

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,

NARC is undergoing an information transformation. Over the next few months we will be upgrading our computer systems and back-end servers, and also migrating our email off site to a [hosted exchange](#). We will also become "virtual" through the back-up and exchange of information through "the cloud." There are a number of reasons this is important to us and possibly to you as well. We will become increasingly more efficient as services and products require less in-house staff time to maintain; we will become more mobile and agile as staff has access to information - anywhere. We'd like to engage you in this project as we move forward to see if any of the applications are usable or of interest to your organization. Hosted email exchange and cloud computing are increasingly becoming popular. If you would like to be updated on our cost and efficiency savings and test products - let me know. We will also be updating our website - so if you have recommendations please let me know what you'd like changed or enhanced.

Oil Spill Threatens Already Weak State Budgets

Of concern to local governments along the Gulf Coast will be the economic impact of the BP Oil Spill. The costs could outstrip any benefit from recent employment or

Congratulations to **NARC Intern Seth Cutter**, who recently [received the President's Award](#) at American University. Seth, who worked on transportation and air quality during his time at NARC, will be joining us at the 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition this Summer, before beginning his Master's in Public Administration at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill this Fall. Seth will graduate this month from American University.



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.

[Draft Conference Agenda](#)—Updated May 7, 2010

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

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

NARC PROGRAM

NARC Submits Comments to BLS on a Green Jobs Definition: Last week, NARC submitted comments to The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) 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. BLS' initial definition can be found by clicking [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) to view NARC's comments.

NARC Submits Comments to DOT on Potential Joint DOT-HUD Funding: NARC submitted comments in response to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) interim notice of funding availability for the Department's National Infrastructure Investment Grant program (TIGER II Discretionary Grant Program). NARC commented on combining the TIGER II Planning Grant Program with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Challenge Planning Grants to better align transportation, housing, economic development and land use planning, and to improve the linkages between the Sustainable Communities Partnership programs, while promoting holistic planning efforts that result in better Federally funded projects. Click [HERE](#) to read NARC's comments. Click [HERE](#) to read more on the TIGER II grants.

Spill. The costs could outstrip any benefit from recent employment or Stimulus spending gains. Florida Gov. Charlie Crist has asked President Barack Obama for \$50 million in federal assistance for the fallout from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Crist said this is an, "environmental disaster of unprecedented proportions," and wants the money for extended unemployment benefits that will be needed when the spill throws Floridians out of work. Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal last Thursday declared a State of Emergency to begin preparing for the oil. He also requested a federal disaster declaration to aid commercial fisherman, providing funds and potentially suspending loan repayments to the government. The cost to Gulf Coast fishing and tourism industry could be over \$5 billion. We will be addressing long-term disaster recovery planning at our Annual Conference in Cleveland.

Continued Investment Needed in Nation's Infrastructure

Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize winner for economics in 2001, and chief economist at the World Bank during the Asian meltdown of 1997, gained hands-on experience in the disorderly business of financial bailouts. He recently gave a fascinating interview in *Money* magazine which makes the case for continued investment in our nation's infrastructure. Here's an excerpt from this month's edition:

(Money) Now the President and others are talking about budget cuts. Does that make sense?

(Stiglitz) The key issue is how we spend money. I've done calculations that show that if we borrow money to make investments in infrastructure, technology, and education, the long-term national debt will be lower. If you spend money, and the economy grows, you get more tax revenue.

The most obvious example where you can see a high return on

Click [HERE](#) to read more on the TIGER II grants.

Opportunity to Comment on CEQ Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change Proposal: The White House Council on Environment Quality (CEQ) has released its draft guidance, which is open for public comment, on when and how Federal agencies must consider greenhouse gas emissions and climate change in their proposed actions. The draft guidance explains how Federal agencies should analyze the environmental impacts of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change when they describe the environmental impacts of a proposed action under NEPA. The draft guidance does not apply to land and resource management actions. CEQ is receiving public comment on this guidance until May 25, 2010. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Potential Federal Livability Opportunities: There are many moving parts to the federal livability initiatives within the Administration and Congress, particularly when it comes to potential near- and long-term funding opportunities – i.e. HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grants, DOT TIGER II Planning Grants, HUD Community Challenge Planning Grants and the Livable Communities Act. Click [HERE](#) for a basic matrix of four major federal livability opportunities. Contact Shannon Menard at Shannon@NARC.org or 202.986.1032 x217 for any additional livability materials and/or information.

USDA Releases Report on Agriculture Transportation: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released to Congress a comprehensive report on agricultural transportation in the United States. The report, *Study of Rural Transportation Issues*, was mandated by the 2008 Farm Bill and covers the four major modes of transportation commonly used by agriculture in the United States – truck, rail, barge and ocean vessel. The report examines some of the major issues facing agricultural transportation, including: the effect of rail deregulation, a growing gap for funding the inland waterways and highway systems, availability of containers and ocean vessel capacity and the infrastructure needed to support a projected increase in biofuel transportation. The report also discusses the current approach to transportation policy in the United States, in which each mode of transportation is often considered separately without an overarching view of the flow of freight through all the modes. Click [HERE](#) for the report.

NARCPOLICY

NARC Board Member David Danielson Presents at U.S. Senate Banking Committee Livable Communities Briefing: Commissioner David Danielson, Bedford, NH, President of the New England Association of Regional Councils and Region I NARC Board Member presented at U.S. Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee briefing on Friday, April 30, where he detailed the real benefits for rural and small communities within the Livable Communities Act. Commissioner Danielson provided examples from New England and stressed the importance of the regional approach that this legislation encourages. Commissioner Danielson was joined by Commissioner Don Larson, Brookings County, SD and Chairman of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee at the National Association of Counties, and Mr. George Homewood, Director of Community Development, Kent County, VA. Please contact Shannon Menard for more information on Commissioner Danielson's presentation. Click [HERE](#) to read NARC's talking points on the benefits of the Livable Communities Act.

NARC Supports Rural Regions at U.S. Senate Democratic Rural Summit: Last week, NARC participated in the first Senate Democratic Rural Summit, which focused on the commitment to ensuring a brighter future for the nation's rural communities through infrastructure and access to critical services and building a sustainable rural economy. A diverse cross-section of rural interests attended the meeting and discussed best practices in existing rural programs and policies. The Summit, hosted by Majority Leader Reid (D-NV), Senator Stabenow (D-MI) and Senator Lincoln (D-AR), featured presentations from Senators Begich (D-AK),

The most obvious example where you can see a high return on investment in the United States is in infrastructure. If we had invested \$2 billion in the New Orleans levees, we would have avoided more than \$80 billion in damages from Katrina.

(Money) What should we be spending on, then?

(Stiglitz) We need greater investment in high-speed railroads and other public transportation. And we need to invest in technology. We invested very heavily in the '80s in particular -- public investments that led to the Internet, to the decoding of the human genome. And because of the public investment, there were huge investments in the private sector that generated huge returns for our economy. We can't know what the next breakthrough will be, but if you're not spending the money, you won't have that breakthrough.

Read more [here](#).

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to Adolfo Carrion, Director of White House Urban Affairs, for this work in supporting regional collaboration in the work of regional councils. We wish him best of luck in his new post and offer our continued support to the White House Office of Urban Affairs through [this transition](#).

Best,
Fred

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Summary, hosted by Majority Leader Reid (D-NV), Senator Stabenow (D-MI) and Senator Lincoln (D-AR), featured presentations from Senators Begich (D-AK), Hagan (D-NC), Tester (D-MT), Landrieu (D-LA), Udall (D-NM) and Warner (D-VA). A special keynote address was given by President William Jefferson Clinton. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

New Senate Climate Bill Set for May 12 Release: Senators Kerry (D-MA) and Lieberman (I-CT) are set to unveil their climate change bill on Wednesday, May 12 without direct Republican support. NARC will provide members information as soon as all of the details are available. Please stay tuned.

EDA Releases Their Authorization Legislation: The U.S. Department of Commerce released the Administration's legislation to reauthorize the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). Reauthorization is an opportunity for EDA to align its priorities and program structures to improve the competitiveness of America's regions. Click [HERE](#) for EDA's legislation documents. NARC is in strong support of immediate EDA reauthorization by Congress. Contact Shannon Menard at Shannon@NARC.org or 202.986.1032 x217 for more information on NARC's EDA reauthorization positions and activities.

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 and click [HERE](#) for an FAQ. 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 or 202.986.1032 x217.

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. Click [HERE](#) for a RIIZ FAQ. 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 at Shannon@NARC.org or 202.986.1032 x217.

PARTNER UPDATES

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 or call (888) 272-6911.



REGIONS360⁰

Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District Launches Oil Spill Website. Click [HERE](#) for additional information or visit www.2010oilspill.com.

The Flint Hills Regional Council: A Model for Regional Cooperation in the

[Erika Young](#)

Transportation Director, x212

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

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

The Flint Hills Regional Council: A Model for Regional Cooperation in the 21st Century: Former NARC Executive Director Bill Dodge and Scott Michie, Senior Vice President of BWR Corporation assisted in the design of the Flint Hills Regional Council. Click [HERE](#) to access their recent publication.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Serving Young Adult Offenders and High School Dropouts: *Deadline: May 10, 2010:* U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) 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: 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. 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.

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.

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](#).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 18, Webinar, 12:00pm-2:00pm ET: NARC's Transportation Finance Subcommittee will host a webinar to address the TIGER II Discretionary Grant program. Tom Gerend, Assistant Director of Subcommittee, from the Mid-America Council will discuss the COG's successful Round 1 application, and Erika Young, Transportation Director, will discuss recent activities for Round 2. Click [HERE](#) to register for this event.

May 19-22, Atlanta, GA: The Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) is holding its 18th Annual Congress in Atlanta, GA. NARC members are invited attend – for free – on Friday, May 21 to hear from Secretary Shaun Donovan of HUD and to learn more about how new urbanist practices can help you shepherd healthy development patterns. We have a limited number of these invitations and ask that you confirm your attendance as soon as possible with Shan Arora, sushan_arora@yahoo.com. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about the event.

May 24-26, Washington, DC: Climate Communities is convening the nation's top city and county leaders from across America for the Local Clean Energy & Climate Leadership Summit, co-sponsored by NARC. Learn about more than \$1 billion in federal funding available to cities, counties and towns to support local energy efficiency and sustainability initiatives. To register and see the full agenda, visit: <http://climatecommunities.us/summit.html>.

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.

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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