flood Safety Week this Week: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is sponsoring the 2011 National Flood Safety Awareness Week, observed March 14-18. Click [HERE](#) to visit their website for more information.

GIS Webinar Opportunity: GPS 101: Global Positioning Systems (GPS) technology is performing better than ever and will continue to improve. Led by the Senior Policy Advisory for the Department of Interior and U.S. Geological Services, this webinar will provide an update on the GPS constellation, modernization plans and national policy. You'll learn about new improvements and how your region can take advantage of this technology. Click [HERE](#) to register; NARC members can attend at no cost.

POLICYUPDATE

The House and Senate are in session.

Federal Budget Update: The Senate failed to pass both H.R. 1 and Senate Amendment 149, the long-term continuing resolution efforts. Both chambers

Community
Development Manager

[Lindsey Riley](#)

Deputy of
Communications

[Erika Young](#)

Transportation Director

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will now go back to negotiations to determine long-term government funding for FY11. Meanwhile, the House released another short-term continuing resolution, HJ Res 48, which covers three weeks of government operations (until April 8), and cuts about \$6 billion in spending - \$2.7 billion from earmarks and eliminating or reducing 25 government programs, many which President Obama targeted in his FY12 budget request. Click [HERE](#) for a chart of the cuts and eliminations. The House is expected to take up this bill tomorrow, pushing it to the Senate for consideration by Friday, when the current short-term continuing resolution expires. Click [HERE](#) for a NARC comparison of the budget proposals.

House Panel Passes Ban on EPA GHG Regulations: Last week, the House Energy and Commerce Energy and Power Subcommittee passed [HR 910](#), which would block U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) efforts to regulate greenhouse gases (GHG) linked to climate change. The bill would add a new section to the Clean Air Act (PL 101-549) exempting GHGs from the EPA's regulatory authority and repealing many agency actions to implement emissions restrictions. The full committee will take up the bill this week, which is expected to include numerous amendments from Democrats.

House Leadership Releases Energy Initiative: Last week, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and House GOP leaders released their [American Energy Initiative](#), which will be an ongoing effort to expand American energy production and options, and create jobs. The effort promotes an "all of the above" energy package, and includes proposals to expand domestic oil and gas production, promote nuclear energy and encourage development of natural gas-powered vehicles. Click [HERE](#) for some of the transcript from last week's press conference.

Senate Homeland Security Committee Conducts Hearings on Preparedness: The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will conduct a hearing on Thursday, March 17 at 2:30pm with the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency administrator Craig Fugate on disaster preparedness. The hearing is expected to discuss the US emergency alert system and how well the country could react to a large disaster like what Japan is experiencing, as well as FEMA's operational plans for the 15 national planning scenarios outlined in the National Response Framework.

Send NARC Your Regulation Recommendations: NARC requests members submit ideas for streamlining federal regulations – either broad concepts or agency specific – that look to promote innovation, cost

efficiencies and effectiveness, flexibility, and the reduction of barriers. Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's submission form. Please send all submissions by **Friday, April 8, 2011** to Joe Patterson at intern3@narc.org.

DOT Secretary Discusses Fiscal Year Budget Request: Last week, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Ray LaHood testified before the [Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee](#), the [Senate Environment and Public Works Committee](#) and [Senate Committee on Appropriations](#) to discuss the President's Fiscal Year 2012 budget request. In addition to other issues, many Senators expressed concern with the lack of a recommended funding mechanism to support the President's budget request.



MARC Develops Regional Plan to Prepare for Plug-In Vehicles: The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) and the Metropolitan Energy Center have been working with public and private organizations to develop a regional plan to get consumers, businesses and local governments ready for plug-in vehicles. Click [HERE](#) to access the full article in Kansas City, MO's newspaper, *The Star*.

PARTNERUPDATE

NACo's 2011 Rail Conference: April 27-29, 2011. Sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo), National League of Cities (NLC) and NARC, this conference will focus on the impact of freight and passenger rail on county, city and state governments and their citizens and businesses. Click [HERE](#) to access the tentative agenda and registration information.

ICMA Mid Career Managers Institute: The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is offering a Mid Career Managers Institute, (MCM) a focused development program for those who identify themselves as mid career professionals at four of its Regional Summit locations. This half-day Institute will provide: broader understanding of your responsibilities as leaders; perspective on some of the critical leadership and management issues facing mid-career managers; and understanding and awareness of concepts and techniques relevant to local government management. Just \$50 to attend. It's not "just lunch"! You are invited to participate in the

Thursday morning Young Professionals Leadership Institute session with Bob O'Neill, ICMA's executive director and the ICMA-RC work-life balance session as our guest. Come design your future by co-creating a program built by mid career managers for mid career managers and connect with other Mid Career Managers in your region. Full details are located at http://icma.org/en/Page/100243/Mid_Career_Management_Institute.

March is National Ethics Awareness Month: Raise the Visibility of Ethics at Your Workplace: One way of helping protect the integrity of your organization is to keep ethics in the forefront with your employees. In the public sector, we need to understand that while something might be legal, it doesn't mean it's ethical. In these challenging times, everyone could use a refresher to help build skills and learn practical strategies for making ethical choices. ICMA offers workshops such topics as "[Ethics at Work!](#)", "[Ethical Survivor](#)", "[Promoting an Ethical Culture](#)", "[The Leader's Role in Building an Ethical Culture](#)" and "[Elected Officials and the Public Trust](#)" are available for staff, leadership, elected officials, boards and commissions. For information about local government ethics workshops and technical assistance services, contact Martha Perego at the ICMA Ethics Center at 202.962-3521 or visit icma.org/ethics for information on general ethics topics.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

FY11 Environmental Workforce Development Grants Available

Deadline: March 18, 2011

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (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.

Opportunity to Serve on Innovation Advisory Board

Expressions of Interest Due: March 22, 2011

The U.S. Department of Commerce is inviting expressions of interest from several key stakeholder groups, including economic or innovation policy experts and local officials, to serve on a 15-member Innovation Advisory Board. The Board will serve to guide a study of the comprehensive economic competitiveness and innovative capacity, to be completed by January 2012.

Additional information needed to apply can be found [HERE](#).

Green Jobs Innovation Fund Grant

Deadline: March 29, 2011

The U.S. DOL announced a competition to award five to eight grants of \$5-8 million each to support green industry job training programs. Eligible applicants will include national and statewide organizations with local affiliates that have existing career training programs and will benefit a minimum of six communities per grant. Additional information can be found [HERE](#).

Career Pathways Innovation Fund Grants Program

Deadline: March 31, 2011

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) recently announced the availability of up to \$122 million in grant funds to be awarded under the Career Pathways Innovation Fund (CPIF) Solicitation for Grant Applications, with at least \$65 million reserved for projects focused on the health care sector. Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs), individual community and technical colleges, community college districts, and state community college systems are eligible to apply. DOL intends to fund approximately 40 to 50 grants ranging from \$1 million to \$5 million. Additional information is available [HERE](#).

Environmental Justice Small Grants

Deadline: March 31, 2011

The U.S. 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. Regional Councils may want to partner with such entities. The U.S. EPA will award 40 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.

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](#).

EPA Requests Applications for National Award for Smart Growth Achievement

Deadline: April 6, 2011

The U.S. EPA announced that the application period for the 10th annual National Award for Smart Growth Achievement is open. Through this award, EPA recognizes and supports communities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially and economically. Open to public- and private-sector entities (although all applications must include a public-sector partner), winners will be recognized in December 2011. Awards will be given in the categories of Programs, Policies and Regulations; Smart Growth and Green Building; Civic Places; and Rural Smart Growth. An "Overall Excellence" winner will be chosen from the four categories by the review panels. To view the application and complete entry guidelines, click [HERE](#).

Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Program

Deadline: April 21, 2011

The U.S. 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 the U.S. DOL ETA. The full grant announcement is available [HERE](#), and a toolkit for potential applicants is available [HERE](#).

USDA RUS Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program

Deadline: April 25, 2011

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Utility Service (RUS) recently announced the FY2011 Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) call for applications. DLT supports corporations or partnerships, state or local units of government, consortia and Tribes to provide telecommunications technologies that enhance learning and healthcare opportunities for rural populations through loans, grants or loan/grant combinations. Additional information on the funding opportunity is available [HERE](#).

EDA Announces i6 Green Challenge Competition

Letter of Intent Due: May 2, 2011

The i6 Green Challenge Competition provides \$12 million in funding focused on the nexus between economic development and environmental quality. At least six applicants will be selected for up to \$1 million for a two-year project, with the potential for supplemental awards from several participating federal agencies. Economic Development Districts, Tribes, nonprofits, state and local governments are all qualified applicants. Additional information on the competition is available at www.eda.gov/i6.

EPA Accepting Applications for Environmental Education Grant Funding

Deadline: May 2, 2011

The U.S. EPA is accepting [grant applications](#) for \$1.9 million in funding for the Environmental Education Grant Program to promote environmental stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students, teachers and citizens. EPA expects to award at least 20 grants nationwide ranging from a minimum of \$15,000 to a maximum of \$100,000 and will accept applications until May 2, 2011. Eligible entities include: local education agencies, state education or environmental agencies, colleges or universities, not-for-profit organizations, noncommercial educational broadcasting entities, and tribal education agencies. EPA will be hosting two conference calls for potential applicants interested in additional information about the application process. The conference calls will take place on March 21, 2011 at 11:00 am ET and April 6 at 2:00 pm ET. To participate in the conference calls, dial: 1-866-379-5082, and use conference ID number: 48699133 for the call on March 21. Use conference ID number: 48696117 for the call on April 6.

USDA Community Connect Grant Program:

Deadline: May 3, 2011

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of Community-Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant Program (Community Connect), for projects that (1) deploy broadband transmission service to critical community facilities, rural residents and businesses, (2) construct, acquire or expand a community center, or (3) equip and operate a community center providing free access to broadband services for communities with populations of 20,000 or fewer. Application instructions are available [HERE](#), and additional program information can be found [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

FHWA and FTA Webinar on New Guidebook on Congestion Management

March 23, 2011, Webinar, 1:00-2:30 pm ET: The U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and U.S. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will soon release an updated guidebook on the Congestion Management Process (CMP). *Congestion Management Process: A Guidebook* will provide practitioners with an understanding of the elements of a CMP and include practical examples of how to implement a successful process based on lessons learned from metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) across the country. The document highlights the role of the CMP in addressing multiple objectives, including livability, accessibility, and multimodal connectivity. Companion pieces include a series of case studies focusing on several MPOs, as well as a special report on visualization techniques used in the CMP. A webinar highlighting the new resource materials will be held; register for the webinar by clicking [HERE](#). For more information, contact Egan Smith, FHWA Office of Planning at egan.smith@dot.gov or Michael Grant, ICF International at mgrant@icfi.com.

24th Annual GIS-T Symposium

March 28-30, 2011, Hershey, PA: For more information on this event, please click [HERE](#).

Hannover Messe 2011: U.S. Trade and Investment Program

April 3-8, 2011, Hannover, Germany: The U.S. EDA, U.S. Commercial Service (USCS), and Invest in America (IIA) have partnered to lead a U.S. Trade & Investment Program to HANNOVER MESSE 2011, the world's largest industrial technology showcase. HANNOVER MESSE 2011 is an excellent opportunity to promote your community as an attractive place to do business. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

2011 National Brownfields Conference

April 3-5, 2011, Philadelphia, PA: A partnership between the U.S. EPA and 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.
HURRY - Online registration closes on March 18.

APA's National Planning Conference

April 9-12, 2011, Boston, MA: For more information on this event, please click [HERE](#).

GPS 101 Webinar

April 12, 2011, 3:00-4:00 pm ET: Global Positioning Systems (GPS) technology is performing better than ever and will continue to improve. Led by the Senior Policy Advisory for the Department of Interior and U.S. Geological Services, this webinar will provide an update on the GPS constellation, modernization plans and national policy. You'll learn about new improvements and how your region can take advantage of this technology. Click [HERE](#) to register; NARC members can attend at no cost.

2011 Rail Conference: Moving Freight and Passengers in the 21st Century

April 27-29, 2011, Naperville, IL: Sponsored by NACo, NLC and NARC, this conference will focus on the impact of freight and passenger rail on county, city, and state governments and their citizens and businesses. It will look at the movement of freight in the urban, suburban and rural communities of the U.S. and discuss who will pay to modernize and expand passenger and freight rail systems. This conference is for you if you have ever asked why the freight industry operates the way it does, had questions about economic growth and the availability and affordability of freight rail, wanted to have commuter rail in your region or wondered about the future of high-speed rail. Participants will get to meet and hear from experts in the field, including representatives of the rail industry, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the shippers who use the system, commuter rail experts, Amtrak and proponents of high-speed rail. The conference will conclude with a half-day discussion on where we go from here; how city, county, regional, and state governments can work together with the freight and passenger industry to influence federal legislation and policy; and both reduce the negative impacts from freight rail movement and improve passenger rail service in America. Click [HERE](#) to access the tentative agenda and registration information.

National Solar Conference

May 17-21, 2011, Raleigh, NC: Save the date. More information will be released as it becomes available.

NARC's 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 13-15, 2011, San Diego, CA: Join us for the the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. NARC's annual conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

NLC's 19th Annual Leadership Summit

September 15 - 17, 2011, Minneapolis, MN: Join renowned leadership scholars and authors Dan Buettner, Lindsay Strand, John M. Bryson, Barbara C. Crosby, and John Luthy as you engage in a unique, reflective program that will help guide your work and leadership in local government. Insightful learning experiences will provide you the opportunity to reflect, recognize and discover what you can do to enhance your success as a local leader. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

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