

NARCLEADERSHIP

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

EXECUTIVEBRIEF

Colleagues,

This week we welcomed two summer interns—Dustin Russell and Andy MacCracken. Dustin is pursuing his MPA at American University; he will mainly work with Naomi Friedman, NARC Project Director, on the U.S. Department of Labor project related to green jobs.

Andy is a rising senior at American University; he will mainly work with Erika Young, NARC Transportation Director, on transportation policy and program work.

We've been busy this week preparing for the 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition, finalizing sessions and logistics. Over a hundred different regions will come together to learn and share with their colleagues from around the country.

One great discussion session, "U.S. Census and Planning for a Changing Population," will feature a presentation on the recently released Brookings Institution study of demographic change. This is just one of many intriguing sessions you will experience.

We've also been analyzing the American Power Act and the new release of U.S. DOT TIGER funding; click HERE to access information. More information is available below.

I was honored to spend an afternoon this week with the Pew Center on the States and the Partnership for America's Economic Success in a roundtable forum discussing education and economic development. NARC was invited along with major industry partners, like the Hanover Investment Group and the National Association of Manufacturers, to discuss the role and impact of early childhood education on career paths, economic competitiveness and national well-being.

The countdown to Cleveland is on – see you in a few weeks.

Best, Fred

NARCASTAFF

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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Just over a week to go! If you haven't registered—don't miss this opportunity! Register Today!

Draft Conference Agenda—Updated June 3, 2010

Board of Directors and Executive Directors Council Election Information

Annual Membership Elections: ACTION REQUIRED!

The Annual Business Meeting and Elections will be held on Wednesday, June 15. Only NARC members of current standing may vote. Please email or fax Sylvia Bryant, sylvia@narc.org or 202.986.1038, a Voting Delegates form, which includes the following information: Name of Voting Delegate, Title, Name of Regional Council / Metropolitan Planning Organization, City and State.

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

Obama Administration Hosts National Rural Summit: On June 3, the Obama Administration held the National Summit of Rural America in Hillsboro, Missouri with agricultural leaders, farmers, ranchers, community leaders, and rural residents who shared their vision and ideas to rebuild and revitalize rural America.

TIGER II Webinar: The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) will host a TIGER II Planning Grants webinar on June 15, 2010 from 1:00-2:30pm ET. This webinar will cover the criteria and eligibility requirements for the \$35 million to be expended on planning from the overall total \$600 million appropriated for the TIGER II Discretionary Grant Program.

TIGER II NOFA: The U.S. DOT released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the TIGER II Discretionary Grant Program on June 2, 2010. This NOFA acts as the grant solicitation for the TIGER II program, providing a total of \$600 million for capital investment in surface transportation projects.

NARC Transportation Committee Webinar: NARC's next Transportation Committee webinar will be held on June 8, 2010 from 12:00pm-2:00pm and will be hosted by the Rural Transportation Subcommittee.

NARC Attends Seniors and the Economy Roundtable: NARC recently attended a roundtable event on Seniors and the Economy, hosted by the Congressional Taskforce on Seniors.

DOT to Host Webinar on Transportation and Climate Change Report: The U.S. DOT is hosting a webinar on Wednesday, June 16 from 1-2:30pm to detail its new report to Congress, "Transportation's Role in Reducing U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions."

EPA Sends Clean Watershed Needs Report to Congress: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sent the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) 2008 Report to Congress, which summarizes the results of EPA's 15th national survey of capital costs to address water quality or water quality related public health problems.

NARCPOLICY

President Obama Pledges to Advance Climate Change Efforts: In a speech on June 2 at Carnegie Mellon University, President Obama outlined his interests in instituting a national clean energy plan and promised to advance climate change efforts, particularly as it relates to pending legislation.

"...[T]he votes may not be there right now, but I intend to find them in the coming months. I will continue to make the case for a clean-energy future wherever and whenever I can. I will work with anyone to get this done – and we will get it done."

In the coming days and weeks, the U.S. Senate will debate several items related to climate change, including a soon-to-be-released U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report on the American Power Act; a vote on 6/10 on a resolution to prohibit EPA actions on climate change; and, the potential introduction of a new bill that will have language on energy efficiency, stronger vehicle fuel standards, a minimum "clean energy" requirement for utilities, and incentives to shut down the highest-emitting coal plants.

Support Livable Communities: Both the House (HR 4690) and Senate (S1619) have bills supporting the regional role in planning 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.

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.

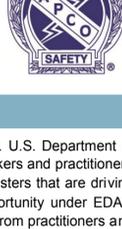
U.S. DOT Announced New Rights of the Flying Public: The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Ray LaHood announced this week that among other changes, passengers who are involuntarily bumped from a flight would be paid \$1,350, rather than the \$650 fee that currently stands. Passengers would also be allowed to get a full refund of their ticket price within 24 hours of purchase and requiring reimbursement of baggage fees and expenses when luggage is not delivered on time.

PARTNERUPDATES

Brownfields 2011 Call for Ideas: The 14th National Brownfields Conference is coming to Philadelphia on April 3-5, 2011. Cosponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the conference attracts more than five thousand registrants and hundreds of exhibitors.

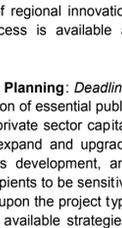
Call for Session Proposals: The Call for Session Proposals (CFSP) for the 10th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, scheduled for February 3-5, 2011 in Charlotte, NC, has opened. The conference features the latest research, cutting-edge implementation tools and techniques, best practices, model projects, policies and codes, coordinated networking activities, interactive learning experiences, and new partners.

Local and Rural Road Safety Peer-to-Peer Program: Following on the success of other Peer-to-Peer Program, the U.S. Federal Highway Administration has launched the Local and Rural Road Safety Peer to Peer LRR Safety P2P Program. FHWA established this new Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Program as a form of technical assistance for local and rural highway agencies to resolve safety problems on the roads they maintain.



Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Practitioner's Network: The CIA Practitioner's Network will provide you with free email updates, such as TRB Newsletters, AASHTO Daily News, what is happening in EPA, NHI and NTI Courses being offered, questions from your contemporaries, the latest publications, and upcoming webinars; an opportunity to participate in a Practitioner conference call every other month with a focus topic of the Practitioners' choosing—notes are taken and shared if you cannot participate in the conference call; and an opportunity to ask practitioners about relevant transportation issues.

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.



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

EDA Regional Innovation Clusters Mapping Project Grant Opportunity: Deadline: June 21, 2010. U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced a new competition to help policymakers across America's regions identify their strengths and more effectively tap into the regional innovation clusters that are driving 21st century job growth.

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 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 8, Webinar, 12:00-2:00pm: NARC's next Transportation Committee webinar will be hosted by the NARC Rural Transportation Subcommittee. This month's topic will address project selection prioritization in rural and small metro regions.

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.

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.

February 3-5, 2011, Charlotte, NC: The 10th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, "Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities in Concert," will kick off on Thursday morning and continue through Saturday afternoon and includes a dynamic mix of plenaries, breakouts, implementation workshops, specialized trainings, and coordinated networking activities.

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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