

### **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,

As I reported last week there are concerns over a pending climate change bill and possible provisions related to fuel taxes. Senator John Kerry (D-MA) is developing the bill along with Senator Lindsey Graham, (R-SC) and Senator Joseph Lieberman, (I-CT). The three are expected to unveil the bill on Monday, April 26. According to the *Journal of Commerce*, Kerry told reporters, "there is no gas tax, never was a gas tax..."; he also said "I don't know where that came from, but it is just wrong. Period." Furthermore Kerry said "there is not even a linked fee." See our brief below for more information.

I am headed to San Diego on Sunday to finalize our hotel contract for our Annual Conference in 2011, then on to Monterey for a presentation to the California Association of Councils of Governments.

I want to thank the COG directors in Washington and Oregon for inviting me to their joint association meeting last week. I had the pleasure of touring a massive wind farm outside of Hood River, OR with John Arens, Executive Director of the Mid-Columbia Council of Governments, host of the joint association meeting.

I also participated in a key note discussion with Walter Brooks

### ***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 in Cleveland, OH.

#### **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

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 For Next Week:** 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.

**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 to BLS can be found [HERE](#). Comments are due by April 30, 2010.

**Research: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** has released [Residential Construction Trends in America's Metropolitan Regions: 2010 Edition](#) exploring trends in residential construction in core metropolitan areas.

**Research: Columbia University's Center for Research on Environmental Decisions** developed, [The Psychology of Climate Change Communication: A Guide for Scientists, Journalists, Educators, Political Aides, and the Interested Public](#), helping a variety of interests better understand successful messaging on this particular topic.

I also participated in a key note discussion with Walter Brooks, Executive Director of the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission, last week on the future of our regions, rebuilding New Orleans and the role regional councils can play in developing the new economy. Many thanks to Walter for being on the panel with me.

NARC has signed an association partnership agreement with the IJIS Institute to further support public safety and security in our regions. The IJIS Institute is the only national organization that brings together industry and government in an effort to improve national security and promote effective information sharing across all levels of the justice, public safety and homeland security communities. I will have more information for you as our partnership unfolds.

Finally, this week we launched the early-bird registration for our 2010 Executive Directors' Conference. More information will be forthcoming, but I encourage you to take advantage of early-bird pricing, available through May 15th. Click [HERE](#) to register today.

Best,  
Fred

#### **NARCSTAFF**

[Fred Abousleman](#)

Executive Director, x216

[Sylvia Bryant](#)

Office Manager, x218

[Naomi Friedman](#)

Project Director, x224

[Jenee Kresge](#)

Program Analyst, x215

[Shannon Menard](#)

Policy Manager, x217

[Lindsey Riley](#)

Member Services Manager, x220

[Erika Young](#)

Transportation Director, x212

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

## **NARCPOLICY**

**NARC Environment Co-Chair Fallows Advocates NARC Policy at EPA Clean Water Event:** Kenneth Fallows, NARC Environment Committee Co-Chair and Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments Environment Council Chair, represented NARC at a recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) event, [Coming Together for Clean Water](#). This event included 100 leaders to examine elements of the Clean Water Act and discuss how to address the most significant pollution problems facing our waters, and explored in depth two EPA priorities – restoring healthy watersheds and creating sustainable communities across the country. Click [HERE](#) to read about Co-Chair Fallow's experience and participation.

**New Senate Climate Change Bill Introduction Delayed:** The yet-to-be revealed new Senate climate change bill under development by Senators Kerry (D-MA), Lieberman (I-CT) and Graham (R-SC) is expected to be introduced on Monday, April 26. Originally intended for an Earth Day (April 22) showcase, the Senators are still working out details of the final bill with many sections still under development, including the transportation section. Click [HERE](#) to read Senator Kerry's comments and reactions to the transportation section rumors. Other contentious issues include state regulation pre-emption and grandfathering clauses, among others. NARC will provide a detailed analysis of the bill and its implications on regions and local governments as soon as the text is available. As reported in today's CQ article, "Climate Bill Negotiators Make Headway, but Job Is Far From Done":

Now circulating on Capitol Hill is an 11-point outline of what industry and interest groups have been told are the main provisions of the bill:

- The bill would take effect in 2013 and by 2020 would cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions 17 percent compared with 2005 levels, and 80 percent by 2050.
- Energy-intensive and trade-sensitive industries would get a four-year delay before they would be subject to greenhouse gas emissions limits.
- Two-thirds of the revenue generated by auctioning off pollution allowances for utilities would be returned to utilities consumers through local distribution companies.
- Oil companies would be subject to "pollution allowances" that would be retired over time, rather than a fee linked to the price of carbon in the utilities sector. To blunt accusations that the provision constitutes a gas tax increase, the Congressional Budget Office will issue a document stating the allowances do not constitute a tax. All revenue from the sale of diesel oil fuel allowances would be set aside and directed to the Highway Trust Fund. While details of this allowance or permit system are unclear, apparently these particular allowances would not be traded on any open market.
- The bill would preempt the ability of state governments and the EPA to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act ([PL 101-549](#)), as long as emitters comply with the standards outlined in the measure. The EPA would monitor and enforce compliance with the law.
- Loan guarantees and liability protections would be authorized for the construction of up to 12 new nuclear power plants.
- The measure would provide at least \$10 billion for carbon capture and sequestration of emissions from coal-fired power plants, and it would provide an accelerated bonus for early deployment of this technology.
- Financial incentives would be offered for natural gas and electric vehicles.
- The proposal would set a hard price "collar" for carbon, with both a ceiling and a floor on the cost of emissions allowances.

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

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

- The proposal would set a hard price “collar” for carbon, with both a ceiling and a floor on the cost of emissions allowances.
- The measure would incorporate the entire energy bill ([S 1462](#)) approved last year by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which would mandate an increase in renewable electricity production and include some new offshore drilling.
- Agriculture would be entirely exempt from the cap on carbon emissions.

**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, contact Shannon Menard at [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.

## **REGIONS360<sup>0</sup>**

**Regions Receive DOE Funding:** The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and other regions were awarded funding under the U.S. Department of Energy’s “Retrofit Ramp-Up” Program. Click [HERE](#) for additional details.

## **PARTNERUPDATES**

**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.



## **GRANTOPPORTUNITIES**

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

*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>.

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>.

***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.

**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 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

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](#).

**DOE Announcement of Funding Opportunity for Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program:** *Deadline: June 2, 2010.* The Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), released a new funding opportunity announcement for up to \$30 million for competitively selected innovative weatherization projects. This Weatherization Innovation Pilot Program promotes innovative ways to weatherize homes of low-income families. DOE anticipates making 10-15 awards. Traditional and non-traditional weatherization providers are eligible to apply including: states and units of local government; non-profit entities such as community development organizations; for-profit entities; institutions of higher education; Indian tribe economic development entities; and, consortia of these entities. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

**TIGER II is Announced!:** *Deadline: Pre-Applications: July 12, 2010; Full Proposal: August 23, 2010.* On Monday, April 26, 2010, US Department of Transportation (DOT) will solicit TIGER II Discretionary grant program applications. Funding is available to units of government, including metropolitan planning organizations and multi-jurisdictional entities for capital investments in a variety of transportation infrastructure related projects. In addition, NARC will host a webinar on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 from 12pm-2pm EDT to provide information to regions about successful examples of regional applications in TIGER I. You can register for that webinar [HERE](#). U.S. DOT is also anticipated to host a webinar to review the current solicitation later in May, 2010. More information will be forthcoming as it is released.

**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 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/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

1666 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW – SUITE 300 – WASHINGTON, DC 20009  
202.986.1032 (T) – 202.986.1038 (F)  
[WWW.NARC.ORG](http://WWW.NARC.ORG)

We are sending you this e-mail 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. If you prefer not to receive any further messages from us or would like us to add your colleagues to this distribution list, just reply to this e-mail and let us know.