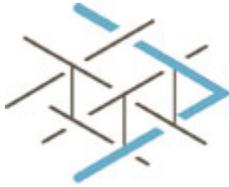


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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**eRegions**

**EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

Colleagues,

Thank you everyone who attended, gave presentations and sponsored NARC's 46th Annual Conference in St. Petersburg Florida last week. Special thanks to our host the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, their Board, Executive Director and staff. The conference was well attended and the sessions were insightful and information packed. A conference follow-up email will be sent this week with a link to presentations and materials.

It was also great to have had conversations with many members on the

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)  
[REGIONS 360](#) [PARTNER UPDATE](#)  
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

## PROGRAM UPDATE

**NARC's Transportation Webinar:** NARC's next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, 2012 from 12:00pm-2:00pm ET. NARC and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will discuss their recently released report on transit in nonmetropolitan regions. While the agenda is yet to be released, you can Click [HERE](#) to register early.

**NARC Report Released, *Integrating Public Health and Transportation Planning: Perspectives for MPOs and COGs*:** NARC recently released a summary report of efforts made by metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to integrate public health factors and considerations into their transportation plans. Additionally, the report offers options through which an MPO can work with its Council of Government (COG) to integrate non-transportation planning activities into the transportation and public health discussion. Click [HERE](#) for the report.

**EPA Announces Stormwater Runoff and Wastewater**

value of NARC – especially in tough political times and with reports like this from *Congressional Quarterly* – “the effects of the oncoming automatic spending cuts are already starting to be felt by government agencies and contractors and will build in the second half of this year, according to budget experts and lobbyists. Although the sequester does not formally take effect until Jan. 2, it will reduce spending by \$109 billion over the course of the entire fiscal year, which begins three months earlier on Oct. 1. Federal agencies, defense contractors and other organizations that rely on government contracts or grants are faced with making decisions on hiring, budgeting and projects for fiscal 2013 without any certainty of how much they will be able to spend or generate in revenue.”

It is important with issues like sequestration, among others, that NARC members stay engaged, communicate with us and help us enhance the role of regions in Washington, DC. Your support – at home, in DC and for our

**Framework:** Last week the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a new framework to help local governments meet their Clean Water Act obligations. The Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework assists EPA regional offices, states, and local governments to develop voluntary storm and wastewater management plans and implement effective integrated approaches that will protect public health by reducing overflows from wastewater systems and pollution from stormwater. EPA's framework outlines new flexibility to pursue innovative, cost-saving solutions, like green infrastructure, and will help communities as they develop plans that prioritize their investments in storm and wastewater infrastructure. Click [HERE](#) to access the Framework.

**President Signs Executive Order on Broadband Construction:** Last week President Obama signed an Executive Order (EO) to make broadband construction along Federal roadways and properties up to 90 percent less expensive and more efficient by adopting a uniform approach and allowing the deployment of broadband during construction. Also, the White House announced a new partnership, US Ignite, which is intended to create new services to promote broadband adoption. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the EO and the partnership.

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## POLICYUPDATE

*The House and Senate is in session.*

### **NARC Signs Letter Supporting Mandatory Rural Development**

**Funding in Farm Bill:** The Senate Agriculture Committee recently passed the 2012 Farm Bill (S 3240, the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012), without including any mandatory funding for Rural Development programs. The 2008 Farm Bill, in contrast, devoted \$150 million to Rural Development. The NARC joined over 175 other organizations in urging the Senate to amend the bill to include funding for a number of programs. Text of the letter sent last week is available [HERE](#). A related amendment was introduced, along with several others, that would impact the Rural Development section of the Farm Bill; contact [Jenee Kresge](#) for details.

**FY13 Appropriations Update:** Both the House and the Senate continue to work on the FY13 appropriations bills. This week, the House works on the Agriculture, Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (HUD),

local governments,  
regional councils and  
MPOs – is critical.

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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Financial Services, and Interior-Environment appropriations bills.

**Federal Transportation Program Update:** As the current authorization extension for federal transportation program expires on June 30, 2012, many lawmakers and transportation stakeholders are increasingly concerned that Congress may not authorize the next federal surface transportation program prior to this deadline and another extension may be required. *The Hill* recently published a summary of recent congressional activity, which you can access [HERE](#).

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## **REGIONS360**

**Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from Broward MPO:** Deadline 5:00 PM, July 2, 2012; The Broward 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](#).

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## **PARTNERUPDATE**

**“Can Sustainability Be Sustained” by Bill Barnes.** The Oberlin Project is a large, integrated agenda for “holistic urban management” that puts the project at the proverbial cutting edge of sustainability work. Undertaking and accumulating arrays of effective initiatives -- from marginal to transformative, from local to global, and under whatever label you prefer -- seems more appealing and likely more effective than the dubious titillation of actually peering over the precipice of catastrophe. Click [HERE](#) to access this latest issue of the National League of Cities' *Emerging Issues* column by Bill Barnes.

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## **GRANTOPPORTUNITIES**

**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

[click here to learn how.](#)

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.

### **Economic Development Administration's i6 Challenge**

*Deadline: July 20, 2012*

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, in conjunction with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, is holding the third round of the i6 Challenge. Teams must submit proposals to establish or expand Proof of Concept Centers: institutions like the Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation at the Massachusetts Institute for Technology that provide seed grants for innovators and entrepreneurs. Six winning teams will be awarded up to \$1 million each. Click [HERE](#) for more information and see Upcoming Events for related webinars.

### **Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) Visioning Challenge**

*Deadline: July 23, 2012*

The EDA will select six cities, one from each of its regions, to award up to \$1 million to conduct their own regional two-phase competitions to encourage innovation in regional development. In the first phase experts in engineering, transportation, economic development or other fields will submit economic development proposals for the area. Those who submit the highest-rated proposals will receive a cash prize and then, in the second phase, go on to compete for a larger prize by creating a more comprehensive development plan. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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## **UPCOMINGEVENTS**

### ***Conference Calls for Potential i6 Challenge Applicants***

**June 19, 2012, 4:00 pm ET**

The EDA 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](mailto: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 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

***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\*\*](mailto:thay.bishop@dot.gov).

***Regional Collaborative Procurement for Solar PV Webinar***

**July 12, 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](mailto: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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