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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

One week to the Annual Conference and we are excited to see you all. You can still register!

I want to emphasize the outstanding sessions we, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, and others have put together. Please attend as many session and workshops as you can – we have speakers flying in from around the country to provide insight into regional best-practice. Additionally, we will conduct the NARC Executive Directors Council and Board of Directors elections, will unveil winning projects and programs during your

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)

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[Last Change to Register!](#)

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

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

PROGRAM UPDATE

EPA Releases Fact Sheet on the Economic Benefits of Protecting Healthy Watersheds: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a new [fact sheet](#) as part of its [Healthy Watersheds Initiative \(HWI\)](#) describing the economic benefits of protecting healthy watersheds by highlighting examples from existing peer-reviewed literature and studies. Click [HERE](#) to access the fact sheet.

Awards Dinner and – the NY Mets are in town to play the Rays!

See you soon,
Fred

NARC LEADERSHIP

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NARC STAFF

Fred Abousleman
Executive Director
Shannon Baxevanis
Deputy Director
Mia Colson
Program Analyst
Jenee Kresge
Economic and
Community Development
Manager
Lindsey Riley
Deputy of
Communications
Erika Young
Transportation Director

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Make NARC your homepage —

POLICY UPDATE

The House is in recess on Monday and will return for the remainder of the week. The Senate is in session.

FY13 Appropriations Update: Both the House and the Senate continue to work on the FY13 appropriations bills. This week, the House takes up the Energy-Water, Homeland Security and Legislative Branch bills.

REGIONS360

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from Broward MPO: Deadline 5:00 PM, July 2, 2012; The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is seeking qualified consultants to conduct a transit alternative analysis study for the University Drive corridor in Broward County, Florida to implement the Premium Transit and Mobility Hub concept of the Broward MPO's 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. Potential applicants should be able to provide the services as outlined in the attached RFQ announcement. The RFQ document can be downloaded by clicking **HERE**.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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**.

[click here to learn how.](#)

Green Infrastructure Course

Application Deadline: June 15, 2012

The Conservation Fund is offering a [Green Infrastructure 201 Pilot Course: Implementing Green Infrastructure at Multiple Scales](#) course July 16-19, 2012. This course will provide participants with applications and techniques for implementation of green infrastructure at multiple scales, addressing issues such as: how to obtain and sustain political will and constituency support; how to successfully incorporate green infrastructure into existing plans; how to identify funding sources and more. Scholarship assistance is available to state and local government representatives and non-governmental organizations. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Community Connect Broadband Funding

Application Deadline: June 18, 2012

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced the availability of funding for nonprofits, local/state governments and other organizations through the Community Connect program to provide broadband service where it is least likely to be available. Click [HERE](#) for details and application forms.

Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge: Advanced Manufacturing

Application Deadline: July 9, 2012

Several agencies from the Department of Commerce and Department of Labor have announced a multi-agency effort to fund advanced manufacturing activities that drive high potential industry clusters. The Advanced Manufacturing Jobs Accelerator allows applicants to submit a single multi-year project narrative to multiple agencies which will in turn fund various aspects of the project. Up to 12 awards are anticipated, with each award receiving funding from one or more participating agencies. Access the Federal Funding Opportunity [HERE](#) or click [HERE](#) for more resources and information.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Conference Calls for Potential i6 Challenge Applicants

June 5, 2012, 4:00 pm ET

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. Calls are at the following times (all ET):

- June 5, 4:00pm: Dr. Curt Carlson, President and CEO of SRI International
- June 11, 12:25pm: Dr. Holden Thorp, Chancellor, Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- June 19, 4:00 pm: Dr. Barron Harvey, Dean, Howard Univ. School of Business
- June 20, 4:00 pm: Dr. Claude Canizares, Vice President of Research and Associate Provost, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- June 27, 4:00 pm: Dr. Desh Deshpande, Founder, Deshpande Foundation

Improve Efficiency of Rooftop Solar Permitting Webinar

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](#).

Next Generation Broadband Webinar from NALGEP

June 7, 2012, 1:30-2:30pm ET

The National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP) will host a webinar on the importance of high-speed broadband as critical infrastructure in the 21st century, including information in its recently released white paper, **[Next Generation Broadband: Cornerstone Infrastructure for 21st-Century Brownfields Redevelopment](#)**. Register and find out more [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's Clean Water Act Integrated Planning Framework Webinar

June 14, 2012, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm ET: The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is offering a webinar to discuss the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on its updated and revised Integrated Planning Approach Framework, which is intended to help guide States and localities to address their pressing water quality issues through integrated municipal stormwater and wastewater plans. WEF will offer a webinar on the key provisions and revisions of the revised framework and will provide their perspectives on the implementation process. To register for this webcast, click [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>), and [Clean Energy Financing Programs: A Decision Resource for States and Communities](#) (<http://go.usa.gov/VRI>). To register, click [HERE](#).

NLC and FHWA Webinar on TIFIA

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

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.

13th National Tools of the Trade Conference

September 12 - 14, 2012, Big Sky, MT

Join transportation professionals from around the country to network, share ideas, and learn about the latest developments and opportunities for transportation planning in small and medium sized communities. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

2012 Ohio Conference on Freight

September 13-14, 2012, Sandusky, 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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National Association of Regional Councils
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305
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