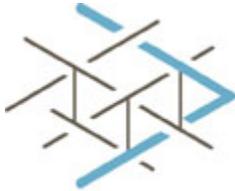


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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XI, No. 14, April 11, 2011

# eRegions

### **NARCLEADERSHIP**

President James 'Jim'

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Judge/Executive,  
Webster County,  
Kentucky

Chair Charles 'Chick'

Krautler,  
Executive Directors  
Council  
Director, Atlanta  
Regional Commission

### **EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

Colleagues,

Over the next few weeks, we will be advising you on the status of funding for regions and local governments based on the agreement reached between Senate and House leaders and President Obama on

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)

[PARTNER UPDATE](#)

[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



## **Register Today!**

Join your colleagues from 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. Click [HERE](#) to register or access the current draft agenda. Contact Lindsey Riley at [lindsey@narc.org](mailto:lindsey@narc.org) or 202.986.1032 x220 for more information. *If you are making travel arrangements, we recommend traveling on Sunday, June 12th and Thursday, June 16th.*

government spending for the FY 2011 budget. Please watch for our member alerts.

Last week, I was honored to speak before the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Board of Directors. While in California, Lindsey Riley and I also met with the staff of both SCAG and the San Diego Association of Government about our upcoming 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition. We are also very close to sold out on our room block for the conference. Please make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the conference.

NARC welcomed two new staff members this week. Mia Colson, formerly our Green Jobs Intern, came on full time as our Program Analyst. She'll be working closely with us on many of our grants. Valerie Hermanson also joined us last week as our Research Fellow. She'll be working closely with Erika Young on several transportation projects.

## PROGRAMUPDATE

**President Releases Preparedness Initiative:** Last week President Obama released a national preparedness document, *Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 8*, to strengthen the security and resilience through systematic preparation, including taking an all-hazards approach to disaster response and involving state and local governments, the private sector and the American public in planning. The effort will look to take all federal agency security and preparedness plans and frameworks into a single national comprehensive plan that addresses prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery. Included in the directive are requirements for: U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to develop and submit the national preparedness goal within 180 days and a description of the national preparedness system in 240 days; DHS to coordinate a comprehensive campaign to build and sustain an campaign to build preparedness through public outreach and private sector programs; and, the creation of an annual national preparedness report. Click [HERE](#) to access the Directive.

**WEF Offers Free Monthly Stormwater Newsletter:** The Water Environment Federation (WEF) now offers the free monthly newsletter, "The Stormwater Report," which will cover all aspects of stormwater, including regulatory updates and significant policy changes along with other current events pertaining to stormwater and non-point source pollution topics. Click [HERE](#) to view the inaugural edition online. If you are interested in receiving this publication on the first Thursday of every month, [subscribe online](#), or email [sbrown@wef.org](mailto:sbrown@wef.org) or [ktwigg@wef.org](mailto:ktwigg@wef.org).

**Triple Bottom Line Assessment Tool Survey:** The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Portland State University request participation in an online survey that assesses the impacts that economic development projects have in their communities. The results will inform the development of a Triple Bottom Line online assessment tool to help practitioners and local officials identify and describe a given project's return on investment by measuring its impact on a community's economy, social well-being and environment. Access the 10-20 minute survey [HERE](#); responses are requested by April 15, 2011.

**Turner Foundation Seeks Information on Local Green Infrastructure Projects:** The Clean Water America Alliance in coordination with the Turner Foundation is looking for communities investing in green infrastructure to improve air quality, lower summertime temperatures or reduce energy costs

There is also an interesting article in the economist concerning older workers and the workforce; companies are turning to older workers and older workers are coming back into the workforce. Click [HERE](#) to read more about the implications of both scenarios.

Best,  
Fred

#### **NARCSTAFF**

##### **Fred Abousleman**

Executive Director

##### **Shannon Baxevanis**

Deputy Director

##### **Sylvia Bryant**

Office Manager

##### **Mia Colson**

Program Analyst

##### **Valerie Hermanson**

Research Fellow

##### **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](#).

within their region. Information on green infrastructure policy will be gathered and submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help establish a program to reduce stormwater discharges. The information will also be distributed to participants in the water sector, conservation communities, and key policy-makers, as well as other interested parties. To participate in the project, click [HERE](#) (Password: GREEN). The deadline for participation is April 15, 2011.

**Transportation Committee Webinar:** NARC's next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled for April 12, 2011, 12:00-2:00 pm ET. This webinar will be hosted by NARC's Goods Movement Subcommittee and will address *Goods Movement along the U.S. Border: An Update of Current Trends*. This webinar will address developments with border freight, how changes will affect the flow of goods nationally and what metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and localities are doing to prepare. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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## **POLICYUPDATE**

*The House and Senate are in session.*

**FY11 Spending Extended; Deal Brokered:** On Friday, April 8, the President signed H.R. 1363, a continuing resolution (CR) to extend FY11 spending for one week (April 5, 2011), save the Department of Defense, which would be extended through the remainder of the fiscal year (September 30, 2011). The extension cuts \$1.5 billion from high speed and intercity passenger rail; \$280 million from transit new starts; \$220 million from the Housing and Urban Development Community Development Fund, including Community Development Block Grants; eliminates funding for Economic Development Initiative, and Neighborhood Initiative grants; \$8.7 million from Federal Aviation Administration Facilities and Equipment account; \$6.3 million from transportation planning, research and development; \$3.5 million from FAA Research, Engineering and Development account; and, \$2.5 million from Federal Railroad Administration Research and Development account.

The President and Congress are said to have reached agreement on the fiscal year 2011 funding deal, which would fund the government until September 30, 2011 and make \$37.7 billion in FY11 spending, which represents \$2 billion in cuts from FY10 levels, and includes nearly \$20 billion

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in discretionary spending. NARC will provide a detailed summary of the cuts once the language is available.

**House GOP Releases FY12 Budget:** On April 4, 2011, the House Budget Committee released a budget request for fiscal year 2012 called, *The Path to Prosperity*, which aims to cut the deficit and reduce government spending. The budget request also has over \$6 trillion in cuts over the next decade and proposed to hold non-security spending to 2008 levels. Click [HERE](#) to access the budget proposal. Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's summary. Click [HERE](#) to read a letter the National Association of Counties (NACo) sent to the House Budget Committee.

**President Obama to Release Deficit Reduction Plan:** This week President Obama will release a long-term plan for reducing the national debt. The federal debt is anticipated to be more than \$1 trillion in FY11. The current debt limit is now set at \$14.3 trillion. The House and Senate are each working on their own debt reduction efforts.

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## PARTNERUPDATE

**NACo's 2011 Rail Conference:** April 27-29, 2011. Sponsored by NACo, the 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.

**Call for Speakers for the 97th ICMA Annual Conference:** The International City/County Management Association's (ICMA) 97th Annual Conference, being held September 18-21, 2011 at the Frontier Airlines Convention Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is now accepting applications from speakers wishing to be part of the conference program. ICMA is looking for the best combination of panelists to share their experiences for each session within these educational tracks: Excellence in the New Normal; Changing Demographics and Employee Relations; Lessons in Leadership; Personal Issues Facing Local Government Managers and Their Families; and Career Tracks: Assistant Managers, Senior Managers/ICMA Credential Managers and Small Community Managers. We encourage you to download and submit an application by Friday, May 6 to be considered for this event. All Session Speaker Application Forms must be completed electronically and submitted to [callforspeakers@icma.org](mailto:callforspeakers@icma.org). Full details and application form

are available online at [icma.org/callforspeakers](http://icma.org/callforspeakers).

**NEI Update:** The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) has developed a webpage with news and information following the earthquake in Japan. Click [HERE](#) to access this webpage. NEI has made themselves available to anyone who has questions; contact Christine Czimedia or Marshall Cohen at 202.739.8000 or [NEIResponseCenter@nei.org](mailto:NEIResponseCenter@nei.org).

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Program**

*Deadline: April 21, 2011*

The U.S. Department of Labor (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](http://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 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](#).

### **RE-Powering America**

*Deadline: May 20, 2011*

Through its RE-Powering America's Land: Siting Renewable Energy on Potentially Contaminated Land and Mine Sites initiative, the U.S. EPA is soliciting applications from states, tribes, regional governments, and communities that want to evaluate the potential development of renewable energy on potentially or formerly contaminated properties. The Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) will evaluate and

provide technical assistance for up to 20 selected sites in 2011. Additional information is available here. Click [HERE](#) or contact [Lura Matthews](#) at EPA for additional information.

### **EDA University Center Competition**

*Deadline: June 30, 2011*

The U.S. EDA announced its FY 2011 University Center Economic Development Program competition to promote bottom-up regional strategies that help foster business expansion and job creation in EDA's Chicago and Philadelphia regions. Accredited institutions or consortium of higher education, including community colleges, are eligible to apply for funding. EDA will award \$1.1 million in the Chicago region and \$1.4 million in the Philadelphia region. Additional information is available [HERE](#).

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## **UPCOMINGEVENTS**

### ***Transportation Committee Webinar***

**April 12, 2011, 12:00-2:00 pm ET:** NARC's next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled. This webinar will be hosted by NARC's Goods Movement Subcommittee and will address *Goods Movement along the U.S. Border: An Update of Current Trends*. This webinar will address developments with border freight, how changes will affect the flow of goods nationally and what metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and localities are doing to prepare. Click [HERE](#) to register.

### ***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.

***Freight Community to Share Best Practices on Advocating for Infrastructure Investment***

**June 21-23, 2011, Savannah, GA:** Members of various freight-related organizations will gather to share information and best practices on how to effectively communicate the value of transportation infrastructure investment to policymakers, influencers and the public. The American Association of Port Authorities is sponsoring this seminar on *Communicating the Importance of Infrastructure Investment*. Featured key note speakers will include Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, representing the Building America's Future coalition, who will address the topic of *Successfully Promoting the Infrastructure Investment Agenda*; as well as Former U.S. Senator Mack Francis Mattingly (R-GA 1981-87) who will address *Effectively Communicating with Key Legislators*. More information is available by clicking [HERE](#).

***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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