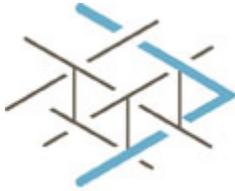


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

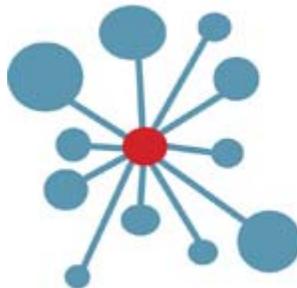
President Ron Morrison,
Mayor,
National City, CA
Chair Mark Policinski,
Executive Directors
Council
Executive Director,
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana
Regional Council of
Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Congress and the Administration came to a loggerhead over FAA Authorization last week. Without passage of the aviation authorization, the Federal government cannot collect taxes on airline tickets or move forward on projects. The issues of contention are

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



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executive directors' conference
september 18-21, 2011
jacksonville, fl

REGISTER TODAY!

Join the Northeast Florida Regional Council and NARC for the 2011 Executive Directors' Conference in Jacksonville, FL. Executive Directors and senior staff are invited 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. For more information or to register for the event, click [HERE](#).

PROGRAM UPDATE

Call for Nominations for Forestry Advisory Council: The U.S. Forest

unionization rights and funding for rural airports. NARC has long supported rural airport provisions in the bill and strongly supports small and rural communities having access to daily flights – provisions within the Essential Air Service section of the bill. This stall portends difficult passage of other authorizations this year. We will keep you posted.

Special thanks to Matt Stoll and staff from Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) in Boise for hosting Lindsey Riley and I last week. We did a site visit for the 2012 Executive Directors' Conference, briefed their board and partners on issues in Washington, DC and took Lindsey to her first rodeo. Click [HERE](#) here to see roping, riding and singing cowboy mayors.

Special thanks also to the National Association of Counties for their hosting a special session on community sustainability at their annual conference in Portland. Erika Young

Service is seeking nominations to fill three positions on the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC). The Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program and related natural resources. Nominations must be received by August 29, 2011. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Opportunity to Comment on Strong Cities, Strong Communities Pilot Challenge Funding: *Deadline for Comments: August 10, 2011.* The Administration recently announced the [Strong Cities, Strong Communities](#) (SC2) initiative, a multi-agency capacity-building effort to coordinate federal resources in support of improved planning, housing and economic planning to face economic challenges in communities across the country. The Administration also requested public comments on the structure of the SC2 Pilot Challenge, which will offer \$6 million funding via the Economic Development Administration's Economic Adjustment Assistance program for six cities to develop and implement comprehensive economic development strategic plans on land-use, infrastructure and economic and social resources. The full Federal Register entry requesting comments is available [HERE](#). This is an opportunity for individual members, as well as NARC, to submit comments. Please send [Jenee Kresge](#) any recommendations for general comments NARC can submit on behalf of its membership.

POLICYUPDATE

The Senate and House are in session.

Key Activities in Congress this Week: This week Congress will continue work on the debt ceiling efforts and reducing the national debt with the House expected to vote on a proposal sometime during the week. The House proposal is a two-step plan that would allow the federal debt limit to immediately rise by about \$1 trillion and tie a second increase next year to the ability of a new joint Congressional committee to produce more deficit reduction. It would also cut current spending and put legal limits on future spending, saving what is estimated to be about \$1.2 trillion over 10 years. The plan calls for no new revenue. Also, the House will resume work on the FY12 appropriations bills, focusing on the Interior-Environment spending bill, which seeks a \$1.5 billion cut and blocks some environmental regulations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Also, both Chambers will look to finalize an extension of expired Federal Aviation Administration

and Valerie Hermanson presented as part of our FHWA sustainable communities project for local governments.

This week I'll be with the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission for briefings and site visits.

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

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Executive Director

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Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Kristin Heery

Program Analyst

Jenee Kresge

Economic and
Community

Development Manager

Lindsey Riley

Deputy of
Communications

Erika Young

Transportation Director

To access past issues of *eRegions*, [visit our website](#).

(FAA) programs.

PARTNERUPDATE

ICMA Annual Conference: Don't Miss the Early Registration Discount! Early birds save the most - Take advantage of an early registration discount when you sign up for the ICMA Annual Conference by July 11th. The ICMA 97th Annual Conference will be held September 18-21 at the Frontier Airlines Center in Milwaukee, WI. Register early to get your choice of workshops, tours, and events. ICMA members apply your e-debit card and save more! Visit ICMA's website at icma.org/conference for conference program details and to register.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

HUD Announces Advanced Notice of Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced an Advance Notice of Requirements for HUD's FY 2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program, which will provide an additional \$67 million for building sustainable communities throughout the country. The opportunity to apply for funding will soon be made available through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to be issued by HUD. Below is basic information concerning the competitive grant program.

Eligible Entities: Multi-jurisdictional and multi-sector partnerships, as well as regional consortia of state and local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, educational institutions, non-profit organizations and philanthropic organizations

Funding Categories:

1. Funds can be used to support the preparation of Regional Plans for Sustainable Development
2. Funds can be used to support efforts to modify existing regional plans so that they are in accordance with the Livability Principles, as well as to prepare execution plans for adopted regional plans and for predevelopment planning activities for catalytic projects

Click [HERE](#) to access the Advanced Notice of Requirements. Additional

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information on the grant program can be accessed at HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities [website](#). NARC will send out more information as it becomes available.

DOE's Rooftop Solar Challenge - \$12.5M Available

Letter of Intent Deadline: July 29; Application Deadline: August 31, 2011

As part of the [SunShot Initiative](#) and the [Solar America Communities Initiative](#), DOE has announced a funding opportunity for a [Rooftop Solar Challenge](#), with the goal of achieving measureable improvements in market conditions for rooftop photovoltaics across the United States. The emphasis of the Rooftop Solar Challenge is to streamline and standardize permitting and interconnection processes. A series of webinars will be hosted by DOE to assist applicants:

- Webinar 4 - Financing Options and Planning and Zoning Overview - 7/20/11, 2:00-3:30pm ET

DOE anticipates awarding up to \$12.5M to up to 25 awardees. Regional teams of local governments are encouraged to apply. For more information about the webinars, and a link to the full NOFA, visit

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/solarchallenge/>.

USDA Announces Rural Business Opportunity Grants

Deadline: August 1, 2011

On Friday, July 1, USDA announced the availability of funding for its Rural Business Opportunity Grants program (RBOG). RBOG supports projects up to two years in length that promote sustainable economic development in rural areas that are experiencing natural disasters, persistent poverty, or a decline in employment or population. Nonprofit corporations, public bodies, Indian Tribes, and cooperatives whose members are primarily rural residents may apply for up to \$50,000 for a project in one state, or for up to \$150,000 for a multi-state application. Access the grant by clicking [HERE](#).

HUD Announces Choice Neighborhood Initiative Planning Grant Opportunity

Deadline: August 8, 2011

HUD has issued a NOFA for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative Planning Grants to Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), local governments, nonprofits, and for-profit developers that apply jointly with a public entity. The program is focused on directing resources to address three core goals of transforming housing and neighborhoods while supporting positive outcomes for people and their families. To access additional information, click [HERE](#).

NEA Grants for Arts Program

Deadline: August 11, 2011

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is accepting applications for the *Art Works* project category in its Grants for Arts Program. Grants of up to \$100,000 will be awarded to states and local governments and non-profit organizations for community-based projects seeking to achieve one or several of the following activities: creating art, engaging the public in art, learning in the arts, and strengthening of communities through the arts. A one to one non-federal match is required. Click [HERE](#) to access more information.

DOT Announces Interim Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for TIGER Grants

Preliminary Application Deadline: August 22, 2011

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced the availability to issue \$527 million for TIGER grants, a competitive grant program, which funds innovative transportation projects that address job creation and making a significant impact on the nation, a region or a metropolitan area. Preliminary applications are due from August 22 through October 3, with final applications due between October 4 and October 31. DOT will host a half-day seminar and Webcast from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, July 18, to provide guidance for applicants. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the notice and upcoming information on the grants.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

NLC's 19th Annual Leadership Summit

September 15 - 17, 2011, Minneapolis, MN: Join renowned leadership scholars and authors Dan Buettner, Lindsay Strand, John M. Bryson, Barbara C. Crosby, and John Luthy as you engage in a unique, reflective program that will help guide your work and leadership in local government. Insightful learning experiences will provide you the opportunity to reflect, recognize and discover what you can do to enhance your success as a local leader. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

2011 Executive Directors' Conference

September 18 - 21, 2011, Jacksonville, FL: Join Executive Directors and senior staff of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations at this premier regional training event. Registration information and a draft

agenda will be available soon.

2011 Ohio Freight Conference

September 20-21, 2011, Toledo, OH: SAVE THE DATE! This is the fifth year for the conference that brings together transportation professionals to focus on the movement of goods through Ohio and the Great Lakes region. It is a unique opportunity for dialog and exchange of information between all modes: rail, ground, pipeline, air and sea. For more information or to register, click [HERE](#).

ICMA Annual Conference

September 18 - 21, 2011, Milwaukee, WI: Join ICMA for this informative, innovative, and engaging 4-day professional development conference from September 18-21 in Milwaukee, where the spectacular Lake Michigan shoreline serves as an ideal setting for ICMA's 97th Annual Conference: *Fresh Ideas and Fresh Water*. When you're facing layoffs, hiring freezes, budget cuts, and less revenue, you need the tools, tips, information, and resources offered by a high-quality, professional development opportunity. That is why ICMA's 97th Annual Conference, the world's foremost event for local government managers and administrators, could be the most important professional development opportunity you participate in this year! Beginning June 1, you can reserve a hotel room and register online for [ICMA's 2011 Annual Conference](#). Visit <http://icma.org/conference2011> for details and registration info and view the preliminary program [HERE](#).

Innovative Solutions for Solar Financing Webinar

September 27, 2011, 2:00pm ET: Join the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) for a [Solar America Communities Program](#) webinar on solar financing. Learn from Sonoma County, California and the Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network as they detail their efforts to overcome major barriers to adopting solar technologies in their region. Speakers will include Sam Ruark, Sonoma County Energy Watch Program Manager, Rachel Solomon Massaro, Associate Director of Climate Initiatives with Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network and Ben Foster, VP of Operations for Optony, Inc. Advanced registration is required; please click [HERE](#) to register.

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