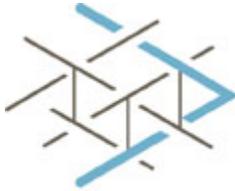


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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XI, No. 17, May 2, 2011

# eRegions

### **NARC LEADERSHIP**

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[REGIONS 360°](#) [PARTNER UPDATE](#)

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



### **EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

Colleagues,

I want to extend our thoughts to all those who lost family, friends and property in Alabama last week and across the nation in the continued severe weather, drought, storms and wildfires impacting our country. Our thoughts are for a

## **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.*

rapid response, mitigation and speedy recovery from these tragedies.

Helping plan for and mitigate these disasters is our best hope for surviving them in the future. Numerous regions and states have planned for decades on the potential impacts of natural disasters and ensuring continuity of services is key to a quick recovery. The tornados in Alabama were especially fierce but first responders, policy, fire and disaster recovery crews responded as quickly as possible. In Adam Montella's [Wall Street & Technology article](#) on disaster recovery, "involving all stakeholders; planning for the worst case scenario; training and excersising the plan; and communicating it" are key to recovery.

On another note, special thanks to NACo and NARC Board Member the Honorable James Healy for convening and hosting a 2011 Rail Summit in Lisle, IL last week. NARC was a proud sponsor, along

## PROGRAMUPDATE

**EPA Issues Draft NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that its Regional Offices are proposing for public comment the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for stormwater discharges from large and small construction activities. This draft construction general permit includes new requirements that implement the technology-based Effluent Limitation Guidelines and New Source Performance Standards, as well as new water quality-based requirements for construction sites discharging stormwater to waters requiring additional pollutant control. EPA proposes to issue this construction general permit for five (5) years, and to provide permit coverage to eligible existing and new construction projects in all areas of the country where EPA is the NPDES permitting authority. Comments on the draft general permit must be received by June 24, 2011. Comments on the preparation and issuance of the draft/preliminary Environmental Assessment must be received by May 25, 2011. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

**Administration Releases Clean Water Framework:** Last week, the Obama Administration released a National Clean Water Framework, which recognizes the economic and environmental importance of clean water and healthy watersheds by outlining a series of 25 existing and planned actions and programs across key federal agencies. It also includes: [draft federal guidance](#) to clarify which waters are protected by the Clean Water Act nationwide; innovative partnerships and programs to improve water quality and water efficiency; and, initiatives to revitalize communities and economies by restoring rivers and critical watersheds. The guidance will soon appear in the Federal Register with a 60-day comment period. Click [HERE](#) to access the framework.

**EPA Hosts Press Event on Updated Green Infrastructure Strategy:** Last week the EPA hosted a press event to announce the release of an updated strategy on green infrastructure (GI), which outlines the EPA efforts to encourage the implementation of GI across the country for the goal of building more livable communities. EPA also announced [ten partnering communities](#) that will work on GI infrastructure implementation issues. Additionally, a memo was released at this event that encourages the use of green infrastructure to manage wet weather and meet Clean Water Act Requirements. Click [HERE](#) to access the strategy. Click [HERE](#) to access the memo.

with NLC, AASHTO and APTA, of this leadership event focused on creating better and long lasting relationships with the railroads.

Best,  
Fred

## **NARCSTAFF**

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Deputy of

Communications

### **Erika Young**

Transportation Director

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

**Economic Development Challenge Announced:** The Obama Administration announced the *Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge*, an initiative of 16 federal agencies and bureaus to accelerate innovation-fueled job creation and economic prosperity through public-private partnerships. The Challenge offers a combination of funding from three agencies and bureaus and technical assistance resources to support customized solutions for approximately 20 competitively selected industry clusters in urban and rural regions across all sectors. Subject to funding availability, total proposed funding for the Challenge is approximately \$33 million in direct federal support from funding agencies. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the opportunity.

**Solar America Communities Webinar:** Last chance to join the Solar America Communities Webinar on May 3, 2011 at 3:00pm ET. Click [HERE](#) to register or [HERE](#) for more details.

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## **POLICYUPDATE**

*The House and Senate are in session.*

### **Local Elected Associations Release Transportation Authorization**

**Principles:** The National Governors Association (NGA), the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Association of Counties and the National League of Cities jointly released guiding principles for the authorization of the federal surface transportation act, among which include a strong partnership among all levels of government. Click [HERE](#) to access the principles.

**Senate Commerce Committee to Markup Broadband Spectrum Bill:** The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee is scheduling activities to discuss the broadband spectrum bill in May. Committee Chairman Rockefeller (D-WV) introduced [S 28](#), the Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act, on January 25, 2011, to provide the D block spectrum for public safety communication purposes. The House is also discussing similar legislation; however, the House bills are positioned to support auctioning off the spectrum and devoting some of the funds to create a new public safety communications network. NARC, along with many association partners, has been working through the Public Safety Alliance (PSA) on this issue. Click [HERE](#) to access PSA's website.

**Senate to Hold Hearings to Assess Disaster Response Activities:** The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation will conduct a hearing Tuesday on S 692, a hurricane research measure, and S 646, a measure to reduce the risk posed by natural disasters. On Thursday, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery and Intergovernmental Affairs will hold a hearing, “Understanding the Power of Social Media as a Communications Tool in the Aftermath of Disasters.”

**Discussions Continue on Enacting a Deficit Cap:** Last week, Senate Majority Leader Reid (D-NV) showcased support for Congress moving forward a deficit cap to force balance between federal spending and revenues. According to the Treasury Department, Congress must pass an increase in the federal debt limit, which must be passed by July to avoid a government default on debts. Senators McCaskill (D-MO) and Corker (R-TN) introduced [S 245](#), which would cap federal spending as a percentage of the economy. Additionally, a bipartisan group of six senators is working on a deficit reduction plan based on the package proposed by President Obama’s fiscal commission.

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## REGIONS360<sup>0</sup>

**MAPC Project Highlighted on HUD Website:** NARC member, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Boston, MA, is currently featured on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities website for their “Metro Boston Indicators Project.” This project, which is a part of MetroFuture, the region’s plan for growth through 2030, establishes a baseline for equity-related indicators and will identify key policy and programmatic recommendations to reach greater regional equity. Click [HERE](#) to access more information.

**NCTCOG’s Shared Services Featured in PM Magazine:** The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) was featured in the International City/County Management Association’s *PM Magazine*. The article focused on NCTCOG’s successful shared services and collaboration strategies. Click [HERE](#) to access the article.

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## PARTNERUPDATE

**Call for Speakers for the 97th ICMA Annual Conference:** The 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).

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **USDA Community Connect Grant Program**

*Deadline: May 3, 2011*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture 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](#).

### **EPA Siting Renewable Energy on Potentially Contaminated Land and Mine Sites**

*Deadline: May 20, 2011*

Through its RE-Powering America's Land: Siting Renewable Energy on Potentially Contaminated Land and Mine Sites initiative, 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. This evaluation will be in the form of a feasibility study conducted by the Department of Energy National

Renewable Energy Laboratory that will determine the best renewable energy technology for the site, the optimal location for placement of the renewable energy technology, potential energy generating capacity, the return on the investment, and the economic feasibility of the renewable energy projects. The purpose of the technical assistance is to reuse sites, improve communities, create jobs, develop partnerships, decrease the use of greenspace for siting renewable energy, and increase the amount of renewable energy generated. Proposals are due to EPA Friday May 20 and may be submitted to [matthews.lura@epa.gov](mailto:matthews.lura@epa.gov). More information on the RE-Powering initiative and the request for applications can be found [HERE](#).

### **Clean Cities Community Readiness and Planning for Plug-in Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure**

*Deadline: June 13, 2011*

The U.S. DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory is soliciting projects emphasizing the development of local and regional plug-in electric vehicle and charging infrastructure for their Clean Cities Community Readiness and Planning for Plug-in Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure project. The U.S. DOE is interested in exploring ways that will prepare communities for successful deployment and implementation of plug-in electric drive vehicles. Projects should include policy implementation and planning elements that support the deployment of plug-in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure on the local and regional level. Plans must also address infrastructure deployment for light, medium, and/or heavy duty plug-in electric vehicles (including extended range electric vehicles). Overall, the U.S. DOE hopes this effort will help to decrease the nation's dependence on petroleum and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by accelerating the deployment of plug-in electric drive vehicles and electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE). The U.S. DOE will award 10-15 awards ranging from \$250,000-\$500,000. More information is available [HERE](#).

### **The Kodak American Greenways Grant Program**

*Deadline: June 15, 2011*

The Eastman Kodak Company, The Conservation Fund and the National Geographic Society have announced the release of their 2011 Greenways Awards. Each year a Greenway Award is presented to land trusts, local governments, and other organizations that are growing our nation's networks of greenways, blueways, trails and natural areas. These projects connect Americans to the outdoors and their heritage. Funded projects typically advance one or more of the program goals, including catalyzing new greenway projects; assisting grassroots greenway organizations; leveraging

additional money for conservation and greenway development; and promoting use and enjoyment of greenways. Award amounts range from \$500 to \$2,500. The full grant announcement is available [HERE](#).

#### **EDA University Center Competition**

*Deadline: June 30, 2011*

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (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. The U.S. 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**

#### ***Solar America Communities Webinar***

**May 3, 2011, 3:00 pm ET:** Join NARC in a discussion about the Solar America Communities Outreach Program on May 3, 2011 at 3:00 pm ET. NARC is working with the U.S. DOE, ICMA, the American Planning Association and ICLEI to increase the use and integration of solar energy technologies in regions and communities across the country. As the nation's centers of electricity consumption, regions are uniquely positioned to reduce global climate change, strengthen American's energy independence and improve air quality, by adopting cleaner and renewable energy technologies, such as solar energy. The Solar America Communities program supports local governments and regional organizations committed to making solar a mainstream energy source. This webinar will provide an overview of the Solar America Communities project, the current state of the solar industry, common obstacles and myths associated with solar, and the potential for solar as an economic driver within regional communities. To register click [HERE](#).

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

**May 10, 2011, 12:00 pm ET:** NARC's next Transportation Committee webinar will be held on May 10, 2011 at 12:00 pm ET and will showcase how metropolitan planning organizations work with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The agenda is forthcoming, but registration is open; click [HERE](#) to register.

***H-GAC Eco-Logical Webinar***

**May 12, 2011, 2:00 pm ET:** Join the Houston-Galveston Area Council for an exciting and informative webinar to learn about H-GAC's interactive GIS-based Eco-Logical tool on May 12, 2011 at 2:00pm ET. The webinar will provide information on the development process for the Eco-Logical Geographic Information System (GIS) tool including the data development, mapping and metric models of the project. Learn how the data was developed, how the application works, and what tools are available. The Eco-Logical GIS tool gives planners an opportunity to identify valuable environmental resources in the region. Roadway designers can save time and money by using this free decision-making tool to identify potential environmental concerns early in the project development process. Conservation groups can use Eco-Logical to help identify and focus efforts on protecting high-priority environmental resources in the region. To register click [HERE](#); registration closes May 9th.

***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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