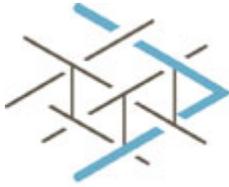


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 20, May 21, 2012

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

NARC released a definitive statement on surface transportation authorization last week. We expressed our concern with the current process and expected outcomes – specifically on the uncertainties surrounding MPOs.

Thank you all for working on these issues with us over the past year. Click [HERE](#) to access our Member Release.

I also thank the West Virginia State Association for having Jenee Kresge speak last week on regional issues.

Last, make it a point of attending the Annual

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)
[PARTNER UPDATE](#)
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



[Registration Open.](#)

A draft agenda is available [HERE](#).

Click [HERE](#) for registration, hotel and sponsorship information.

Other information available:

[Board of Director Elections](#)

[Executive Directors Council Elections](#)

PROGRAM UPDATE

Rooftop Solar Permitting Report: The Interstate Renewable Energy Council, Inc. released *Sharing Success- Emerging Approaches to Efficient Rooftop Solar Permitting*, a new report that outlines innovative strategies being implemented across the United States to help increase

Conference in St. Petersburg. Attendance continues to grow at this premier event for regions of all sizes conducting the spectrum of programs and projects. We have fantastic sessions and there is baseball! I look forward to seeing you there.

Best,
Fred

NARCLEADERSHIP

President Ron

Morrison,

Mayor,

National City, CA

Chair Mark Policinski,

Executive Directors

Council

Executive Director, Ohio-

Kentucky-Indiana

Regional Council of

Governments

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Fred Abousleman

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Economic and

Community Development

Manager

Lindsey Riley

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Communications

Erika Young

the efficiency of permitting procedures for rooftop solar systems. To read the report, click [HERE](#).

Nominate the Next Public Official of the Year: Governing Magazine is accepting nominations for this year's [Public Officials of the Year](#), which recognizes a public official for his/her distinguished leadership, strong management expertise, good governance and notable positive impact. Elected, appointed and career officials from any branch of any state or local government are eligible. [Submit nominations](#) by Friday, June 1, 2012. Nominations are evaluated by a selection committee. Winners will be announced this fall.

SAVE THE DATE: Regional Collaborative Procurement for Solar PV

Webinar: On July 12th, from 3:00-4:00pm ET, NARC is hosting a webinar on regional collaborative procurement. This webinar will discuss how through collaborative procurement, communities can reduce the up-front costs of solar installations by working together as a group to evaluate project sites, procure solar systems and negotiate contracts, thus yielding much lower transaction costs for each individual partner. Learn about the techniques used to establish a successful collaborative procurement process and how it can be replicated in your region. Speakers include: Tyler Espinoza, Project Manager, Optony Inc.; Blaine Collison, Director, U.S. EPA Green Power Partnership; and Jeff King, Principal Environmental Planner, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Click [HERE](#) to register. For questions about the webinar, please email Mia Colson at Mia@NARC.org.

POLICYUPDATE

The House is in recess. The Senate is in session.

NARC Signs Letter Opposing Census Bureau Funding Cuts: NARC, through [The Census Project](#) initiative, signed a letter opposing the House-passed FY13 Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill, which would eliminate funding for the American Community Survey (ACS). More than 500 organizations joined the effort, representing nearly every sector of the nation's economic, civic, and social environment. Click [HERE](#) to access a copy of the letter.

NARC Urges Congress to Maintain Existing Law for Metropolitan Planning Provisions: NARC asked the U.S. House of Representatives

Transportation Director

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and U.S. Senate congressional surface transportation authorization conferees to support the vital role of metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and Regional Councils in transportation decision-making by maintaining the existing metropolitan planning provisions of current law (SAFETEA-LU) and extended by H.R. 4348. As Congress continues to consider the next federal surface transportation authorization in advance of the June 30th deadline, NARC will continue to distribute important information and materials in support of this position. Click [HERE](#) for a copy of NARC's member release.

REGIONS360

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from Broward MPO: Deadline 5:00 PM, May 25, 2012; The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is seeking a qualified consultant to develop the Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update. Potential applications should be able to provide the services as outlined in the RFQ. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

PARTNERUPDATE

Be a Part of the ICMA Annual Conference Program: Speakers Wanted: ICMA staff is now accepting [applications for speakers](#) to participate in our 98th Annual Conference, which takes place October 7-10, 2012 in Phoenix/Maricopa County, Arizona. We are looking for the best combination of panelists to share their expertise during sessions focused on: Business as Unusual: Shared and Regional Service Delivery Approaches and Alternative Business Models; Engaging Citizens by Building Communities Online; Managing Employee Benefits; Finding Pathways from Polarization to Civility; Get (and Keep) a Life! Dealing with Personal and Family Stresses of Local Government Management; and Career tracks focused on assistant managers, and small-community managers. [Download and submit an application](#) by Friday, May 25, to be considered as a speaker (you'll find the application at the bottom of the website page). Applications must be completed electronically and submitted to callforspeakers@icma.org. Full details and application form are available at icma.org/callforspeakers.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

EPA Offers Great Lakes Restoration Grants and Informational Webinar

Applications Due: May 24, 2012

As part of their Great Lakes Restoration Initiative [[GLRI](#)], U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently soliciting applications for grants and cooperative agreements. EPA will competitively award approximately \$20 million for about 100 projects. These grants will fund a wide range of projects in the Great Lakes basin, including work to target invasive species, to protect public health, and to reduce the impact of toxic substances and nonpoint source pollution. Applications must be submitted by May 24, 2012. Click [HERE](#) for instructions on how to apply. Click [HERE](#) to register for a webinar on May 14, 2012 from 10am-12pm CT.

Climate Change and Health: Assessing and Modeling Population Vulnerability to Climate Change

Application Deadline: May 24, 2012

This Funding Opportunity Announcement is being issued by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with participation from the following NIH components: FIC, NCI, NCMHD NHLBI, NIA, NIBIB, NICHD, NLM and OBSSR. It encourages research applications to examine the differential risk factors of populations that lead to or are associated with increased vulnerability to exposures, diseases and other adverse health outcomes related to climate change. Applications may involve either applied research studies that address specific hypotheses about risk factors or population characteristics associated with increased vulnerability, or research projects to develop general models or methods for identifying and characterizing population vulnerability to climate change. The ultimate goal of this research program is to help inform climate change adaptation and public health interventions to reduce current and future vulnerability of various populations to the health effects of climate change. Applications are anticipated to involve a multidisciplinary research team, including experts in health sciences and climatology as well as geography, modeling, statistics, demography, and social and behavioral sciences as appropriate. In addition, partnerships with community-based or advocacy organizations, public health officials, urban planners and others are encouraged. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

\$20 Million Available for EPA Clean Diesel Projects

Deadline: June 4, 2012

EPA is announcing the availability of up to \$20 million in FY12 grant funding through the Diesel Emission Reduction Program to establish clean diesel projects aimed at reducing harmful pollution from the nation's existing fleet of diesel engines and improving air quality and Americans' health. In addition to these grants, approximately \$9 million will be available through direct state allocations. Request for Proposals forms and related documents can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#).

Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) Grants Available from HHS

Deadline: June 5, 2012

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Community and Economic Development (CED) program will provide up to \$10 million in funding for community development corporations to fund CED projects located in food deserts and designed to improve access to healthy, affordable foods. Additional information on the HFFI partnership and the full funding announcement is available [HERE](#).

APA Community Planning Assistance Application Deadline Approaching

Deadline: June 13, 2012

The American Planning Association offers pro bono technical assistance to communities lacking planning resources through its Community Planning Assistance Teams program. Additional information on the program and application process is available [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Conference Calls for Potential i6 Challenge Applicants

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration will continue to hold interactive calls with the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship to offer insight on how to design and implement award winning Proof of Concept innovation and entrepreneurship centers. To register, email i6@eda.gov with your name, title, organization, e-mail address, telephone number, and the date of the conference call you plan to join. The dial in number is 1-888-889-2040; the participant passcode is 3818714. Calls are at the following times (all ET):

- May 22, 4:00pm: Dr. Christina Gabriel, president, University Energy Partnership
- May 24, 2:30pm: Dr. Mary Sue Coleman, president, Univ. of Michigan and co-chair of NACIE

- May 29, 4:00pm: Ms. Krisztina “Z” Holly, vice provost for innovation, USC
- May 30, 4:00pm: Mr. Ray Leach, CEO of Jumpstart Inc.

White House Budget Update Call

May 23, 2012, 4:00pm ET

Join the White House Office of Public Engagement for a budget update call with Robert Gordon, Executive Associate Director at the Office of Management and Budget. Please [RSVP here](#) to join, and be sure to dial in ten minutes early. Dial In: 800.230.1951, Passcode Title: White House Update Call.

EPA Webcast Series on Funding & Financing Local Government Clean Energy Programs: Part II: Getting it Funded: Finding Funding for your Clean Energy Programs

May 30, 2012, 2:00-3:30pm ET

Part II of this webinar series explores the holy grail of local government program design: finding sources of funding. This fast-paced presentation will cover seed funding versus sustainable funding, funding that can be used up versus what must be repaid, sources of revenue, and more. Local government case studies will demonstrate how to identify and understand the sources of funding, including grants, energy savings, partnering with the private sector, fees and taxes, leasing agreements, and bonds. To register, click [HERE](#).

Improve Efficiency of Rooftop Solar Permitting

June 6, 2012, 2:00-3:00pm ET

There is a general consensus that to bring the price of rooftop solar installations down significantly there needs to be improvements made to increase the efficiency of the permitting process. This ICLEI hosted free webinar will discuss the approaches being used across the country to help catalyze action at a local, regional and state level to improve the efficiency of the rooftop permitting process and will highlight specific improvements being put into place. To register, click [HERE](#).

46th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 10-14, 2012, St. Petersburg, FL: Join us for the the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. NARC's Annual Conference and Exhibition is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Registration and additional information is available on the conference website, available by clicking [HERE](#).

***EPA Webcast Series on Funding & Financing Local Government
Clean Energy Programs: Part III: Keeping it Going: Financing
Options for your Clean Energy Programs***

June 13, 2012, 2:00-3:30pm ET

It's one thing to secure initial funding to launch a clean energy program; it's another to implement smart financing mechanisms that can help leverage existing funds and make clean energy investments more affordable for clean energy program audiences (residential, commercial, and municipal sectors). In Part III of this webinar series, learn how to choose and implement financing options that meet local needs. Hear from local governments about successful programs using a variety of financing models. Also learn about new resources from EPA that can help identify and design financing programs that are specific to a community's needs: the [Financing Program Decision Tool](http://go.usa.gov/VRI) (<http://go.usa.gov/VRI>), and [Clean Energy Financing Programs: A Decision Resource for States and Communities](http://go.usa.gov/VRI) (<http://go.usa.gov/VRI>). To register, click [HERE](#).

NLC and FHWA Webinar on TIFIA

July 11, 2012, 1:30-3:30pm ET

The National League of Cities (NLC) and Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Innovative Program Delivery is pleased to host a webinar on the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program. This webinar will help city, county and public transportation leader's gain an understanding of innovative financing techniques used to construct large infrastructure projects. This webinar will provide an executive overview of TIFIA Federal Credit Assistance program, whose objective is to leverage Federal transportation funding to attract private investment to the U.S. surface transportation sector. After successfully completing this webinar participants will understand the benefits of federal credit assistance and the intricacies of securing this funding to build needed infrastructure. There is no cost to participate in this webinar and it is open to everyone who is interested. You must register in advance, click [HERE](#), to reserve your connection for this webinar. For more information, contact Thay Bishop of the Innovative Program Delivery Office at 404-562-3695 or thay.bishop@dot.gov.

***SAVE THE DATE: Regional Collaborative Procurement for Solar PV
Webinar***

July 12th, 2012 3:00-4:00pm ET

NARC is hosting a webinar on regional collaborative procurement. This webinar will discuss how through collaborative procurement, communities can reduce the up-front costs of solar installations by working together as a group to evaluate project sites, procure solar systems and negotiate contracts, thus yielding much lower transaction costs for each individual partner. Learn about the techniques used to establish a successful collaborative procurement process and how it can be replicated in your region. Speakers include Tyler Espinoza, Project Manager, Optony Inc.; Blaine Collison, Director, U.S. EPA Green Power Partnership; and Jeff King, Principal Environmental Planner, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Click [HERE](#) to register. For questions about the webinar, please email Mia Colson at Mia@NARC.org.

2012 Ohio Conference on Freight

September 13-14, 2012, Toledo, OH: Save the Date! The Ohio Conference on Freight is a highly regarded forum featuring experts in all modes of freight transportation. It focuses on the development of freight-related economic opportunity within Ohio and its surrounding states and the wider Great Lakes region, including Canada. Click [HERE](#) to access the conference website; registration will open on June 27, 2012.

2012 Executive Directors' Conference

September 24-26, 2012, Boise, ID: Save the Date! Join Executive Directors and senior staff of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations at this premier regional training event. Registration information and an agenda will be available in mid 2012.

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