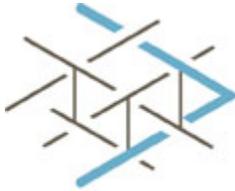


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XI, No. 31, August 29, 2011

eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

President Ron Morrison,
Mayor,
National City, CA

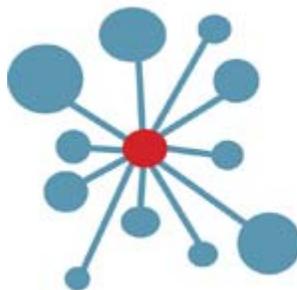
Chair Mark Policinski,
Executive Directors
Council
Executive Director,
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana
Regional Council of
Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

This last week has been an especially difficult one for the east coast – first an earthquake, followed almost immediately by Hurricane Irene. For all those impacted by either event, our thoughts are with you, as the rebuilding process

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#) [REGION 360](#)
[PARTNER UPDATE](#) [GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#)
[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



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

REGISTER TODAY!

Additional speakers confirmed! 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. Confirmed Keynote Speakers include:

- **Hon. Corrine Brown**, U.S. House of Representatives, Ranking Member, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials
- **Hon. Shelley Poticha**, Director of Sustainable Housing and Communities, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

continues.

We're now about a month away from our 2011 Executive Directors' Conference. If you haven't already done so – please register today. The event is shaping up with incredible speakers and interactive sessions specifically designed for our Executive Directors and their senior staff.

We look forward to seeing you in Jacksonville.

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

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](#)

- **Captain Jeffrey Maclay**, U.S. Navy, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL

For more information, to access the draft agenda or to register for the conference, click [HERE](#).

PROGRAMUPDATE

DHS Announces More Than \$2.1 Billion in Preparedness Grants: The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced final allocations for 12 preparedness grant programs totaling more than \$2.1 billion in federal grants, highlights include (click [HERE](#) for more detailed information):

- \$526 million for the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) to support the implementation of state homeland security strategies to build and strengthen preparedness capabilities at all levels.
- \$662 million for the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) to enhance regional preparedness capabilities in 31 high-threat, high-density urban areas. In order to focus limited resources to mitigate and respond to evolving threats, the 11 highest risk areas (Tier 1) were eligible for more than \$540 million, while the remaining 20 urban areas, designated Tier II were eligible for more than \$121 million.
- \$34 million for the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) to enhance and sustain comprehensive regional mass casualty incident response and preparedness capabilities, divided evenly among 124 MMRS jurisdictions.
- \$9 million for the Citizen Corps Program (CCP) to engage citizens in community preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery activities.
- \$14 million for the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPPSP) to enhance catastrophic incident preparedness in selected high-risk, high-consequence urban areas and their surrounding regions in order to support coordination of regional all-hazard planning for catastrophic events.
- \$14 million+ for the Emergency Operations Center Grant Program (EOC) to support the construction or renovation of Emergency Operations Centers to improve state, local or tribal emergency management and preparedness capabilities to ensure continuity of operations during disasters.

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- \$329 million+ for the Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) to assist state and local governments to enhance and sustain all-hazards emergency management capabilities

September is National Preparedness Month: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages participation in the 2011 National Preparedness Month this September through the Ready Campaign. For more information, please visit [ready.gov](#).

Deadline Extended to September 7, 2011: Comment on Strong Cities, Strong Communities Pilot Challenge Funding: The Administration has requested public comments on the structure of the [Strong Cities, Strong Communities](#) (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 continue to send [Jenee Kresge](#) any recommendations for general comments NARC can submit on behalf of its membership.

Solar Photovoltaic Economic Development: Building and Growing a Local PV Industry: The Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program recently published a report by CH2M Hill designed as an introductory guide for local economic development offices. This report provides guidance for building an understanding of the PV industry sectors and market segments, including metrics, differentiation, and trends within each segment; developing an understanding for the site selection processes for the different segments of the PV industry and the potential economic benefits; evaluating your community's strengths and weaknesses within each PV market segment; and creating an understanding of the tools and programs that can be used to foster investment and economic development related to the PV industry. The full report is available [HERE](#).

EPA Releases Climate Ready Water Utilities Toolbox: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently updated its Climate Ready Water Utilities Toolbox, which provides access to more than 500 resources that support climate adaptation planning at water utilities, including reports and publications, information about funding programs, upcoming workshops and training sessions, models and tools, and climate response materials that

focus on mitigation and adaptive strategies. The toolbox is organized into two sections: one that provides a selection of resources from each category, along with a map to help users select resources by geographic region; and a second section with a search function that helps users to select resources based on their location, the size and type of their utility, and resources of interest. The toolbox is available by clicking [HERE](#).

U.S. Department of Transportation Releases Framework for Considering Climate Change in Transportation and Land Use

Planning: Based on lessons learned from an interagency pilot project on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, the U.S. Department of Transportation's John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center has developed a guidebook for integrating climate change into transportation and land-use scenario planning. Through a process of data collection and scenario development, the pilot project resulted in a multi-agency transportation and land use development scenario for Cape Cod, with a focus on reducing future greenhouse gas emissions and considering the potential impacts of sea-level rise on the region. The guidebook is intended to serve as a resource for organizations that may be interested in, or stand to benefit from, incorporating climate change considerations into transportation and land use planning. The report is available by clicking [HERE](#).

National Climate Assessment Request for Information: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has issued a request for information, inviting the public to provide comments and expressions of interest in offering technical inputs or assessment capacity on topics related to the National Climate Assessment. Expressions of interest are due by October 1, 2011, and final inputs are due by March 1, 2012. Click [HERE](#) to access the Federal Register Notice for a detailed timeline and more information. Additional supplementary material, including "Potential Technical Inputs and Assessment Capacities and Suggested Best Practices," can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

REMINDER: Member Assistance Request: The current extension of the federal surface transportation authorization (SAFETEA LU) will expire at the end of this fiscal year, along with legislation authorizing the collection of taxes for the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). *NARC needs your help to make sure Congress passes a clean authorization extension.* The SAFETEA LU extension may suffer the same fate as the recent Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). A potential lapse in the SAFETEA LU authorization may cost up to \$100 million per day in HTF revenue, put hundreds of thousands of people out of work and severely disrupt our economy. To that

end, NARC is working with its partners to educate Members of Congress about the negative effects a lapse in SAFETEA LU would have. **Please take 10 minutes to fill out this brief (four question) survey by Wednesday, August 31, 2011 to help us get a clean authorization extension passed.** Click [HERE](#) to complete NARC's survey on local and regional projects.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in recess for the month of August, but will conduct pro forma sessions. Legislative activity will resume after Labor Day.

Green Scissors Report Sent to Debt Panel Leaders: A collaboration of groups interested in cutting government spending sent a memo and the “Green Scissors 2011” report to Congressional leaders, calling for \$380 billion in environmental spending cuts over five years. Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

CBO Releases New Report on Economic Outlook: The Congressional Budget Office released an **updated Budget and Economic Outlook** that projects cumulative deficits over the 2012-2021 period will fall to \$3.49 trillion, compared with the \$6.74 trillion it had predicted in March, largely due to the deficit reduction law (PL 112-25) enacted earlier this month. Click [HERE](#) to access the full report.

House Leader Looks to Job Creation in Debt Efforts:House Democratic Caucus Chairman Larson (D-CT) wants to add job creation to the mission of the new deficit reduction committee and is expected to release a bill to establish such responsibilities. By statute, the Committee currently must reduce the deficit by more than \$2 trillion over the next decade. Larson's plan is expected to look at the following options: 1) requiring the Committee to produce a jobs bill, subject to a trigger that would kick in if Congress does not clear a deficit reduction bill; 2) expanding the joint committee by three members to work on a jobs bill; and, 3) creating a parallel special committee that would be required to write a jobs bill.

OMB Sets FY13 Funding Request Levels for Federal Agencies: The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), in its planning for FY13, has directed federal agencies to reduce FY13 budget requests as much as 10 percent below current spending levels, while at the same time

beefing up valued programs. Furthermore, OMB directed federal agencies to submit requests for discretionary spending at a 5 percent reduction, at minimum, below received FY11 totals, as well as identify additional cuts that would put their requests 10 percent below the current level while indicating programs that deserve increased funding. OMB also advised avoiding across-the-board reductions, but to concentrate on specific programs. OMB has not announced a date for agencies to make their fiscal 2013 budget submissions.

PARTNERUPDATE

Regional Excellence: *Measuring Regional Excellence*. Former NARC Executive Director Bill Dodge authors this column and can be reached at WilliamRDodge@aol.com. Recently, Mr. Dodge had the opportunity to participate in a Regional Convergence with regional leaders and his Citistates colleagues in the Chattanooga region. As this *Regional Excellence* column observes, the turnaround efforts in the Chattanooga region have been impressive. And, as the column opines, the wealth tapped for this turnaround may not be available for the next famine-to-plenty cycle and suggests that this region, and maybe all regions, consider conducting regional wealth audits. Click [HERE](#) to access the column.

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.

Solar America Communities Events at ICMA's Annual Conference

- [Solar Workshop](#) – Sunday, September 18, 8:30-12:30 – Learn important concepts related to local solar installations, including

technologies, costs, and barriers.

- **Solar Powering Your Community Session** – Monday, September 19, 9:45-11:00 – Attend this panel session to hear how local governments can address the challenges of implementing solar.
- **Milwaukee Shines Solar Tour** – FREE! Monday, September 19, 12:30-1:30 or Tuesday, September 20, 4:00-5:00 – Visit Milwaukee Public Library's solar installations and green roof.

REGIONS360

COMPASS Seeking Services to Provide Economic Benefit(s) Tools: The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is seeking consulting services to provide an economic benefits tool(s) to evaluate a broad range of infrastructure investments as part of an update to the regional long-range transportation plan, *Communities in Motion 2035*. This update process is currently underway and will conclude the summer of 2014. COMPASS is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Ada and Canyon Counties, Idaho. To download a copy of the Request for Qualifications/Proposals please [click HERE](#). **Proposals must be received by COMPASS before 1:00 pm MT Friday, September 9, 2011.**

Tools of the Trade Conference: A call for abstracts has been released for the 2012 Tools of the Trade Conference. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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

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. 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/>.

DOC Economic Development Administration Public Works, Economic Adjustment, and Global Climate Change Mitigation Programs Opportunity

Deadline: September 1, 2011

This grant program supports projects that foster economic competitiveness while enhancing environmental quality. The funds will be used to advance the green economy by supporting projects that create jobs through—and increase—private capital investment in initiatives to limit the nation's dependence on fossil fuels, enhance energy efficiency, curb greenhouse gas emissions, and protect natural systems. Available funding is likely to be near \$25 million. For more info, including regional contacts, click [HERE](#). Eligible entities include state and local governments, federally recognized tribes, nonprofits and private institutions of higher education.

Climate Solutions University: Forest and Water Strategies - Scholarships Available

Deadline: September 9, 2011

The Model Forest Policy Program (MFPP) is now accepting applications for 2012 [***Climate Solutions University: Forest and Water Strategies***](#) (CSU). This program offers rural U.S. [only] communities the opportunity to be part of climate adaptation solutions urgently needed across the country. Six communities will be provided \$10,000 scholarships. Local communities are on the front line making key land use decisions in regards to climate change. Climate Solutions University (CSU) helps rural communities design and implement climate adaptation plans that protect local forest and water resources and support viable rural economies. Through a peer learning network that links underserved rural communities across the U.S., Climate Solutions University (CSU) provides training, expertise, and support to communities engaged in climate adaptation planning. CSU strengthens local leadership and public engagement and promotes the following outcomes: protection of forests, streams, human and ecological health, preservation of natural resource based economies, and builds broad public support. Additional information is available at [**www.mfpp.org**](http://www.mfpp.org).

HUD Community Challenge Planning Grants

Deadline: September 9, 2011

This competitive funding opportunity from for state, local and tribal governments will support efforts that foster reform and reduce barriers to achieving affordable, economically vital and sustainable communities. HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities has provided the following additional resources to assist applicants in developing their proposals. These

resources are available at www.hud.gov/sustainability under the “Community Challenge Program” link.

- [Archived Webcast](#) and [Webcast Slides](#)
- [Updated Frequently Asked Questions Document](#)
- [FY2011 Community Challenge NOFA](#)
- [HUD’s General Section](#)
- [Additional Information on Eligibility](#)

AARP Foundation Grants

Letter of Inquiry: September 15, 2011; Proposals Due: October 15, 2011

AARP Foundation is seeking to fund the development or scaling of innovative, sustainable solutions to hunger that have the potential to make a significant impact on community food security and sustainable food systems for Americans 50 and older. Through a competitive RFP process, AARP Foundation will award grants to eligible local, state and/or national registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in the United States, in amounts ranging from \$50,000 to \$300,000. Grants will be awarded under the AARP Foundation Sustainable Solutions to Hunger Innovation Grants Program. For more information about this funding opportunity, please visit:

www.aarp.org/hungergrants.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

NOAA Webinar on Community Resilience, Part I - Assessing Vulnerabilities Using the Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risk

September 7, 2011, 2:00-3:00 pm ET: NOAA webinar highlighting a customizable approach for assessing hazard and climate change threats and impacts. This approach, the Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risk, is a participatory process for assessing vulnerability. The Roadmap helps communities characterize their vulnerabilities to hazards and climate change, and assess how existing planning and policy efforts can incorporate vulnerability issues. The Roadmap process helps communities move beyond general awareness of hazard and climate change impacts to actually identify risks and the potential actions that can reduce these risks. To register, please click [HERE](#).

FHWA/FTA Workshops on the Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals

September 8, 2011, Washington, DC: The Federal Highway Administration

(FHWA) Office of Operations, Office of Planning, and Office of Innovative Program Delivery, along with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), are jointly hosting a series of one-day workshops on *The Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals: Integrating Pricing in Metropolitan Transportation Plans*. As metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and their planning partners work together to develop metropolitan transportation plans, many agencies are looking for innovative approaches to address funding needs and to advance regional goals, including livability and environmental quality. The one-day workshop will be held from 9:00am-5:00 pm. FHWA has a limited pool of funding to support travel expenses for public agencies. If you are interested in attending one of these workshops and in potential travel assistance, please contact Heather Rigdon at heather.m.rigdon@saic.com and/or Myron Swisher at forrest.m.swisher@saic.com.

Municipal Financing for Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Webinar – Free!

September 13, 2011, 12:00-1:30 pm ET: Hear about various methods by which municipalities could finance renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. This webinar is hosted by Energy Forefront. Speakers include: (1) Baird Brown, Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, explaining multiple methods of financing including federal tax benefits, aggregation, securitization of smaller projects, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations, & more. (2) Vincent DeVito, Bowditch & Dewey LLP, discussing how various cities & towns structured their energy financing. (3) Wayne Snider, describing how he procured financing for wind, solar, biomass and several other Fowler Colorado projects... without any upfront costs for Fowler. For more information and to register, please click [HERE](#).

FHWA/FTA Workshops on the Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals

September 13, 2011, Denver, CO: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Operations, Office of Planning, and Office of Innovative Program Delivery, along with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), are jointly hosting a series of one-day workshops on *The Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals: Integrating Pricing in Metropolitan Transportation Plans*. The one-day workshop will be held from 9:00am-5:00 pm. FHWA has a limited pool of funding to support travel expenses for public agencies. If you are interested in attending one of these workshops and in potential travel assistance, please contact Heather Rigdon at heather.m.rigdon@saic.com and/or Myron Swisher at forrest.m.swisher@saic.com.

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.

FHWA/FTA Workshops on the Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals

September 15, 2011, Atlanta, GA: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Operations, Office of Planning, and Office of Innovative Program Delivery, along with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), are jointly hosting a series of one-day workshops on *The Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals: Integrating Pricing in Metropolitan Transportation Plans*. The one-day workshop will be held from 9:00am-5:00 pm. FHWA has a limited pool of funding to support travel expenses for public agencies. If you are interested in attending one of these workshops and in potential travel assistance, please contact Heather Rigdon at heather.m.rigdon@saic.com and/or Myron Swisher at forrest.m.swisher@saic.com.

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.

FHWA/FTA Workshops on the Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals

September 20, 2011, Chicago, IL: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Operations, Office of Planning, and Office of Innovative Program Delivery, along with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), are jointly hosting a series of one-day workshops on *The Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals: Integrating Pricing in Metropolitan Transportation Plans*. The one-day workshop will be held from 9:00am-5:00 pm. FHWA has a limited pool of funding to support travel expenses for public agencies. If you are interested in attending one of these workshops and in potential travel assistance, please contact Heather Rigdon at heather.m.rigdon@saic.com and/or Myron Swisher at

forrest.m.swisher@saic.com.

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.

2011 Water Resources Summit

October 25, 2011, College Park, MD: Join the Horinko Group for the Second Annual Water Resources Summit, hosted on the campus of the

University of Maryland. The topic of this year's summit is *Sustaining Our Nation's Water Resources: Answering the Call for Stewardship*. The summit will focus on three areas: Water Governance, Water Advocacy, and the Business of Water and will feature speakers from the public, advocacy and the business sector. Topics include the recent efforts to integrate water resource planning and management and the incremental advantages of adaptive management and system thinking; what organizations are doing to promote social learning and better inform citizens of the importance of water conservation; and new water conservation strategies that tackle infrastructure and compliance challenges. To view the full agenda and register, please click [HERE](#).

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