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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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

REGISTER TODAY!

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Congratulations to the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments on the success of their recent Ohio Conference on Freight. For the third year in a row, NARC has been honored to co-host this event. Click [HERE](#) to access post-

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

conference materials.

President Townsend, Erika Young and I attended and presented at last week's Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) Annual Conference. Thank you to the Alamo Area Council of Governments and TARC for our invitation.

President Townsend and I were also in Jeffersonville, IN last week presenting to the Indiana Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Thanks to Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency for hosting. It was good to see so many of our friends and colleagues on the road in San Antonio, Toledo and Jeffersonville.

With a little more than a week to go, if you haven't already done so, please register for the 2010 Executive Directors' Conference and Regional Metropolitan and Urban Policy Forum. The agendas are packed with fantastic presentations and engaging discussion. Click [HERE](#) to see the draft agendas and to

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

DIRECTORY of 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](#).

NARC PROGRAM

Join NARC's Regional Green Infrastructure Working Group: NARC, with support from the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program, will 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 6 at 3pm EDT. Please contact [Jenee Kresge](#) for more information or to join the group.

NARC Staff Attend Nuclear Power Plant Tour: On Friday, NARC Staff attended a Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) tour of the Salem Nuclear Power Plant in Salem, NJ. The Plant, owned by PSEG Nuclear LLC, is two of four nuclear power units in New Jersey and contains three nuclear reactors on its premises. To learn more about nuclear power, please visit [NEI's website](#).

FHWA Issues Transportation Planning and Livability Guidebook: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released a new guidebook, *Livability in Transportation Guidebook*, with best practice to implement livability principles in transportation. According to FHWA, the manual "is intended to be an overview on the importance of livability in transportation, to encourage transportation practitioners to think more broadly about project goals, enlist more partners, and develop more integrated solutions that support community livability." Click [HERE](#) to access the Guidebook.

NARCPOLICY

register. We look forward to seeing you there!

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

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

Make NARC your homepage — [click here to learn how](#).

The House and Senate are in session for votes.

Senate Passes Small Business Measure and Sends It Back to the

House: Last week, the Senate passed HR 5297, Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, which would increase federal small-business promotion programs, nearly \$12 billion small business tax breaks, and helping small businesses obtain affordable loans from community banks through the creation of a \$30 billion lending fund. Some Republicans have been opposed to the bill because of the lending fund and some of the offsets. A vote on the bill will be taken up early this week by the House. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

House Passes Measure to Create New Energy-Efficiency Loan

Programs: Last week, the House passed legislation that would establish new energy-efficiency loan programs in an effort to reduce residential and business energy costs, as well as create jobs. [HR 4785](#), the Rural Energy Savings Program Act, would authorize \$5 billion over five years. Of that funding, \$850 million would be distributed annually to states for Home Star to finance energy efficient home renovations. The bill would also provide \$150 million annually for Rural Star to make no-interest loans to eligible entities to lend money to rural energy consumers for improvements and investments to reduce residential energy use. The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

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.

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 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 Baxevanis at Shannon@NARC.org or 202.986.1032 x217.

PARTNERUPDATES

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.

2011 U.S. Forest Service National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge (NUCFAC) Cost-Share Grant Program - *Pre-Proposal Deadline: November 29, 2010*

The Forest Service recently announced the availability of approximately \$855,000 for its 2011 NUCFAC Cost-Share Grant Program, a funding opportunity with a focus on urban and community forestry projects with national or widespread impacts and applications. This year, the categories of emphasis include mitigating greenhouse gas emissions or helping communities adapt to climate change; the influence of urban and community forests on public health; and, the influence of urban and community forestry on economic development. For more information on the program, including a list of past recipients, visit the [NUCFAC webpage](#). Click [HERE](#) to download a full grant application package.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

September 21, Washington, DC: The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) will hold their 2nd Distracted Driving Summit. A distracted driving toolkit has been released prior to the event and is available by clicking [HERE](#). (User name is drivesafe; password is dsww2010) Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

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 will provide ample opportunities for networking and interaction with regional economic development leaders, practitioners, representatives from other federal agencies, presenters and EDA staff. Full conference details and registration information is available [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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