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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS
Vol. X, No. 18, July 2, 2010
eRegions

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Please have a safe, happy and fun holiday weekend!
Cheers from your Staff at NARC.

converge ■ learn ■ share

executive directors' conference and
regional metropolitan and urban policy forum
september 27-30
austin, tx

REGISTER TODAY!

HURRY—Early Bird Registration Ends on July 15th!

2010 Executive Directors' Conference: September 28-30, 2010
Join the Capital Area Council of Governments, Brazos Valley Council of Governments, Central Texas Council of Governments and NARC for the 2010 Executive Directors' Conference in Austin, TX. Bring yourself and your Deputy or Senior Staff to meet with experts, network with your colleagues and share best practices in management, programs, finance, budget, governance and other issues of importance to you.

Regional Metropolitan and Urban Policy Forum: September 27-28, 2010
Regional councils of all sizes have core cities and towns that are facing issues of growth, infrastructure, security and safety. This Forum will be a discussion on recent trends and opportunities in metropolitan policy for regions, and will address related federal, state, and local issues. Regions and partners will come together to discuss recent federal action on livability, transportation, climate change and other issues. The Forum is open to regional councils of all sizes. By registering for the Executive Directors' Conference you can attend at no additional cost.

Omni Austin Downtown Hotel—$121/night
Click HERE to reserve your room online.
800-849-6664
(Please be sure to mention that you are reserving under NARC's room block.)

Click HERE to access the conference website, registration and hotel information.
Contact Lindsey Riley, lindsey@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x220 with questions.

DIRECTORY OF REGIONS

The **National Directory of Regions** survey was sent out via email to all Executive Directors this morning. If your organization has not received this survey, click HERE for access. If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Bryant, sylvia@narc.org or 202.986.1032.

NARCPROGRAM

NARC and ICLEI Provide HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program Information. Click HERE to access a summary of the recently released U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Notice of Funding

Availability (NOFA) for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program. NARC encourages members to apply. Click **HERE** to access the HUD NOFA.

TIGER II: The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) held a TIGER II Planning Grants webinar on July 1, 2010 to 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. The deadline for pre-applications is now July 26, 2010 and instructions for the pre-application instructions can be found **HERE**.

Transportation Planning Safety Working Group: Serving as Chair of the Transportation Review Board's (TRB) Transportation Safety Planning subcommittee, NARC presented on potential research needs within the transportation safety planning field this week at the Transportation Planning Safety Working Group semi-annual meeting. Potential areas of research include roadway safety linkages to public health and to livability, linking safety with other federal programs, examinations of other noteworthy safety practices both nationally and internationally, re-visiting Safety Conscious Planning activities, and how performance measures play into transportation safety planning. Any individual interested in participating further on this issue should contact Erika Young, at **erika@narc.org** or 202.986.1032 x212.

NARCPOLICY

Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV) Passes. On Monday, the longest serving U.S. senator, Robert Byrd, passed. Senator Byrd served in the Senate from 1959 to 2010. Initially elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1952, Byrd served there for six years before being elected to the Senate in 1958. He rose to become one of the most powerful members of the Senate, serving multiple Democratic leadership roles, including secretary of the Senate Democratic Caucus, Senate Majority Whip, Senate Majority Leader and Senate Minority Leader. From 1989 to 2010 he served as the President pro tempore of the United States Senate when the Democratic Party had a majority, and as President pro tempore emeritus during periods of Republican majority beginning in 2001. He also served several times as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations. West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin will appoint Byrd's successor, expected to be a Democrat, to serve until the 2012 elections. Two elections will occur in November 2012: one to complete the two months that will remain of Byrd's unexpired term and one for the full six year term that will follow.

House Adopts One-Year Budget Plan. Yesterday, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted the Budget Enforcement Resolution (**H Res 1493**) to set a discretionary spending cap for fiscal 2011 spending bills. The bill sets the FY11 discretionary spending at $1.121 trillion, nearly $7 billion under the President's request. Now the appropriators can move forward on individual spending allocations for each of the 12 spending bills for FY11. This does not apply to the Senate, who will have to undertake its own actions.

FY11 Transportation-HUD Appropriations: The House Transportation (DOT) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Appropriations Subcommittee passed the FY11 Transportation-HUD Appropriations legislation with $126.4 billion, approximately $3.3 billion higher than FY10. DOT's funding includes:

- $16.5 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration,
- $45.2 billion for the Federal Highway Administration, and
- $11.3 billion for the Federal Transit Administration.

The legislation proposes $527 million for Livable Communities initiatives run by DOT, $200 million of which will be paid for out of the Highway Trust Fund. The legislation must now pass out of full committee, and then proceed to passage in the House and reconciled with the Senate. Click **HERE** for more detailed breakdown of the appropriations.

Disaster/War Supplemental Appropriations: The House moved closer toward passage of an emergency supplemental appropriations bill that would fund operations in Iraq, Afghanistan as well as a number of other initiatives. The House Rules Committee approved the inclusion of several amendments, including the rescission of $2.2 billion in contract authority for certain highway programs, to include metropolitan planning, CMAQ, STP, ADHS, among other programs. Unlike previous rounds of rescissions, the amendment explicitly prohibits the application of the proportionality rule, codified by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2008, to this round of rescissions. Consideration is anticipated after the July 4 recess and could happen as soon as July 13. NARC will continue to monitor this legislation and discuss potential implications on local transportation projects with the Administration and Members of Congress. Please direct any inquiries on this matter to Erika Young, at **erika@narc.org** or 202.986.1032 x212.

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.

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, contact Shannon Menard at Shannon@NARC.org or 202.986.1032 x217.

PARTNERUPDATES

TARC Releases Two Requests for Proposals (RFPs): The Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) seeks contractors to assist regional councils and economic development districts (EDDs) with: development of a web-based or software-based application to aid in the development of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and required components of the CEDS; creation of an interactive website for the CEDS incorporating valuable geographic information systems (GIS) features with both ad hoc and standardized report-generating abilities that assist EDDs in responding to requests for information from 1) businesses/industry, 2) units of government, 3) site selectors, and 4) workforce development entities; development and acquisition by lease and/or out-right purchase of web-based economic development data tools and software-based applications that assist regional councils and economic development districts (EDDs) in responding to requests for information from 1) businesses/industry, 2) units of government, 3) site selectors, and 4) workforce development entities. The economic development data tools and/or applications must be sustainable and offer access to timely, accurate and relevant data such as socioeconomic, demographic, workforce, business/industry and industry cluster data and provide the ability conduct forecasts of this data. Click HERE to access the RFP for economic development data tools and applications; click HERE to access the RFP for CEDS development and interactive CEDS website design.

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 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. The LRR Safety P2P is a free volunteer-oriented program that will provide peer assistance through several venues. Assistance can be in the form of phone calls, email exchanges, general instruction or site visits depending on the agency's needs. Experts with knowledge in various local and rural road safety issues have volunteered their time to provide assistance to their peers requesting help. More information on this P2P program is available on the FHWA Safety website http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ or by clicking HERE.

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. If you would like to join this web-based network, please contact FHWA's Brenda Kragh at 202-366-2064 or Brenda.Kragh@dot.gov.

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.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

SBA Announces Funding Available to Support Regional Clusters, Job Creation: The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the availability of funding to support economic development and job creation through existing regional clusters. As part of its Regional Cluster Initiative, SBA will accept proposals from local and regional cluster initiatives beginning July 7 for funding of up to $600,000 per cluster to support up to 15 projects across the country. Proposals should be submitted by the cluster's coordinating entity. Click HERE for additional information.

EDA i6 Challenge: *Deadline: July 15, 2010.* The **i6 Challenge** is a new $12 million innovation competition administered by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce, in partnership with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF). EDA will award up to $1 million to each of six winning teams with the most innovative ideas to drive technology commercialization and entrepreneurship in their regions. NIH and NSF will award a total of up to $6M in additional funding to their Small Business Innovation Research grantees associated with winning teams. Click **HERE** for more information or email **i6@doc.gov**.

EPA Climate Showcase Communities Grants Available: *Deadline: July 26, 2010.* The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is making available up to $10 million in grants to local governments (including councils of governments and regional or interstate entities) to establish and carry out initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Approximately 25 cooperative agreements are expected to be funded through the Climate Showcase Communities program, ranging between $100,000 to $500,000 with a required 50 percent cost share. Proposed projects should create sustainable community actions that can be used elsewhere, generate cost-effective greenhouse gas reductions and improve the environmental, economic, public health, and social conditions in a community. This is the second round of funding administered by EPA's Local Climate and Energy Program for the Climate Showcase Communities program. Additional information on the grant program and application process is available **HERE** and at **www.grants.gov**.

U.S. DOT and HUD Joint Effort Combines TIGER II and HUD Sustainable Communities Challenge Grant Initiatives: *Deadline: July 26, 2010.* U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced a groundbreaking collaborative effort designed to help foster planning for more livable, sustainable communities – places where transportation, housing and commercial development investments are coordinated to better serve the people living in those communities. Together, for the first time ever, will join forces to award up to $75 million in funding – $35 million in TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) II Planning Grants and $40 million in Sustainable Community Challenge Grants for localized planning activities that ultimately lead to projects that integrate transportation, housing and economic development. Click **HERE** for additional information.

HUD Released the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program NOFA: *Deadline: August 23, 2010.* Click HERE to access the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and related information. Below is a brief summary of key points of the funding. A complete review will be provided by NARC in the coming days. Approximately $98 million will be made available through this NOFA in the form of Cooperative Agreements. The program will support two funding categories – (1) Creation of Regional Plans for Sustainable Development, and (2) Detailed Execution Plans and Programs. Awards will be based on regional population and geographic boundaries, and categorized as either Large Metropolitan Regions (500,000 population or more); Medium-Sized Regions (200,000 to 499,999 population); or Small-Sized Regions, Rural Communities, and Small Town Areas (200,000 population or less). Click **HERE** to access NARC's recent Membership Alert with additional information.

USDA Announces Hunger-Free Communities Grants: *Deadline: September 1, 2010.* The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) this week released a request for proposals for Hunger-Free Communities grants, which invest in research, planning, and various hunger relief activities to help end hunger in America. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, also known as the Farm Bill, authorizes $5 million in funding to deliver help to Americans in need. Through the grants, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) seeks strategies that support the creation of Hunger-Free Communities by funding activities including food distribution, community outreach, resource development and other methods to make food more accessible to those most in need. The program includes Planning and Assessment Grants ($1 million) to evaluate food insecurity in communities and develop strategies to become hunger-free and Implementation Grants ($4 million) for communities that already have a plan to end hunger and need resources for program implementation. Additional information about the grants and the application process is available **HERE** and at **www.grants.gov**.

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

July 28, August 3 and 10, Webinar Series, 1:00-4:00pm ET: NARC and ESRI, with support from the Federal Geographic Data Committee, will hold a 3-part webinar series on collecting and creating accurate and appropriate metadata, a critical component of any local or regional geographic information systems program. Click **HERE** for a flyer with more information and click **HERE** to register.

September 27-30, Austin, TX: NARC, the Capital Area Council of Governments, Brazos Valley Council of Governments, and Central Texas Council of Governments will host the 2010 Executive Directors' Conference and Regional Metropolitan and Urban Policy Forum. Full conference details are available on the conference website, available by clicking **HERE**.

BUILDING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES – LARGE, SMALL, URBAN AND RURAL – THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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