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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

We hope you all plan to join us in Austin for the 2010 Executive Directors' Conference and Metropolitan and Urban Policy Forum. We've updated agendas with confirmed speakers, intriguing presentations and detailed discussions.

[NARC PROGRAM](#) [NARC POLICY](#) [PARTNER UPDATES](#)

[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



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**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: 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 regional planning organizations can attend at no additional cost.*

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

Click [HERE](#) to see the draft agendas and to register.

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

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

[Fred Abousleman](#)

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[Shannon Baxevanis](#)

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[Naomi Friedman](#)

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Manager

[Erika Young](#)

Transportation Director

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

Make NARC your homepage —

information. Contact [Lindsey Riley](#) if you need to make hotel reservations or with any questions.

DIRECTORYof**REGIONS**

The **National Directory of Regions** survey was sent out via email to all Executive Directors. If your organization has not received this survey, click [HERE](#) for access. If you have any questions, please contact [Sylvia Bryant](#).

NARCPROGRAM

Join NARC's Regional Green Infrastructure Working Group: NARC, with support from the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program, plans to launch a *Regional Green Infrastructure Working Group* this fall. The group will offer an opportunity for regional green infrastructure planners and practitioners to exchange best practices and receive updates from experts in the field. The group will share information via email, conference calls and webinars scheduled throughout the year. The group's first, introductory call is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6th at 3pm EDT. Contact [Jenee Kresge](#) for more information or to join the group.

EPA Releases Draft Clean Water Strategy: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a draft clean water strategy that outlines plans for new rules and other initiatives to prevent water quality from degrading, better manage pollution from animal feeding operations, expand coverage of municipal stormwater permits and promote green infrastructure. The draft document, *Coming Together for Clean Water: EPA's Strategy for Achieving Clean Water*, was developed following an EPA forum that included NARC representative Kenneth Fallows, Co-Chair, NARC Environment Committee. Click [HERE](#) to access the draft strategy. EPA is accepting comments on the strategy through September 17.

FEMA Releases New Web Resources: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) launched a new web page for state and local officials and their private sector partners that provides resources and the opportunities to share practices and ideas. The goal of the new page is to build a national resource that will benefit emergency management professionals and their constituents in communities nationwide. The page provides templates and models of successful programs around the country,

[click here to learn
how.](#)

as well as a list of benefits of starting a program, online resources, and information on grants and funding options. Click [HERE](#) to access the page.

Green Jobs Grant: NARC has completed the first two quarters of its U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) *Pathways Out of Poverty* green jobs project, through which it is training and placing workers, including disadvantaged clients, in a variety of green job trades in four regions in Arizona, Texas and Ohio. For more information, click [HERE](#) or contact [Naomi Friedman](#).

NARCPOLICY

Both the House and Senate will return this week from Recess.

NARC and CFED Discuss Economic Development Funding Opportunity:

Today, NARC and the [Corporation for Enterprise Development](#) (CFED) conducted a webinar CFED's efforts to creation of a Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) Economic Development Program (EDP) to fund grants or loan guarantees for retail, commercial or industrial facilities that provide quality jobs for those that are unemployed, disadvantaged or earn low wages. EDP funds could also be available for nonprofits focused on economic development activities in disadvantaged communities to hire staff, operate loan funds or provide business assistance. This could be a potential new source of economic development funding for local governments and regional councils to tap into. CFED is working with Congressman Kanjorski (D-PA) and other members of the [House Financial Services Committee](#), as well as the [Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee](#) to move this concept forward. If you are interested in learning more about or assisting with CFED's efforts, please contact Carol Wayman at 202.207.0125 or cwayman@cfed.org. Click [HERE](#) to access the webinar PowerPoint. Click [HERE](#) to access a one-pager on the proposal.

Congress to Work on Continuing Resolution: This week Congress returns from recess to work on a variety of bills, including a Continuing Resolution (CR), which will keep the government funded after the new fiscal year begins on October 1. Details on what the CR will include have not been released. To date, the House has only passed two of the 12 FY11 appropriations bills – Military Construction-Veterans Affairs and Transportation-HUD; the Senate has not completed any. Congress is targeting October 8 as an adjournment date for campaigning for the upcoming elections. It is possible, if Congress doesn't finish work on the appropriations bills that they will look to enact an omnibus measure after the elections. Click [HERE](#) to follow progress and get

information on the appropriations bills.

Senate to Work on Small Business Legislation: The Senate will return on Tuesday to continue work on legislation for small business assistance, HR 5297, the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act of 2010. The bill, which passed the House in mid-June, would establish a \$30 billion lending fund for small businesses, provide \$12 billion in tax breaks, and enhance federal programs that support small businesses. Click [HERE](#) for a summary of the bill.

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](#) to access a letter for your region to personalize. For more information or assistance with an endorsement, please contact [Shannon Baxevanis](#) 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 Baxevanis](#) 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. Click [HERE](#) for registration and agenda information.

ICMA Knowledge Network: Join the Conversation! It's Free! ICMA is committed to fostering excellence and innovation in local government. The

ICMA Knowledge Network is an online community built on the following ideals:

- Rich Content - Breadth and depth of content in all facets of local government operations and management.
- Social Networking and Knowledge Exchange - Within an open environment, ability to network and exchange ideas with a worldwide community of experts in local government and topics related to local government.
- Partnering - A partnership of the ICMA, the Alliance for Innovation and the School of Public Affairs at Arizona State University, the Knowledge Network is designed as a shared resource. Via open architecture, local governments, groups, organizations and affiliated associations will be provided seamless access, interaction and knowledge exchange. The Knowledge Network actively seeks new partners providing pathways to fresh, engaging content and new user audiences.
- Global Scope - The free flowing exchange of concepts, ideas and best practices will occur without boundary. City leaders in developing nations will be able access the functionality of the Knowledge Network to seek answers to their unique challenges and spur resource sharing and knowledge exchange throughout their countries.

Register at [the Knowledge Network page](#). It only takes a moment; it costs you nothing; it opens up a communications channel to like-minded people in local government around the world.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

EDA Announces of Funding Opportunity for Public Works Infrastructure Improvements and Planning - *Deadline: September 30, 2010*

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (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](#).

Federal Geographic Data Committee Announces Tentative Schedule for 2011 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program – Solicitation to be posted in Mid to Late October 2010

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) recently announced its tentative schedule for soliciting and selecting applicants for its 2011 National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP). Additional information is available [HERE](#) on the FGDC website, which will be updated as the solicitation is posted on [Grants.gov](#) and deadlines are finalized.

**U.S. EPA Funding Available to Support Brownfields Assessments -
Deadline: October 15, 2010**

The U.S. EPA has funding available to support brownfields assessments, including inventories, characterizations, cleanup planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites. EPA anticipates awarding an estimated 185 assessment grants for an estimated \$52.4 million, and a total of \$92.9 million in related Brownfields grants. For community-wide proposals, applicants may request up to \$200,000 for hazardous substances, and up to \$200,000 for petroleum activities. For site specific grants, applicants may request a waiver up to \$350,000 and assessment coalitions may submit a proposal up to \$1,000,000. Interest in sustainable redevelopment of sites. Eligible entities include: local governments, regional councils and tribes. Nonprofits not eligible. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

U.S. DOT Funding Available for the Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Projects (Program) - Deadline: October 29, 2010

The Federal Railroad Administration announced the availability of approximately \$20.5 million in discretionary funding for the Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Projects (Program) in a notice published in the Federal Register (see attached). Projects eligible are construction projects undertaken for the improvement of the route or structure of a rail line that either: are carried out for the purpose of mitigating the adverse effects of rail traffic on safety, motor vehicle traffic flow, community quality of life, or economic development; or involve a lateral or vertical relocation of any portion of the rail line. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

U.S. HUD Funding Available through HOPE VI Revitalization grant program - Deadline: November 22, 2010

HUD is making available approximately \$124 million in assistance through the FY2010 HOPE VI Revitalization grant program for public housing authorities

with severely distressed public housing. The maximum amount of each grant award is \$22 million; it is anticipated that five or six grant awards will be made. Eligible entities are (non-troubled) public housing authorities (PHAs) with severely distressed public housing, subject to the requirements under Section III of this Notice of Funding Availability. Nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, private citizens and entrepreneurs are not eligible to apply. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

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, Inc., a NARC corporate partner, will host a webinar on September 21, 2010 at 2pm EDT entitled, *Transportation for the Nation: An Overview and Opportunity for Comment*. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is developing a strategic plan for the "Transportation For The Nation" (TFTN) program, a year-long planning effort began in April 2010. The effort includes key stakeholder groups such as NARC to gather input on transportation data needs, and develop findings and recommendations as part of a plan to be

published early next year. This webinar will include a presentation 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 the webinar.

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*, 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 by clicking [HERE](#).

September 30-October 1, Wilmington, DE: The 7th Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Roundtable, *Sustainable Regions: States and Localities Working Regionally in the Mid-Atlantic*, will be hosted by the Wilmington Area Planning

Council. Additional details and registration information is available by clicking [HERE](#).

November 15-17, 2010, St. Louis, MO: The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Chicago and Denver Regional Offices will host a joint regional conference, *Keys to Grow Your Regional Economy: Jobs, Innovation and Partnerships*. The conference agenda will provide ample opportunities for networking and interaction with regional economic development leaders, practitioners, representatives from other federal agencies, presenters and EDA staff. Additional registration information is coming soon. For further information contact [Lindsey Riley](#).

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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