



NARCLEADERSHIP

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Selectman,
Town of Manchester, CT
Chair Anthony Reams,
Executive Directors Council
President, Toledo Metropolitan
Area Council of Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

I briefed the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council last week on the status of Federal legislation and Administration proposals. Of interest is the growing concern of how we will deal with Greenhouse Gas emissions and new air quality standards. In Florida, a State in general compliance with the Clean Air Act, new regulations—while promoting better health—could have long term effects on local planning capacity, project implementation and application of new technologies. Erika Young, Transportation Director, will have a session in Cleveland on this very issue and how we, as local and regional leaders, can adapt to new regulation. I hope you will attend.

We are also getting many calls about pending funding from HUD on Sustainable Communities. Shannon Menard, Policy Manager, has done a great job of putting together a matrix which details the various proposals and funding streams related to DOT, HUD and Congressional activity. Click [HERE](#) to access this matrix.

Gulf Coast communities continue to worry about the oil spill. The number keeps rising on the cost of recovery and in a recent interview with *The Guardian*, "Tony Hayward, the beleaguered chief executive of **BP**, claimed its [oil](#) spill in the Gulf of Mexico is

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 17, 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

President Obama Releases “Strengthening the Rural Economy” Report: As part of President Obama’s “Main Street” tour across the Heartland, the Administration recently released the “Strengthening the Rural Economy” report outlining policies to strengthen the nation’s rural economy. Click [HERE](#) to read the report.

FEMA and Citizen Corp Host 2010 National Preparedness Month Webinar: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Citizen Corps will host the National Preparedness Month (NPM) 2010 Webinar on Tuesday, May 18 at 3pm EDT. This webinar will introduce the 2010 Toolkit and feature information on how to participate in NPM 2010 this September (the seventh annual NPM), which will focus on encouraging Americans to work together to take concrete actions toward emergency preparedness. Click [HERE](#) to log into the webinar. Telephone Dial-in: 1-888-437-2685 (domestic) & 1-412-317-2500 (international); Pin: 45612. (Please note: log in 10 to 15 minutes before the call to ensure the program and PowerPoint work properly on your computer. Once you enter the system, log in as a guest by using your first and last name.)

NARC Transportation Finance Subcommittee Webinar: The webinar will be held on Tuesday, May 18, at 12:00pm EDT. Click [HERE](#) to register for the event. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 established the \$1.5 billion Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) multimodal discretionary grant program. This program funded over 50 major infrastructure projects in 41 states on the federal, state and local levels. Due to the large number of applications for TIGER I, US DOT is again embarking on another multimodal discretionary grant program, this time funded through the annual appropriations

executive of [BP](#), claimed its [oil](#) spill in the Gulf of Mexico is 'relatively tiny' compared with the 'very big ocean.'" According to the same article, "in an bullish interview with *The Guardian* at BP's crisis centre in Houston, Hayward insisted that the leaked oil and the estimated 400,000 gallons of dispersant that BP has pumped into the sea to try to tackle the slick should be put in context." Click [HERE](#) to read the complete article.

Please register for the Annual Conference in Cleveland—we have fantastic sessions and events planned. The New York Mets are in town for three days to play the Cleveland Indians; click [HERE](#) for details. Cleveland also has some of the [best museums](#) in the country, including the renowned Polka Hall of Fame! What other region can boast attractions from [Polka](#) to [Pablo Picasso](#)? And if you really want a treat—we recently discovered the home of the [Grill Cheese Sandwich](#).

We look forward to seeing you in Cleveland next month!

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

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discretionary grant program, this time funded through the annual appropriations process. Much like the TIGER I award winners, TIGER II will also fund multimodal transportation infrastructure projects. However, unlike the TIGER I process, US DOT recently took public comment on several questions relating to recipient eligibility criteria for TIGER II. This webinar will provide an example of one region who successfully led their partnership in the competition for TIGER I grants. The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) will discuss their TIGER I winning process and take questions from the participants. In addition, NARC will discuss the recent TIGER II grant solicitation, as well as the recommendations submitted by NARC to US DOT.

2010 Ozone Implementation Rule Proposal: The Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards would like to brief you and get your input on topics in our draft 2010 Ozone Implementation Rule proposal. A conference call has been set up for May 19th at 2:00pm EDT. The call-in number for the meeting is (866) 299-3188, conference code 9195415676. Briefing materials are available by clicking [HERE](#).

[NARCPOLICY](#)

U.S. Senators Introduce New Climate Change Bill – American Power Act: Introduced by Senators Kerry (D-MA) and Lieberman (I-CT), the American Power Act is a new climate change and energy bill designed to "secure the energy future of the United States, to provide incentives for the domestic production of clean energy technology, to achieve meaningful pollution reductions [and] to create jobs." The nearly 1,000 page bill seeks to reduce carbon pollution by 17% in 2020 and by over 80% in 2050 through a carbon-market system. Under the nationwide framework, states will no longer be permitted to operate cap-and-trade programs for greenhouse gases. The bill establishes a list of GHGs to be regulated, and gives the Environmental Protection Agency administrator the power to designate additional GHGs by rule. An annual tonnage limit will be placed on GHG emissions, and a pricing system for carbon will be created. According to the bill, introductory floor and ceiling prices are set at \$12 (increasing at 3% over inflation annually) and \$25 (increasing at 5% over inflation annually), respectively.

NARC staff is in the process of digesting the bill and will release subsequent analysis as required. Click [HERE](#) to access Senator Kerry's website featuring multiple documents relating to the bill, including the bill text, general summaries and section-by-section breakdowns.

Senators Introduce Bill to Establish Online Earmark Database: Senators Gillibrand (D-NY), Feingold (D-WI), Coburn (R-OK) and McCain (R-AZ) introduced the Earmark Transparency Act of 2010 (S 3335, HR 5258), a bill that would establish an online, public database for earmarks. The database would include all relevant information, including the amount of initial request, amount approved by the committee, amount approved in final legislation, sponsor name, sponsor state or district, project name and other pertinent facts, according to a summary of the proposal.

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.

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

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.

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 or call (888) 272-6911.



REGIONS360⁰

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) recently completed a [Local Food Assessment and Plan for Central Ohio](#), which was featured in a [blog post by the American Farmland Trust](#). MORPC is one of several NARC members engaging in regional food system assessment and planning across the country. For more information or to share your region's work in this area, please contact [Jenee Kresqe](#) at 202.986.1032 ext. 215.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

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.

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.

EDA Announcement of Funding Opportunity for Public Works Infrastructure Improvements and Planning: *Deadline:*

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](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

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 Transportation, 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, Conference Call, 2:00pm ET: The Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards would like to brief you and get your input on topics in our draft 2010 Ozone Implementation Rule proposal. The call-in number for the meeting is (866) 299-3188, conference code 9195415676. Briefing materials are available by clicking [HERE](#).

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, 3:00-4:15pm ET: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Technical Assistance Program (TAP) for state and local officials will host a Webinar, titled *Web Mapping and Online GIS Applications for Renewable Energy*. At the Webinar, you will learn about online tools developed at the DOE National Renewable Energy Laboratory that are available to help you augment renewable energy programs. Attendees will learn how to download maps and data for biomass, geothermal, solar, and wind resources and technologies. This webinar is free, but registration is required. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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, Webinar, 12:00-1:30pm ET: The Federal Highway Administration's Surface Transportation Environment & Planning Cooperative Research Program will sponsor a webinar May 26 to discuss research initiatives that are planned or underway to support livable communities. The webinar will also highlight current practices in the field and educate participants on what FHWA and others are doing to enhance the environmental sensitivity of the nation's transportation system. Topics include the status of FHWA's Livability Initiative, the soon-to-be-released STEP-funded "Livability in Transportation Guidebook: Planning Approaches That Promote Livability," as well as state and local projects underway that support livable communities. Registration is available by clicking [HERE](#).

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 11, Webinar, 1:00-3:00pm ET: The Federal Highway Administration in coordination with the Census Transportation

June 11, Webinar, 1:00-3:00pm ET: The Federal Highway Administration in coordination with the Census Transportation Planning Products program will host a two hour webinar on the Census Bureau's plans for defining new Urban Areas. These areas are important for transportation planning because of requirements for establishing MPOs and revisions to MPO boundaries, TMA designations and roadway functional classification. In addition to discussing Urban Area boundary development, Census Bureau staff will discuss several other geographic related products and programs. Click [HERE](#) to register for this free event.

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

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