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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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EXECUTIVEBRIEF

Colleagues,

We hope you all are planning on joining us in Austin for the 2010 Executive Directors' Conference and Metropolitan and Urban Policy Forum. As we continue to build out the agendas, we are confident that these will be excellent forums. We

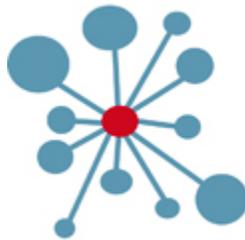
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**executive directors' conference and
regional metropolitan and urban policy forum
september 27-30
austin, tx**

REGISTER TODAY!

HURRY - Room reservations must be made by Friday, August 27th to guarantee the room rate!

2010 Executive Directors' Conference: September 28-30

Draft Agenda: Please join us, with your Deputy or Senior Staff, for 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, Executive Directors and Senior Staff of*

have reserved time to learn and discuss with major presenters in their fields and also share in best practices from your regions.

Please be aware that the deadline to reserve your hotel room with the guaranteed conference rate is Friday, August 27th. Your senior staff and deputy staff are welcome to join us.

Additionally, we are interested in learning about the projects and activities that you have submitted to HUD for funding under the Sustainable Communities grant program. Please email [Shannon Menard](#) with the basics of your sustainability program/project application.

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

[Fred Abousleman](#)

Executive Director

[Sylvia Bryant](#)

Office Manager

[Naomi Friedman](#)

Project Director

[Jenee Kresge](#)

Program Analyst

[Shannon Menard](#)

regional planning organizations 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](#) with any questions.

NARCPROGRAM

HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants Due Today:

Applications for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program are due by 11:59 pm ET tonight. This grant program, in coordination with U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will support metropolitan and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments. NARC believes this is a great opportunity for local governments and their regional planning organizations. **NARC is interested in learning about the projects and activities that you have submitted to HUD for funding. Please email [Shannon Menard](#) with the basics of your sustainability program/project application.**

EPA Proposes Changes to Water Quality Standards Program: U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it plans to make regulatory changes to water quality standards that update and improve the effectiveness of its Water Quality Standards Program. Click [HERE](#) to read the Federal Register notice. EPA will conduct open listening sessions on August 24 and 26; click [HERE](#) to access information on the listening sessions, as well as the potential changes. NARC will be sending EPA comments on these proposed changes. Please send your thoughts and ideas to [Shannon Menard](#).

EPA Conducting Outreach on Drinking Water Strategy: EPA is gathering

feedback on the new drinking water strategy. EPA is interested in stakeholder feedback, ideas, and perspectives. EPA launched an online [discussion forum](#) about the strategy. Each segment of the strategy will be posted for comment and discussion. Click [HERE](#) to access the proposed strategy and

Policy Manager

[Lindsey Riley](#)

Member Services
Manager

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Transportation Director

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related information.

NARCPOLICY

Both the House and Senate are now in their August District Work Period (Congressional Recess) and will not return until September 13/14, 2010.

CBO Releases Report on the Federal Budget and Economic Outlook: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), in a recently released report, estimates that the federal budget deficit for 2010 will exceed \$1.3 trillion—\$71 billion below last year's total and \$27 billion lower than the amount that CBO projected in March 2010. This year's anticipated federal deficit is estimated to be 9.1 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). Click [HERE](#) to read the full report.

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

PARTNERUPDATES

2010 Ohio Conference on Freight: The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, NARC and the Ohio Department of Transportation are hosting the annual Ohio Conference on Freight, September 14-15 in Toledo, Ohio. This conference brings together professionals from all modes of transportation to focus on the movement of goods through Ohio and the Great Lakes region. Registration and Agenda information can be found [HERE](#).

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

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.

EDA Announces 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](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

August 24, Webinar, 2:00-3:00 pm ET: REMI, a NARC Corporate Partner, (Regional Economic Models, Inc.) is pleased to host a webinar with Dr. Bansari Saha, Senior Economist at ICF International. He will present results from a recent study on the economic impacts of the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord (MGGRA). The MGGRA covers seven member jurisdictions, including six U.S. states and also includes three additional US observer states. Results from this study shed light on the state- and sector-level distributional impacts of the regional GHG reduction program and helped shape the model rule. This webinar will be offered at no charge via the WebEx Internet Conferencing System. Advanced registration is required; please click [here](#) to register.

September 7-9, Rehoboth Beach, DE: 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 or 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. Click [HERE](#) for registration information and an agenda.

September 16, Webinar, 2:00-3:00pm ET: The National Association of Counties will host a webinar, Partnership to Support Your Local Workforce Investment. High unemployment rates continue to plague our communities, causing concern at all levels of government. Join this webinar for examples of how local, state and federal resources are partnering for a better return on their workforce investment dollars. Presenters will outline key partnership opportunities and provide real-world examples you can use to help your residents get back to work. Click [HERE](#) to register for the event.

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 21 Webinar, 2:00-3:00pm ET: NARC and Applied Geographics, a NARC Corporate Partner, will host a webinar on Transportation for the Nation (TFTN), for which the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is developing a Strategic Plan. This year-long planning effort began in April 2010, and it includes presenting to key stakeholder groups, gathering input on transportation data needs, and developing findings and recommendations as part of a plan to be published early next year. This Webinar will include a presentation from Applied Geographics on the TFTN strategic planning process and findings to-date. Participants will have an opportunity to comment and provide input. Click [HERE](#) to register for this free event.

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, Webinar, 2:00-3:00 pm ET: National League of Cities will host a webinar, *Workforce Investment Act 101 for Local Elected Officials*. Click [HERE](#) for registration information.

September 24-26, Washington, DC: The 2010 ICLEI Local Action Summit, *Empowering Sustainable Communities: Tools - Partners - Solutions*, will be an opportunity to present tools, best practices and next practices around climate change and sustainability for local governments. Learn from ICLEI staff, local government staff, and other experts in the field about how innovation can drive sustainability. Click [HERE](#) for conference and registration information.

September 27-28, Tampa, FL: The National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP), in conjunction with the City of Tampa, the Florida Brownfields Association and Cardno TBE, is hosting the 2010 Brownfield Communities Network Summit: *The Future of*

Brownfields. This national summit will bring together all levels of brownfield practitioners and feature interactive peer-to-peer discussions on pressing issues facing localities, including: green redevelopment; federal initiatives; EPA priorities; social sustainability; public health; and renewable energy. For registration, hotel information and to view the agenda, please visit www.bcnevents.org.

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.

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