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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. X, No. 22, August 2, 2010

# eRegions

### NARCLEADERSHIP

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### EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

We hope you like the new look and feel of *eRegions*. As we continue to update our communications plan, we are testing a new distribution schedule. Starting today, *eRegions* will be published on Monday afternoons rather than later in the



converge ■ learn ■ share

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

**REGISTER TODAY!**

#### 2010 Executive Directors' Conference: September 28-30

**Draft Agenda:** Bring yourself and your Deputy or Senior Staff to this two day training workshop. 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

**Draft Agenda:** Regions of all sizes and partners will come together to discuss recent federal action on livability, transportation, climate change and other issues. The Forum is open to all regional councils. *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 mention you are reserving under NARC's room block.)

Click [HERE](#) to access the conference website, registration and hotel

week. Our hope is that this allows you to start the week knowing what important events are upcoming and what information you need to know.

Also as part of this new service, you and your colleagues can share the newsletter with greater ease - making subscribing to you newsletters even easier.

Thank you again for your continued patience and dedication to NARC. We look forward to seeing you in Austin.

Best,  
Fred

## **NARCSTAFF**

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

information. Contact Lindsey Riley, [lindsey@narc.org](mailto:lindsey@narc.org) or 202.986.1032 x220 with any questions.

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# **NARC**PROGRAM

## **Sustainable Communities Regional Grant Program Update**

- The organization serving as the Lead Applicant for your proposal needs to register with grants.gov system, if they haven't already done so. To sign up, click [HERE](#) and follow the online instructions.
- *Webinar: Discussing Data and Geography Needs for the Sustainable Communities Regional Grant Program:* Join the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), The Urban Institute, and the National Association of Development Organizations in a webinar designed to address common questions and guidance on providing the data required to tell your regional story. The webinar will be held Thursday, August 5th at 1 pm ET. Click [HERE](#) to register.
- *Data Resources at the HUD Sustainability Website Gets Upgrade:* HUD will post a significantly updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) specifically targeted to address questions about data requirements in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). Additionally, the website now includes an [updated instruction guide](#), and a substantially enhanced [data resource page](#).
- If you had already downloaded the Rating Factor forms for the application, please note that a couple of small changes have been made to this form for Rating Factor 2 in order to align the data collection required of applicants with the intention of the NOFA. No other changes were made to the form. You can download the revised form at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).
- *Grant applications are due on August 23, 2010.* For additional information on HUD's Sustainable Communities Regional Grant Program, please visit [www.hud.gov/sustainability](http://www.hud.gov/sustainability).

**Distracted Driving Summit:** The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced the date and location for their next Distracted Driving Summit. The Summit will take place Thursday, September 21, 2010 in Washington, DC. Agenda and additional information will be announced soon.

**Nominations Open for Appointment to National Geospatial Advisory**

[website.](#)

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[how.](#)

**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](http://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](mailto:jenee@NARC.org) if you would like NARC's assistance in submitting a nomination.

**GIS Metadata Workshops August 3 and August 10:** This FREE three-part webinar training supported by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) will allow participants to better understand how their effective use of metadata can allow other users, including regional councils' member local governments, to search and utilize their data services effectively. The training is targeted at new and expert GIS users alike, with the opportunity for all to improve their skills in creating, sharing and using metadata in real world situations. Click [HERE](#) to register. For more information or if you missed the first webinar contact Jenee Kresge at 202.986.1032 ext. 215 or [jenee@NARC.org](mailto:jenee@NARC.org).

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## NARCPOLICY

**Supplemental Appropriations Act:** On Thursday, July 29, President Obama signed into law, HR 4899, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2010. This bill provides \$34.7 billion to support U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq in addition to providing non-military assistance and building up State Department Operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan; \$677 million to strengthen the border; and \$275 million for the Gulf oil spill, among other needs. Unlike previous versions of this legislation, the final bill *does not contain* \$2.2 billion in transportation contract authority rescissions. The Senate disagreed with several of the domestic spending priorities contained within the House passed legislation and removed them, thereby removing the need to offset those spending provisions with rescissions of other funds.

**Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act:** On Sunday, August 1, President Obama signed the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Extension Act of 2010, which extends the FAA programs through September 30, 2010. This authorization extension also

passed with several new provisions intended to make the traveling public safer in the air. These include increased training requirements for pilots, as well as new disclosure rules on whether the plane is flown by a regional air carrier.

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **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. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

### **HUD Released the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program NOFA - *Deadline: August 23, 2010***

Click [HERE](#) to access the NOFA and related information. Beyond the update provided in this week's Program update (above), 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) 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](http://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. Additional details and a link to the announcement are available by clicking [HERE](#).

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

**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 ET:** Community Transportation Association of America's (CTAA) 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](#).

**August 5 Webinar, 1:00-2:00pm ET:** Join HUD, The Urban Institute, and the National Association of Development Organizations in a webinar, *Discussing Data and Geography Needs for the Sustainable Communities Regional Grant Program*, designed to address common questions and guidance on providing the data required to tell your regional story. The webinar will be held Thursday, August 5th at 1 pm ET. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**August 11 Webinar, 1:00-2:30pm ET:** The Safe Routes to School National Partnership and the National Policy & Legal Analysis Network to Prevent

Childhood Obesity will host a free webinar on Safe Routes to School and liability for childhood obesity prevention policymakers and advocates. They have also just released [new resources about liability](#). Click [HERE](#) to register for the free webinar.

**August 18 Webinar, 1:00-2:30pm ET:** Talking Freight, hosted by the U.S. DOT, will hold its next webinar on August 18<sup>th</sup> on Freight Performance Measures. The session will discuss potential impacts on both public and private stakeholders. For more information or to register, click [HERE](#).

**September 7-9, Rehoboth Beach, DE:** SAVE THE DATE! The states and UASI's of the All Hazards Consortium, in conjunction with FEMA Region II and III Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Groups, will be hosting a Regional Public Safety Communications and Interoperability Workshop. Additional information will be available shortly. For more information, email [info@ahcusa.org](mailto:info@ahcusa.org).

**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. Click [HERE](#) for registration information and an agenda.

**September 21, Washington, DC:** SAVE THE DATE! The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced the date and location for their next Distracted Driving Summit. Agenda and additional information will be announced soon.

**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 Transportation Research Board (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.

**September 24-26, Washington, DC:** The 2010 ICLEI Local Action Summit, *Empowering Sustainable Communities: Tools - Partners - Solutions*, has been scheduled. 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.

We are sending you this e-mail primarily for your information, to meet your needs, further our valued relationship, and because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils. Please forward as appropriate.

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