

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

I hope you've found the new look of our communications helpful and reader-friendly. Please send us any feedback that you feel will improve our efforts.

I welcome and acknowledge the opportunity to work with [NADO](#) and other associations in an [Economic Development Administration](#) authorization coalition. The various groups will look to find common ground and I believe this will be a fruitful and productive dialog with real legislative impact.

Join the [Mentor Exchange](#) to mentor a fellow director or senior staff person or if you need assistance in developing your knowledge

base in specific areas. Mentoring

is a valuable tool for career development and guidance. Our goal is to ease the learning curve of leadership and knowledge in a new field or job and better connect professionals in all stages of their careers.

Problems in the mortgage industry are effecting local governments in different ways. Impacts are trickling across regions as growth slows and revenues decline. However, the response to the crisis in different parts of the country is very telling and may well lead to a new way of thinking about our communities. According to a new report by *Governing Magazine*, Sunbelt states plan to weather the crisis through slow but continued growth in housing markets. In areas of the country that have faced not only the mortgage crisis but loss of jobs as well, growth is not an option – redefining the regional landscape may be the only opportunity to sustain communities. In northern

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DESMOINES BRIEF

Did you know that Des Moines has been named one of the 2008 Top Ten Places for Business and Careers by *Forbes Magazine*? ([Access the full article here.](#))

Come to Des Moines, see what all the buzz is about, and take part in NARC's 42nd Annual Conference and Exhibition. Invited speakers include Chairman Jim Oberstar, Governor Chet Culver, and Steve Hewitt of Greensburg, KS, as well as individuals from the private sector including Mr. Bill Davies of Monster.com and Mr. Lee Epstein of Invest by Design.

NARC Awards: Nominations for General Achievement or Leadership Awards must be received no later than **Friday, April 18th.**

Elections: We are accepting nominations for both the Board of Directors and the Executive Directors Council elections. Nominations for the EDC must be received no later than May 15th.

Integrating Transportation Planning and Air Quality Workshop: All members attending the conference and interested third parties are welcome to attend. Additional information and registration is available [on our website.](#)

[Board Elections Information](#) [Executive Director Nomination Information](#)
[Awards Nomination Information](#)
[Integrating Transportation Planning and Air Quality Workshop](#)

TRANSPORTATION BRIEF

NARC 2008 Policy Positions. [Click here to access.](#)

Transportation Issues Go to Back of Campaign Line: Not since President Eisenhower, has any candidate committed or built their platform on transportation. This primary season is no different. [Click here for the full story.](#)

USDOT Report Details that Freight Lines Cause Delays for Amtrak: In fiscal year 2006, Amtrak lost almost \$137 million as a result of freight railroad delays. For additional details and to access the report, [click here.](#)

DEVELOPMENT BRIEF

sustain communities. In northern and northeastern cities, compact or realigning development, deconstructing infrastructure, and other radical solutions may be the answer. Read more here: [The Two Faces of Foreclosure](#). We hope to have a robust discussion on how regions respond to the crisis through your input.

The deadline for submitting nominations for [Achievement and Leadership Awards](#) is **April 18th**. Don't miss this opportunity to recognize a colleague or association for their work this past year. I look forward to seeing you in Des Moines,

Fred

[NARC Leadership and Staff](#)

Betty Knight, President
Jim Reed, Executive Directors
Council Chair

[Fred Abousleman](#)

Executive Director, x216

[Erika Young](#)

Transportation Director, x212

[Shannon Menard](#)

Policy Manager, x217

[Lindsey Riley](#)

Member Services Manager, x220

[Sylvia Bryant](#)

Office Manager, x218

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Stay up to date on the latest news and information from NARC—make NARC your homepage. [Click here to learn how](#).

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NARC 2008 Policy Positions. [Click here to access](#).

NARC attended a University of Michigan Economic Development briefing to discuss transition of the regional industry, future workforce trends and needs, and work of the [University of Michigan EDA University Center](#) and the [Center for Automotive Research \(CAR\)](#). Additional details are available [by clicking here](#).

“Breathing Room: States that give localities greater leeway to raise revenue help create robust partners for investing in the future.” For more information or to access the complete article, [click here](#).

[HOMELAND SECURITY BRIEF](#)

NARC 2008 Policy Positions. [Click here to access](#).

“Emergency system rolled out for Philadelphia area”: New text-messaging system will help answer the question, Should I stay or Should I go? [Click here to access complete the article](#).

FEMA Misses Second Deadline for Disaster Housing Plan: For additional details of the April 1st deadline, the Disaster Housing plan and a response from Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA), [click here](#).

Report Notes “Moderate to Modest” progress at FEMA: DHS Inspector General says that FEMA has not made substantial progress in key emergency preparedness areas. [Click here for additional information](#).

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NARC 2008 Policy Positions. [Click here to access](#).

EPA Announces Federal Clean Diesel Program: Grants of more than \$4 million will be available to assist eligible partners within the ten Blue Skyways Collaborative states. [Addition program details are available by clicking here](#).

“Land Use Planning Integral to Climate Mitigation”: 1000 Friends of Oregon, the Oregon Environmental Council and Environment Oregon are calling for new goals, policies, and funding to reduce GHGs. [For more information, click here](#).

Nuclear Energy Institute launches grass-roots Nuclear Advocacy Network. For additional information about the network or to register, [visit the network's website by clicking here](#).

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) has recently completed a regional Clean Energy Plan, which is thought to be the first regional plan produced in Massachusetts. [To access the plan, click here](#).

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

April 8-11, Atlanta, GA: The US Department of Housing and Urban Development will host the 2008 National Fair Housing Policy Conference. For additional information and to register for this free event, [visit the conference website](#).

April 9-11, NJ, MD, and DE: Regional Economic Models, Inc will host three seminars, “Regions as Building Blocks of the Global Economy.” For additional information or to register online, [visit REMI's website](#).

April 22, Washington, DC: The Electric Drive Transportation Association will hold a briefing, “The Electric Drive Answer: Transportation Technologies & Policies to End Oil Dependence.” For additional information or to register for this free event, [visit the association's website for additional information](#).

May 18-21, Kansas City, MO: The National Roundabout Conference will be hosted by the Transportation Research

May 18-21, Kansas City, MO: The National Roundabout Conference will be hosted by the Transportation Research Board. Program, hotel, and registration information is available by [visiting the event website](#).

May 22, Chicago, IL: U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Carlos M. Gutierrez will host the 2008 National Summit on American Competitiveness. For additional information or to register, [visit the American Competitiveness' website](#).

June 15-17, Des Moines, IA: NARC and DMAMPO will host the 2008 Annual Conference and Exhibition. For additional information or to register for the conference, [visit NARC's website](#).

September 16-17, Toledo, OH: Mark your calendars! TMACOG will be hosting the 2008 Ohio Conference on Freight. Information about the conference is available on [TMACOG's website](#).

PUBLICCOMMENTS

Please send NARC any public comments your organization intends to submit.

EPA Seeks Public Comment on Water Strategy to Respond to Climate Change: [For additional information, click here](#).

DHS Seeks Public Comment on the following: [For additional information, click here](#).

Disaster Assistance Policy DAP9525.8, Damage to Applicant-Owned Equipment

Disaster Assistance Policy DAP9524.4, *Repair vs. Replacement of a Facility under 44 CFR §206.226(f) (The 50 Percent Rule)*

Disaster Assistance Policy DAP 9524.3, Rehabilitation Assistance for Levees and FCWs.

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

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