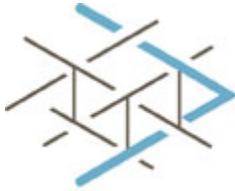


Email not displaying correctly? Click [HERE](#) to view it as a PDF.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XI, No. 11, March 21, 2011

eRegions

NARCLEADERSHIP

President James 'Jim'

Townsend,

Judge/Executive,

Webster County,

Kentucky

Chair Charles 'Chick'

Krautler,

Executive Directors

Council

Director, Atlanta

Regional Commission

[PROGRAMUPDATE](#) [POLICYUPDATE](#)

[PARTNERUPDATE](#)

[GRANTOPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMINGEVENTS](#)



EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Early-bird registration for our 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition ends next week! We are finalizing the draft agenda, which we will release to you this week. Like last year, we'll have tracks in each of issue areas (Transportation,

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.*

Environment, Economic & Community Development, and Homeland Security), as well as sessions focused on innovative financing and funding, sustainable communities and much, much more!

Last week, Erika Young was in Arizona visiting with the Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Arizona's Rural Transportation Advisory Council and the Maricopa Association of Governments. Among other topics, the focus of the conversations was on the federal surface transportation authorization and the role local governments play in creating a nationwide transportation network.

Today, Lindsey Riley presented at the Development Districts Association of Appalachia conference here in DC and I joined their leadership for the opening breakfast. Topics included a quick federal legislation update and communicating in the 21st century.

Thank you,

PROGRAMUPDATE

DOI Launches Website for Youth: The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) launched a website for youth – www.YouthGo.gov – that will serve as a one-stop shop for information on job and internship opportunities, upcoming outdoor events, educational resources and more. The new website is part of an Interior-wide effort to engage young people in recreation and conservation efforts and to increase employment and career opportunities.

EPA Accepting Comment on Stormwater TMDL: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is soliciting comments on a [memo](#) released on November 12, 2010 in response to stakeholder concern that input was not obtained prior to establishing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Wasteload Allocations (WLAs) for stormwater sources and NPDES permit requirements based on those WLAs. EPA is accepting comments through May 16, 2011 in order to make a decision by August 15, 2011 to either retain the memorandum without change, to reissue it with revisions, or to withdraw it. Please share with NARC any comments you submit.

White House Requesting Projects that Improve NEPA: The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is accepting nominations from the public and federal agencies for projects that will increase the efficiency of environmental reviews conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The top projects will have the chance to be replicated across the government and become part of new or revised NEPA procedures. A panel of NEPA experts from various federal agencies will select up to five nominees, and those projects will have their progress tracked and publicized as they are implemented in CEQ's pilot program. Nominations will be accepted [HERE](#) until June 15, 2011.

Free Webinar on Emergency Planning and Response: On March 23, 2011 at 9:00am PT, a free webinar is being offered to examine and learn from Japan's state of emergency. The webinar will focus on the implications of incident management planning and communications gaps. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

Opportunity to Comment on EDA Regulations: The U.S. Economic Development Administration (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

Fred

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Sylvia Bryant

Office Manager

Naomi Friedman

Project Director

Jenee Kresge

Economic and
Community

Development Manager

Lindsey Riley

Deputy of
Communications

Erika Young

Transportation Director

To access past issues
of eRegions, [visit our
website.](#)

Make NARC your
homepage —
[click here to learn
how.](#)

growth. Details are available in a Federal Register Notice (available [HERE](#)) and comments can be posted directly on [EDA's website](#) through April 11, 2011. Please share any submitted comments with Jenee Kresge, jenee@narc.org.

POLICYUPDATE

The House and Senate are out of session.

CBO Outlines Increased Deficit from Obama's FY12 Budget Request:

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), President Obama's fiscal year 2012 budget would add \$2 trillion more to the deficit over the next decade. This differs from the White House estimate that the FY12 budget would reduce the budget deficit by \$1.1 trillion over a decade. Click [HERE](#) to access the CBO report.

Senators Send Letter to Obama on Debt Reduction: Over 60 Senators, representing a bi-partisan group, sent a letter to President Obama requesting him to address comprehensive debt reduction by including entitlements and the tax code on top of discretionary spending. Click [HERE](#) to access the letter.

Senators Introduce Balanced Budget Bill: Led by Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), a group of Senators introduced a bill aimed to balance the budget in five years by eliminating several federal departments, rolling back domestic spending to FY08 levels and cutting military spending by six percent in FY12. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

House Introduces Homeland Security Bill Affecting UASIs: Rep. Laura Richardson (D-CA, 37), along with Reps. Bass (D-CA, 33) and Hirono (D-HI, 2), introduced [H.R. 1129](#), the Homeland Security Grant Management Improvement Act, which would eliminate percentage minimums for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grants and State Homeland Security grants, as well as examine the management and administration expenses cap and study the feasibility of the issuing multi-year grant program guidance.

Senators Introduce Infrastructure Bank Bill: Senators Kerry (D-MA), Hutchison (R-TX) and Warner (D-VA) introduced legislation to create an infrastructure bank. The BUILD Act would establish an American Infrastructure Financing Authority (AIFA) to complement existing infrastructure funding, and provide loan and loan guarantees. Click [HERE](#) for

a summary of the bill and [HERE](#) for a FAQ.

Senators Introduce Bill to Require Economic Analysis of Certain EPA

Regulations: Senators Inhofe (R-OK) and Johanns (R-NE) introduced S. 609, the Comprehensive Assessment of Regulations of the Economy Act, which would require certain EPA regulations to be assessed for their impacts on jobs, economic development, the electric power and domestic refining and petrochemical sectors, and state and local governments. Regulations of focus include National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter and ozone; new source performance standards for greenhouse gases covering utilities and refineries; and prevention of significant deterioration preconstruction review permits for greenhouse gases. The measure also targets other EPA efforts, including regulation of coal combustion waste under the Solid Waste Disposal Act and regulation of cooling water intake structures under section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act. Inhofe also introduced [S. 482](#) that would prohibit the EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions; a companion bill, H.R. 910, was introduced in the House by Rep. Upton (R-MI).

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.

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.

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

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.

Transforming Local Government Conference

June 1-3, 2011, Clearwater, FL: Making Magic: How BOLD Can Local Government Be? The Alliance for Innovation's Transforming Local Government (TLG) Conference is different from any other conference you'll attend. At TLG, you'll learn about some of the most innovative programs in the country directly from the teams that created them. This year, TLG takes place in conjunction with the Florida City/County Management Association Annual Conference. The joint event will attract participation from local governments that seek new and innovative ways to connect people, information, and ideas to become some of the best places to live, grow, work, play, and prosper. Recognized for its dynamic content, the TLG format encourages team building and free thinking and fosters the generation of unprecedented ideas, all within a relaxed and professional networking and learning environment. Visit the conference website by clicking [HERE](#); a full program, registration and hotel information is 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.

We are sending you this email primarily for your information, to meet your needs, further our valued relationship and because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils. Please forward as appropriate.

[Unsubscribe](#) lindsey@narc.org from this list.

Our mailing address is:
National Association of Regional Councils
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305
Washington, DC 20002

[Add us to your address book](#)

Copyright (C) 2011 National Association of Regional Councils All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend
[Update your profile](#)