

### **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,

Please review Board of Directors and Executive Director Council election materials for June. I also hope you are considering submitting award nominations—the deadline is next Thursday, April 15th. Attendance is on track for our [44th Annual Conference and Exhibition](#), so please keep registering.

We also have final dates for the 2010 Executive Directors' Conference. Registration and hotel reservation information will be available next week.

While Congress is out of session there is momentum building around Senators Kerry (D-MA), Graham (R-SC), and Lieberman's (I-CT), yet-to-be released climate bill which we advised you about in previous *eRegions*—[March 19](#) and [March 26](#). The trio of Senators are saying their bill will be ready for Senate introduction on April 22, Earth Day.

We have been diligent in working both the Senate and House on current legislation and have been very successful in strengthening the positions of regions especially in S.1733 (Boxer/Kerry). However, we will not take a position on this new proposed legislation, its contents or potential impacts until the full legislative language is available. We are cautious in our

### ***NARC 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition***

*Cleveland, OH  
June 15-17, 2010*



The **National Association of Regional Councils** and the **Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency** will host the 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition.

#### **AICP Credits**

We are currently applying for CM credits. Stay tuned for more information.

[Board of Directors](#) and [Executive Directors Council](#) Election Information

[Draft Conference Agenda](#)

Updated March 29, 2010

[NARC 2010 NARC Achievement and Leadership Award Information:](#)

*The deadline to submit a nomination is April 15, 2010!*

Click [HERE](#) to access the conference website and registration information. Contact Lindsey Riley, [lindsey@narc.org](mailto:lindsey@narc.org) or 202.986.1032 x220 with questions.

### **NARC PROGRAM**

**NARC Learning Series Webinar Scheduled:** NARC will host a webinar on Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) web applications on Thursday, April 29, 2010 at 1:00pm EDT. The webinar will feature speakers from the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District's GIS department who will explain how to translate your regional and local GIS data into user-friendly web applications and why doing this is important for your regional council. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to register.

**FTA Supports Livability:** U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is actively supporting the Livable and Sustainable Communities Partnership. Click [HERE](#) to learn about FTA's many initiatives and how to bring livability to your community.

**Send EPA Recommendations on Protecting America's Waters:** EPA is seeking feedback on how the Agency can better protect and improve the health of our waters. Visit EPA's [Web discussion forum](#) to submit your recommendations on how the nation can better manage water quality issues—from planning, scientific tools, low impact development, to green infrastructure, resource allocation and beyond—to control water pollution.

**Send BLS Your Thoughts on a Green Jobs Definition:** The Bureau of Labor

the full legislative language is available. We are cautious in our approach because there is also legislation from Senators Cantwell (D-WA) and Snowe (R-ME) (the [CLEAR Act](#)) that Senators Kerry, Graham and Lieberman will have to consider. We also do not know the final position of the White House on their preferred strategy.

Tangential to this activity is our growing concern over U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulatory action. As we've discussed before, there are Federal Register dockets open on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions regulation in the Clean Air Act and NEPA. Additionally, Senator Rockefeller (D-WV) has introduced [S.3072](#) that seeks to suspend EPA Clean Air Act regulatory actions; the House companion bill, [H.R.4753](#) was introduced by Reps. Rahall (D-WV), Boucher (D-VA) and Mollohan (D-WV). We will keep you informed of activity on all these fronts.

This last week, we moved our [Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones](#) (RIIZs) legislation closer to introduction. In coordination with the House and Senate, we are finalizing changes and co-sponsorships, and are building support. We are very excited about the momentum behind this initiative along with our work in Livability, Climate Change and other critical issues of importance to you. It has been a productive year so far.

Over the next few weeks I'll be on travel meeting with many of you. I'm headed to Oregon for the combined Washington/Oregon COG Directors Retreat, and then off to New Orleans to present on the future of regions at the ASFE Spring Conference with our New Orleans member, Executive Director Walter Brooks. Next stop is San Diego to finalize our 2011 Annual Conference, and then on to the California Association of Councils of Governments Regional Issues Forum with President Cassano. In-between, I'll be in

**Send BLS Your Thoughts on a Green Jobs Definition:** The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is requesting public comments on its proposed definition of green jobs. This definition, which includes seven green economic activity categories and four categories for green jobs and services, will be used to measure green jobs activity in the economy. The definition and information on how to provide commentary can be found by clicking [HERE](#). Comments are due by April 30, 2010.

**DOT, EPA Set National Standards for Fuel Economy and Greenhouse Gas Emission Levels For Passenger Cars and Light Trucks:** U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) jointly established new federal rules that set the first-ever national greenhouse gas emissions standards and will significantly increase the fuel economy of all new passenger cars and light trucks sold. The final rules, issued by DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA, establish increasingly stringent fuel economy standards under NHTSA's Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFÉ) program and greenhouse gas emission standards under the Clean Air Act for 2012 through 2016 model-year vehicles. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the regulations.

**State Department Issues U.S. Climate Action Report on GHG Reduction Efforts:** The State Department released a [draft](#) of the U.S. Climate Action Report, a document detailing efforts the U.S. is making to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The document will be submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)), as required by the convention. The State Department will accept [comments](#) on the draft until noon May 6, 2010. The report lists efforts undertaken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 2009 at the federal, regional and local levels of government. Efforts highlighted in the report include an executive order requiring federal agencies to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions; EPA's endangerment finding, which concluded that greenhouse gas emissions endanger public health; and the funds made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

## [NARCPOLICY](#)

*Congress is in recess from March 29 through April 9, 2010.*

**Support RIIZs:** [Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones \(RIIZs\)](#) are an important tool for infrastructure financing. NARC continues to work on RIIZs in both chambers of Congress, as well as with members and association partners to raise awareness and support of this innovative public-private partnership concept. If you are interested in sending a support letter to your Members of Congress, please click [HERE](#) for a draft letter. A draft support resolution is also available by clicking [HERE](#). For more information, please contact Shannon Menard, [Shannon@NARC.org](mailto:Shannon@NARC.org) or 202.986.1032 x217.

**Support Livable Communities:** Both the House (HR 4690) and Senate (S1619) have bills supporting the regional role in building livable communities with their local governments. The legislation seeks to reinvigorate regional comprehensive planning and implementation for regions of all sizes and make ups. We urge all regional planning organizations and their boards of local elected officials to send letters of support to your Congressional delegation urging their endorsement by showcasing the on-the-ground benefits of this legislation for your region. Click [HERE](#) for a summary of the bills. Click [HERE](#) to access a letter for your region to personalize. For more information or assistance with an endorsement, please contact Shannon Menard at [shannon@NARC.org](mailto:shannon@NARC.org) or 202.986.1032, x217.

## [PARTNERUPDATES](#)

**The APCO Institute Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)**

Issues Forum with President Cassano. In-between, I'll be in Philadelphia presenting on RIIZs to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Board along with Mark Policinski, Executive Director, Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, and Shannon Menard, NARC Policy Manager.

This will be a busy month with great opportunities to visit members and discuss issues most important to regions and local governments. I appreciate these trips and look forward to reporting the outcomes of these exciting meetings.

Best,  
Fred

#### **NARCSTAFF**

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### **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. For questions, contact: APCO Institute at [institute@apco911.org](mailto:institute@apco911.org) or call (888) 272-6911.



## **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

**DOL Funding Opportunities:** The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of the following funding opportunities:

**Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Grants – Deadline: April 12, 2010:** DOL announced the availability of approximately \$67 million (\$53 million for Comprehensive Services and \$14 million for Supplemental Youth Services) in grant funds authorized by Section 166 of WIA to serve the employment and training needs of Indian and Native American adults and youth through competitive two-year grant awards with Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Native entities, and Indian-controlled organizations serving Indians or Native Hawaiian organizations. Click [HERE](#) for the full grant announcement.

**ARRA Trade Adjustment Assistance Grants – Deadline: April 14, 2010:** DOL announced the availability of \$1.2 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for Trade Adjustment Assistance Technical Assistance and Outreach Partnership Grants to provide training or technical assistance and outreach to dislocated workers impacted by foreign trade. Competitive grants will fund one to three proposed projects that are required to be developed and implemented through strategic partnerships. Click [HERE](#) for the full grant announcement.

**Training Veterans in Green Jobs Grants – Deadline: April 26, 2010:** DOL's Veterans' Employment and Training Service announced a \$2 million grant competition under the Veterans' Workforce Investment Program to assist eligible veterans by providing employment, training, support services, credentialing and networking information in renewable and sustainable energy. DOL will give priority to workforce development projects that focus on connecting target populations to career pathways and training programs that will prepare veterans for careers in any of the seven energy efficiency and renewable energy industry categories defined in the Workforce Investment Act, which include:

- Energy-efficient building, construction and retrofit industries.
- Renewable electric power industry.
- Energy efficient and advanced drive train vehicle industry.
- Bio-fuels industry.
- Deconstruction and materials use industries.
- Energy efficiency assessment industry serving the residential, commercial or industrial sectors.
- Manufacturers that produce sustainable products using environmentally sustainable processes and materials.

Applicants may propose strategies that focus on employment and training opportunities related to the growth and enhancement of emerging green industries that clean and enhance our environment. For more information on this solicitation, visit <http://www.grants.gov> and <http://www.dol.gov/vets>.

### **DOL Announces Funding Opportunities—continued**

**Training Homeless Veterans for Workforce Reintegration – Deadline: April 26, 2010:** DOL's Veterans' Employment and

## **DOL Announces Funding Opportunities—continued**

*Training Homeless Veterans for Workforce Reintegration* – *Deadline April 26, 2010*: DOL's Veterans' Employment and Training Service announced a \$8.3 million grant competition to provide job training, counseling and placement services (including job readiness, and literacy and skills training) to expedite the reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force through its Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP). HVRP grants are intended to provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force and to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans. Applicants should design programs that help eligible veterans by providing job placement services, job training, counseling, supportive services and other assistance to expedite the reintegration of homeless individuals into the labor force. Successful programs also will be flexible in addressing universal as well as local or regional problems that have had a negative impact on homeless veterans re-entering the workforce. For more information on this solicitation, visit <http://www.grants.gov> and <http://www.dol.gov/vets>.

*Community-Based Job Training Grants* – *Deadline: April 29, 2010*: DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA), announced the availability of approximately \$125 million in grant funds for Community-Based Job Training Grants (CBJTGs). These grants will be awarded through a competitive process to support workforce training for high-growth/high-demand industries through the national system of community, technical, and tribal colleges. It is anticipated that awards will range generally from \$1 million to \$3 million. ETA expects to allot up to \$50 million of the total designated funds to organizations that have never received a grant through a CBJTG SGA. Click [HERE](#) for the full grant announcement.

*Serving Young Adult Offenders and High School Dropouts* – *Deadline: May 10, 2010*: DOL's ETA announced approximately \$20 million for two grants to provide employment services to young adult offenders and high school dropouts ages 18 to 24 in high-poverty, high-crime communities. DOL expects to award two grants of \$10 million each covering a six-month planning period and two full years of operation. Each grantee will be required to competitively select local sub-grantees to operate programs in a minimum of five high-poverty, high-crime communities in at least two different states. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

**EDA Announces Available Grant Funding:** *Deadline: April 20, 2010*. EDA's Community Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, which was created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, 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.

**USDA Grant to Enhance Market-based Approaches to Conservation:** *Deadline: Pre-proposal April 26, 2010; Full proposal June 4, 2010*. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of approximately \$25 million to fund projects designed to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies through its Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). USDA will use these competitive grants to seek creative solutions to assist producers with emerging and traditional agricultural and natural resource issues. In addition to market-based approaches to conservation, emerging issues include energy conservation, specialty crops, and new methods of tackling climate change. The grants also will fund solutions to improve water, soil and air quality, improve nutrient management, and enhance wildlife habitat and pollinator populations. CIG funds one-to-three year projects that targets innovative on-the-ground conservation, including pilot projects and field demonstrations. The maximum federal contribution for each project is \$1 million. The \$25 million in CIG funding will be divided into three categories:

- National - Approximately \$15 million will be available for proposals that address specific CIG resource concerns nationwide such as energy conservation and climate change.
- Mississippi River Basin - About \$5 million will be used to address resource concerns in the Mississippi River Basin.
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed - Up to \$5 million will be available for proposals that address natural resource concerns in the 64,000 square-mile watershed.

USDA will use a two-phased approach to award CIGs this fiscal year. Those eligible for CIG include federally-recognized Indian tribes, state and local units of governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals. Applicants must submit pre-proposals to NRCS's National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. by close of business on Monday, April 26, 2010. Full applications for selected pre-proposals must be submitted by June 4, 2010. All CIG projects must include agricultural producers who meet pre-set eligibility requirements. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the eligibility requirements.

**USDA Seeks Project Proposals to Improve Water Quality in Mississippi River Basin:** *Deadline: May 1, 2010*. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking project proposals that will improve water quality and the overall health of the Mississippi River in 41 eligible watersheds in 12 states. The [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP) for the [Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative](#), through which up to \$75 million will be available for partnership projects, was published in the [March 2 Federal Register](#). The RFP explains the procedures for potential partners to sign agreements with USDA for projects

**Healthy Watersheds Initiative**, through which up to \$75 million will be available for partnership projects, was published in the [March 2 Federal Register](#). The RFP explains the procedures for potential partners to sign agreements with USDA for projects that meet with the initiative's objectives. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will administer this initiative, first announced on September 24, 2009. Forty-one eligible watersheds or focus areas in the following 12 states—Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin—were selected to participate in this initiative. Smaller watersheds within the initial 41 will be selected for approved partnership projects based on their potential for managing nitrogen and phosphorus—nutrients associated with impaired water quality in the Mississippi River Basin—while maintaining agricultural productivity and benefiting wildlife. Individual producers can only participate in this initiative in approved partnership projects. USDA will use a competitive process to distribute up to \$75 million using two conservation programs in fiscal year 2010, the initiative's first year. Up to \$50 million will come from the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative ([CCPI](#)) and an additional \$25 million from the Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program ([WREP](#)). USDA expects to provide about \$320 million in financial assistance over four years for voluntary conservation projects in these watersheds.

**Energy Efficient Building Systems Regional Innovation Cluster Initiative: Deadline: May 6, 2010.** The Obama Administration today announced a multi-agency initiative to spur regional economic growth while making buildings more energy efficient. Seven federal agencies issued a combined Funding Opportunity Announcement of up to \$129.7 million over five years to create a regional research center that will develop new building efficiency technologies and work with local partners to implement the technologies in area buildings. Additional details and a link to the announcement are available by clicking [HERE](#).

**EDA Announcement of Funding Opportunity for Public Works Infrastructure Improvements and Planning: Deadline: September 30, 2010.** EDA will provide Public Works investments to support the construction or rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure and facilities necessary to generate or retain private sector jobs and investments, attract private sector capital, and promote regional competitiveness, innovation, and entrepreneurship, including investments that expand and upgrade infrastructure to attract new industry, support technology-led development, accelerate new business development, and enhance the ability of regions to capitalize on opportunities presented by free trade. EDA encourages recipients to be sensitive to the energy and environmental implications of their activities. To the extent practicable, and dependent upon the project type and in consideration of the financial resources available, EDA encourages recipients to use the best available strategies, technologies, and construction practices in order to minimize energy use and environmental impacts. Recipients are encouraged to determine the project's consistency with the Climate Action Plan of the State in which the proposed project will be located, if applicable. Additional details and a link to the announcement are available by clicking [HERE](#).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April 15, Webcast, 2:00-3:00pm ET:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will host a webcast: *K-12 Benchmarking 101*. This webcast will teach attendees the basics of benchmarking K-12 buildings using EPA's Portfolio Manager tool. Portfolio Manager can help measure and track energy and water use across an entire portfolio of buildings. Buildings can earn an energy performance rating compared with peer facilities across the country, and top-performing buildings are eligible for national recognition. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**April 19, Webinar, 2:00-3:30pm ET:** The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the U.S. DOT Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will host a webinar on climate change, *Reducing GHG through Traffic Operations, Construction, Maintenance and Agency Operations*. How can greenhouse gas (GHG) be reduced through efficient traffic operations, eco-driving programs, construction and maintenance practices, and internal agency operations? Cindy Burbank of Parsons Brinckerhoff will provide an overview of these strategies and their potential GHG reductions. New York State DOT (Gary McVoy and John Zamurs) will present information on New York State DOT activities to reduce GHG through efficient operations and internal agency practices. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

**April 28-29, Pittsburgh, PA:** The Development District of Appalachia and the National Association of Development Organizations will host the 2010 DDAA GIS Conference. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

**April 29, 2010, Webinar, 1:00pm ET:** NARC will host a *Learning Series* webinar on Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) web applications. The webinar will feature speakers from the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District's GIS department who will explain how to translate your regional and local GIS data into user-friendly web applications and why doing this is important for your regional council. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to register.

**May 5, Webinar, 2:00-4:00pm ET:** AASHTO, FHWA and FTA will host a webinar on climate change, *Reducing GHG through VMT Strategies*. What strategies could a state DOT consider to reduce GHG through moderating or reducing VMT growth? A discussion of the various strategies to limit or reduce VMT through land use, carpooling/vanpooling, telework programs, transit, bike-sharing, and other strategies. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to register.

discussion of the various strategies to limit or reduce VMT through land use, carpooling/vanpooling, telework programs, transit, bike/ped, and other means. Sarah Siwek of Sarah J. Siwek & Associates will provide an overview of VMT strategies. Kat Beaudoin of Maine DOT will present Maine DOT's Gateway 1 Project coordinating land use/transportation planning with local governments. Washington State DOT will discuss their VMT reduction activities. And Gloria Shepherd of FHWA will provide information on FHWA activities relating to VMT strategies for reducing GHG. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

**May 5, Cincinnati, OH:** The European-American Chamber of Commerce, working with the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) will host its 2010 Conference and Gala. Industry leaders, federal, state and local policymakers, and international, national and regional experts will gather to present the latest developments in Urban and Regional Public Transportation, and more specifically on the 3C corridor project. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to register.

**May 5-7, La Quinta, CA:** The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) will host the 2010 Regional Conference and General Assembly, "Moving Forward—Planning Together." This meeting is SCAG's annual meeting of elected officials, government agencies and their representatives from throughout Southern California; it provides a unique opportunity for attendees to meet and conduct business on important regional issues, while networking with leaders in the region. For additional information and to secure your place, click [HERE](#).

**May 26, Webinar, 2:00-3:30pm ET:** AASHTO, FHWA and FTA will host a webinar on climate change, *Reducing GHG through Low-Carbon, Fuel-Efficient Vehicles and Fuels*. How much of transportation's GHG reductions can be achieved with more efficient vehicles and low-carbon fuels? How soon? What can state DOTs do to help maximize vehicle/fuel decarbonization? A national expert will provide an overview on vehicle and fuel improvements to reduce GHG – and the opportunities for state DOTs to help expedite the transition to low-carbon vehicles and fuels. A state DOT and local government will be invited to discuss their planning and actions to support low-carbon vehicles and fuels. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

**May 26-27, Washington, DC:** The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors will hold their 2010 Annual Meeting. Registration is free and open to non-members, but you must RSVP to Adrienne Gildea at [agildea@blakey-agnew.com](mailto:agildea@blakey-agnew.com).

**June 15-17, Cleveland, OH:** NARC and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency will host the 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition. 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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