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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

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Council
Executive Director,
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana
Regional Council of
Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

We are closing on our 2011 Executive Directors' Conference (EDC) and I hope to see more of you register and join us in Jacksonville in two weeks! This is a unique opportunity to come together as colleagues and share

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[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



converge ■ learn ■ share

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

REGISTER TODAY!

Draft agenda updated! 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, to access the draft agenda or to register for the conference, click [HERE](#).

PROGRAM UPDATE

Deadline Tomorrow: Comment on Strong Cities, Strong Communities

best practices and knowledge. This is also a time to meet new directors, many of whom are new to their MPOs and COGs. As our industry changes and we attract new talent, we look to integrate them into our community of regions and continue support to our planning associations. With great speakers and learning sessions lined up and support from our host – the Northeast Florida Regional Council – we look forward to an excellent event. Click to the right to register for the EDC.

Congress is back and September 8th is the first organizational meeting of the Joint Deficit Reduction Committee. They have until January 15th, when mandatory cuts are triggered across the board, to weigh options, solicit feedback, and make recommendations to the House and Senate on a 10-year deficit reduction of \$1.2 trillion. NARC will be communicating with members of the Committee on the importance of regional and local funding and

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. 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.

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.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in session.

Deficit Committee Begins Work; Considering Jobs: This week, the new Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction begins work, which will include debate on whether or not to add a job creation effort. Their first meeting on rules and procedures is set for Thursday, September 8, and the first public hearing on September 13. The following is the basic timetable for the Committee:

October 14 – Move forward recommendations to joint committee.

November 23 – Joint committee to vote on legislative proposals.

December 2 – Formally report proposals.

December 23 – House and Senate to vote on proposals.

January 15 – Enactment of at least \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction or enact spending cuts.

President Releases Steps to Create Jobs through Infrastructure: Last week, President Obama released a memorandum that directed U.S. Departments of Transportation (DOT), Agriculture (USDA), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Interior (DOI) to each identify three high priority impact, job-creating infrastructure projects that can be expedited and completed within the next 18 months through review and permitting

programs. Please continue to send us feedback on core mission areas and the successes your programs have in your regions.

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

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processes. Additionally, the President called for the creation of a national *Projects Dashboard* to allow the details of the projects to be public and allow for commentary.

Administration Holds Listening Sessions on Jobs: Last week, as a part of a nationwide effort, the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness held Listening and Action Sessions in Portland, OR and Dallas, TX. This is a direct result of the President's challenge that the Council bring new voices and recommendations. The ideas and information exchanged at these events will help inform the future policy work of the Council, which meets with the President each quarter to recommend critical steps that both the private and public sectors can take to create jobs and help strengthen the economy. Click [HERE](#) to read more about the sessions; [HERE](#) to learn more about the Council; or [HERE](#) to send in your recommendations for the Council's work. The President will also conduct a speech on Thursday, September 8, where he will highlight his new plan for job creation.

FY12 Appropriations Work to Continue: The FY12 fiscal year will begin in less than a month, October 1, and none of FY12 appropriations bills have been passed out of the House or Senate. This week both the House and Senate will continue efforts on the spending bills. A continuing resolution to maintain government spending will likely need to be pushed through.

White House Launches Public Engagement Effort: The White House recently launched its latest public engagement initiative, [We the People](#), to allow for direct communication on an issue with the White House via the internet. This new tool enables people to easily start a petition; once a petition garners enough support, it will be reviewed by White House officials.

Proposal to Tighten Clean Air Rules Not Moving Forward: President Obama decided not to move forward with the Administration's earlier efforts to tighten the National Ambient Air Quality Standards rule. As indicated by this *New York Times* article (click [HERE](#) to access), this move by the Obama Administration is part of his wider initiative to review regulations that have a significant impact on job growth and local and state economies. NARC participated on The White House conference call to explain the decisions; click [HERE](#) to access notes from that call.

PARTNERUPDATE

Call for Presentations for the 25th Annual Conference for GIS-T: The

2012 GeoSpatial Information Systems for Transportation (GIS-T) Symposium will be held April 16 - 18, 2012 in Loveland, CO. The theme for this years symposium is "From Mainframe to Mainstream - 25 years of Progress." The Conference Program Chair is now accepting presentation proposals. Deadline for abstracts is November 11, 2011. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

September 18 - 21, 2011, Milwaukee, WI: Join International City/County Management Association (ICMA) for this informative, innovative, and engaging 4-day professional development conference, *Fresh Ideas and Fresh Water*. 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:*

- [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.

Solar Survey: ICMA is conducting a solar survey of local governments to collect data on what local governments are doing related to the adoption of solar energy. The survey was sent to the Chief Elected or Appointed Official of all city- and county- type local governments with a population of 2,500 or above and can also be completed online (the URL and your jurisdiction's unique 6-digit identifier are provided on the paper survey). If you need to obtain your identifier or have questions, please email solar@icma.org.

REGIONS360

GRADD Launches 'One Way' Initiative, Campaign for Elder Economic Security: The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) is proud to be one of 14 local advocacy partners nationwide selected to participate in the National Council on Aging's 'One Away' campaign for elder economic security, giving voice to the concerns of older adults who are struggling across the country. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

H-GAC's Eco-Logical GIS Referenced in Recent ESRI Online Article:

The Houston-Galveston Area Council's (H-GAC) Eco-Logical Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) is featured as an example of user-friendly, cloud-based computing in an article on the Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc's (ESRI) website. Click [HERE](#) to access the article. More information about Eco-Logical is available [HERE](#).

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*. 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.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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. 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. 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.

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. The

following additional resources have been made available to assist applicants in developing their proposals. These resources are available at 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 Request for Proposals 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 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 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*. 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
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; and (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. 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 are available by clicking [HERE](#). Confirmed 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), Captain Jeffrey Maclay (U.S. Navy, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, FL) and many more!

ICMA Annual Conference

September 18 - 21, 2011, Milwaukee, WI: Join ICMA for this informative, innovative, and engaging four-day professional development conference, *Fresh Ideas and Fresh Water*. 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.

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: 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](#).

Innovative Solutions for Solar Financing Webinar

September 27, 2011, 2:00pm ET: Join ICMA and 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. Advanced registration is required; please click [HERE](#) to register.

Solar Powering Your Community Workshop: Getting Started with Solar in Your Community – Dallas, TX

Friday, October 21, 8:00am-1:00pm: This *free* half-day workshop, in conjunction with Solar Power International, will focus on important concepts related to residential and small scale commercial solar installations, including how to create a local-level solar program and install solar on municipal and other community facilities. As a participant, you will learn about policy considerations in the state of Texas and learn best practices from communities across the state, including the Solar America Cities of Austin, Houston, and San Antonio. To learn more or register, click [HERE](#).

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 Water Governance, Water Advocacy, and the Business of Water, and will feature speakers from the public, advocacy, and the business sector. To view the full agenda and register, please click [HERE](#).

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777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305
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