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eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

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National City, CA

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Executive Directors
Council
Executive Director,
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Regional Council of
Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

We are honored to stand with our heroes and families on this weekend's 10th anniversary of September 11th. We believe that a strong, secure and resilient nation is the foundation for a prosperous one.

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[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



converge ■ learn ■ share

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

REGISTER TODAY!

Last Change To Register! 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

Green Infrastructure Survey: NARC is seeking information on regional

Thank you for your commitment to our troops, communities and programs that keep our nation strong.

We are just a week away from our 2011 Executive Directors' Conference! Please register, bring senior staff, and join us for a management level discussion on topics of relevance to your COGs and MPOs. The agenda has shaped up nicely, with excellent speakers including Congresswoman Corrine Brown (D-FL), Hon. Shelley Poticha, Director for the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and many others, to discuss and lead provocative and productive discussions on housing, transportation and organizational management.

See you soon,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

planning organizations' experiences with green infrastructure planning and implementation. Please take 10 minutes to fill out this short survey before September 30, 2011. The survey can be accessed [HERE](#) and will provide NARC and its research partners with a fuller understanding of regional and local green infrastructure activities, funding streams and federal support, in order to identify opportunities for improvement and targeted resources.

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

The Senate and House are in session.

President Obama Releases Jobs Plan: On September 8, the President released his American Jobs Act, which proposes \$447 billion in federal investment in an effort to stimulate the economy and open job opportunities. The President is expected to deliver the Act to Congress today asking for them to pass legislation. Next Monday, September 19, the President is expected to deliver a plan to Congress on how to pay for the Act. Click [HERE](#) for NARC's brief summary of the Act. Meanwhile, House Republicans continue to pursue their job creation plan. Click [HERE](#) to access a brief summary of the plan; click [HERE](#) for the House Republican's website with more detailed information.

Appropriations Work Continues: This week, the House and Senate will continue work on the FY12 appropriations bills. None of the FY12 appropriations bills have been passed by both Chambers. Congress is also readying a continuing resolution (CR) in the likely event that the FY12 appropriations process is not finalized before the start of the new fiscal year on October 1. The House has time set aside next week for CR debate.

Administration Requests Boost for Disaster Relief Fund: The White House has requested from Congress an additional \$5 billion for FY12 Disaster Relief Fund, which would on top of \$1.8 billion already requested.

Deputy Director

[Mia Colson](#)

Program Analyst

[Kristin Heery](#)

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Economic and

Community

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Deputy of

Communications

[Erika Young](#)

Transportation Director

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The Administration also asked for \$500 million for the remainder of the current fiscal year to assist with the recent incidents. It is expected that this request will get rolled into the CR. The Senate has been moving forward with its own \$6 billion supplemental, which has been approved by the Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee.

Federal Surface Transportation Authorization Extension: The U.S. House of Representatives will consider an extension of the federal surface transportation authorization tomorrow. While there is some debate regarding whether or not House Democrats will object to the lower than hoped for amounts of contract authority provided in the authorization extension, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member Rahall (D-WV) has indicated his support. Click [HERE](#) for text of the authorization extension. In the Senate, Environment and Public Works Committee Chair Boxer (D-CA) passed out of Committee last week the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2012, an authorization extension that would fund surface transportation programs through January 31, 2012. Boxer also issued a statement that she didn't oppose the House's authorization extension. Click [HERE](#) for her statement. The current surface transportation authorization extension is set to expire on September 30th.

PARTNERUPDATE

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

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

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

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](#).

U.S. DOE Webinar: Partnering with Utilities Part 1 - Successful Partnerships and Lessons from the Field

September 22, 2011, 2:00pm ET: This webcast will be a roundtable for four communities to describe successful partnerships between local governments and utilities that enabled the local governments to implement new clean energy programs or enhance existing ones. Click [HERE](#) for registration and additional information.

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.

U.S. DOE Webinar: Advanced Topics in Power Purchase Agreements

September 28, 2011, 2:00pm ET: This webcast is the second of a two part webcast series. The first webcast presented basic information about Power Purchase Agreements as a way to leverage private capital to install large-scale solar energy. This webcast will cover the sometimes complex terms and conditions, several different legal structures, and the roles of the various parties, including how to share risk and reward. Click [HERE](#) for registration and additional information.

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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