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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

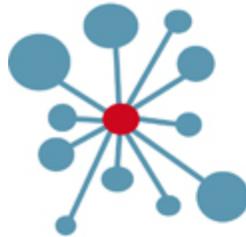
VOL. X, No. 21, July 28, 2010

eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

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Townsend,**
Judge/Executive,
Webster County,
Kentucky

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Krautler,**
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Regional Commission



converge ■ learn ■ share

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

REGISTER TODAY!

HURRY—Early Bird Registration Extended to July 30th!

Draft Agenda to be Released This Week

2010 Executive Directors' Conference: September 28-30

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

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'*

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Welcome to the new look and feel of *eRegions*! Over the last several weeks, we've taken steps to implement a new email program and are now ready to unveil it. Take a look and let us know what you think.

Going forward, you'll receive *eRegions* and other member updates through this new service.

As always, we welcome your feedback and thoughts on this new look and feel. Rest assured, we've not changed the frequency or content of our emails; the same valuable information will be here, as will your staff to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you again for your continued patience and dedication to NARC as we work through our many technology upgrades this year.

We look forward to seeing you in Austin,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Sylvia Bryant

Office Manager

Naomi Friedman

Project Director

Jenee Kresge

Program Analyst

Shannon Menard

Policy Manager

Lindsey Riley

Member Services

Manager

Erika Young

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 mention 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 any questions.

NARCPROGRAM

EDA Announced Proposed Grant Process Improvements: On Wednesday, July 21st, NARC hosted a joint webinar with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to discuss their proposed improvements to the grant process. If you missed the webinar, click [HERE](#) to access a copy of the presentation or contact [Lindsey Riley](#) to request a CD copy of the webinar. During the webinar, Assistant Secretary John Fernandez discussed improving its grant approval process so that it is more competitive, transparent and efficient:

- Applicants will receive an answer in less than 90 days.
- Set funding cycles and standardized assessment tools will make the process more competitive.
- EDA's strong level of customer service will be unchanged. Regional office staff will work closely with applicants prior to submission deadlines.

For more information or to send comments to EDA, click [HERE](#).

Sustainable Communities Regional Grant Program: Over the past several weeks the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities has been responding to a number of questions about Sustainable Communities Regional Grant Program. To assist applicants, HUD recently updated the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to respond to questions land acquisition, leveraging resources, defining regional boundaries and other issues. Additionally, HUD recently reorganized their website, www.hud.gov/sustainability, in order to make other useful information more readily available. The deadline to submit your

Transportation Director

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

Make NARC your homepage — [click here to learn how](#).

application is August 23, 2010.

ICMA Released Report Focusing on Smart Growth Adaptation

Strategies to Rural Communities: The International City / County Management Association (ICMA) released a new report, "Putting Smart Growth to Work in Rural Communities," which focuses on how to adapt smart growth strategies to rural communities. Funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Sustainable Communities, the report examines the challenges rural communities face, including rapid growth at metropolitan edges, declining rural populations and the loss of working lands. It highlights smart growth strategies that can help guide rural growth while preserving the unique rural character of existing communities. To read the full report, click [HERE](#).

Nominations Open for Appointment to National Geospatial Advisory

Committee (NGAC): The NGAC is chaired by Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and is comprised of up to 30 members representing the Federal Government, State Government, County Government, Regional Government, City/Municipal Government, Tribal Government, Private Sector, User Industries, Professional Associations, Non-Profit Organizations and Academia. Approximately half of the seats are currently open for appointment this year. *The deadline for nominations is August 24, 2010.* Please visit www.fgdc.gov/ngac for more information on NGAC and its Advisory Committee; contact Jenee Kresge at 202.986.1032 ext. 215 or jenee@NARC.org if you would like NARC's assistance in submitting a nomination.

EDA Accepting Applications for 2010 Innovation in Economic

Development Awards. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is accepting applications for its 2010 Innovation in Economic Development Awards to spotlight projects of national significance that advance innovation, boost competitiveness and create jobs. The award categories are: Innovation in Regional Innovation Clusters; Innovation in Commercialization; Innovation in Global Export Promotion; and, Innovation in Green Technology. For more information on the 2010 Innovation in Economic Development Awards and how to apply click [HERE](#). The competition was previously known as the EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards. *The deadline for submitting an entry is August 27, 2010.*

PARTNERUPDATES

2010 Ohio Conference on Freight: Attendees from 14 states and provinces come together to share information, dialogue and learn about new developments in rail, ground, air and sea transportation. The ongoing support of many key partners has made it possible to develop and implement this statewide conference. Jointly hosted by the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, the Ohio Department of Transportation and NARC, the 2010 conference is scheduled for September 14-15, in Toledo, OH. Click [HERE](#) for conference and registration information.

ICLEI's Local Action Summit: Local government leaders register now for ICLEI's Local Action Summit on September 24-26, in Washington, DC. Don't miss this year's biggest learning and networking opportunity to advance your energy, climate and sustainability initiatives. An exciting lineup of sessions includes the following topics, tailored to local governments: Marketing Energy Efficiency to Businesses, Regional Energy Planning and Climate Initiatives, Sustainability as a Local Economic Development Strategy, Increasing Urban Resilience to Climate Change, and Networking & Collaboration breakouts (regional and topical). View the full agenda or register for the conference by clicking [HERE](#).

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

SBA Announces Funding Available to Support Regional Clusters, Job Creation

Deadline: August 16, 2010

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.

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. 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 website for additional information or click [HERE](#) to access HUD's website dedicated to this opportunity.

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 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 29, Webinar, 1:00-3:00pm ET: The Transportation Review Board (TRB) will conduct two back-to-back webinars on that will feature SHRP 2 work in progress on broad-scale ecological approaches to conservation design and mitigation of highway impacts; presentations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on watershed planning and 404 permitting and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service emphasizing planning-level environmental analysis and decision making to leverage investments for wetlands, species, habitats and water quality improvement. Participants must register at least 24 hours prior to the start of the webinars. This webinar, focused on Watershed Approaches, is free; click [HERE](#) to register.

July 30, Webinar, 1:00-3:00pm ET: TRB will conduct two back-to-back webinars on that will feature SHRP 2 work in progress on broad-scale ecological approaches to conservation design and mitigation of highway impacts; presentations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on watershed planning and 404 permitting and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service emphasizing planning-level environmental analysis and decision making to leverage investments for wetlands, species, habitats and water quality improvement. Participants must register at least 24 hours prior to the start of the webinars. This webinar , focused on Habitat, Species and Connectivity, is free; click [HERE](#) to register.

August 3 and 10, Webinar Series, 1:00-4:00pm ET: NARC and ESRI, with support from the Federal Geographic Data Committee, will continue its 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. There is no cost to attend this webinar series. If you missed the first webinar and would like a copy of the presentation or recording of the webinar,

please contact [Jenee Kresge](#).

August 4 Webinar, 12:00-1:15pm: CTAA's Joblinks Transportation Center and the Center for Urban Transportation Research, University of South Florida, is offering two webinars to introduce the On the Map and Help Wanted Online. These user friendly tools are sponsored by the Census Bureau and the Conference Board respectively. For additional information, click [HERE](#); to register click [HERE](#).

September 14-15, Toledo, OH: The 4th Annual Ohio Conference on Freight, hosted by the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, NARC and the Ohio Department of Transportation, will bring together attendees from 14 states and provinces to share information and dialogue and learn about new developments in rail, ground, air and sea transportation. The ongoing support of many key partners has made it possible to develop and implement this statewide conference. The 2010 conference is scheduled for September 14-15, in Toledo, OH. Click [HERE](#) for registration information and an agenda.

September 22-24, Williamsburg, VA: The 12th National "Tools of the Trade" Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza at Fort Magruder in Historic Williamsburg. The preliminary program for the conference is posted on the TRB Committee [website](#) or on [Facebook](#). Registration is available by clicking [HERE](#). The conference will include informational sessions about ready-to-use, economical and practical techniques for transportation professionals in small (under 50,000) and medium-sized (50,000 - 250,000) communities. Advance registration is only \$200.00 and includes most meals and the group outing in Colonial Williamsburg on Thursday night during the Conference.

September 24-26, Washington, DC: The 2010 ICLEI Local Action Summit, *Empowering Sustainable Communities: Tools - Partners - Solutions*, has been scheduled. Get the latest tools and resources to empower local government sustainability efforts. Learn from ICLEI staff, local government staff, and other experts in the field about how innovation can drive sustainability. Early-bird registration is available through July 31st. Click [HERE](#) for conference and registration information.

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](#).

November 29-December 4, Lyon, France and Brussels, Belgium: ITA and EDA are will host a “U.S. Clean Technology Trade & Investment Mission.” Please visit the official mission webpage, by clicking [HERE](#), for the mission statement, application and application instructions.

February 3-5, 2011, Charlotte, NC: Save the date for the 10th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference, *Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities*. Visit www.NewPartners.org for additional information.

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National Association of Regional Councils
1666 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20009

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