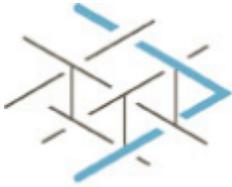


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. X, No. 29, September 27, 2010

eRegions

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Webster County,
Kentucky

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Krautler,
Executive Directors
Council
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EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Day one of our co-sponsored Regional Metropolitan and Urban Policy Forum has ended; we've already discussed new ways to finance regional transportation projects, new models for city and county governance, and economic development

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

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

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

Dept. of Interior to Open New Climate Science Centers: The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) will open two new Climate Science Centers to help lay the foundation for DOI's climate strategy – North Carolina State University for the Southeast and Oregon State, University of Washington and University of Idaho jointly for the Northwest. Click [HERE](#) to read more about DOI's climate strategy.

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*

clusters centered around energy and smart grids. Day two and the Executive Directors' Conference will be equally exciting. If we don't see you this week – please plan to join us next year.

Salute from Austin,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

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Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Policy Manager

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Naomi Friedman

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Jenee Kresge

Program Analyst

Lindsey Riley

Member Services

Manager

Erika Young

Transportation Director

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

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

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.

NACo Releases Sustainability Strategies publication: The National Association of Counties released their *2010 County Sustainability Strategies* report. Click [HERE](#) to access additional information.

Department of Education's Sustainability Education Summit: Last week, NARC Staff attended the Department of Education's Sustainability Education Summit: *Citizenship and Pathways for a Green Economy*. The summit focused on developing action steps to help education, business and industry and government transition to a green economy. Discussions topics ranged from instituting a nationwide curriculum for environmental literacy in schools to building partnerships between businesses and schools to prepare students to work in a green economy. For more information about the goal and key themes of the summit, click [HERE](#).

New Green Jobs Definition Released: The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), responsible for developing and implementing the collection of data on green jobs, just published its final definition of green jobs. NARC submitted comments to BLS earlier this year to assist in the crafting of the definition. BLS defines green jobs to include jobs that focus on the production of green goods and services as well as those that focus on upgrading production processes to be more environmentally friendly. For additional information about the definition click [HERE](#), or to access NARC's comments click [HERE](#).

NARCPOLICY

The House and Senate are in session.

House Committee Holds Hearing on Livable Communities Act: On Thursday, September 23, the House Financial Services Committee held a hearing on the Livable Communities Act (S 1619/ HR 4690), featuring Congressional, local elected and practitioner testimonies. The Denver Regional Council of Governments was well represented by Lakewood, CO

Mayor Bob Murphy, who detailed the many benefits of working regionally to implement livability principles and strategies locally. Click [HERE](#) to read written testimony or to view the webcast. NARC, in partnership with the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, Transportation for America and National Association of Development Organizations, submitted an official letter supporting the bill. Please contact [Shannon Baxevanis](#) for more information.

NARC Briefs Senate Banking Committee Staff on Transportation

Planning: Upon request from the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, Erika Young, NARC's Transportation Director, briefed Committee staff on important planning provisions and concepts to strengthen local government and MPO planning activities within transportation reauthorization. Please contact [Erika Young](#) for more information.

Public Safety Spectrum Network Bill in Process:

At a Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee hearing, Senator Rockefeller (D-WV) and several interest groups continued to push [S 3756](#), Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act, which would secure spectrum for the public safety sector to create a national communications network supporting voice, data, video, etc. For years, security and safety officials have said their operations are hampered by an inability to reliably communicate with each other. Concerns with the bill include: creating a state-by-state system; sharing spectrum with commercial and public sectors; and, adequate funding to set up the network. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the hearing.

Small Business Bill Goes to the President:

After House passage of HR 5297, Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, the bill now goes to the President for his signature. President Obama has already indicated he will sign it immediately. The bill would increase federal small-business promotion programs, provide nearly \$12 billion small business tax breaks, and help 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 read more about the bill.

House and Senate Pass FAA Extension: Both the House and the Senate passed separate three-month extensions for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). One measure will have to be moved forward for

Presidential signature. The Senate's version is HR 4853 (a revised House-passed bill) and the House's new version is HR 6190 (now up for Senate consideration); both bills are clean extensions. The current short-term FAA extension is set to expire at the end of September, and a new extension will allow Congress time to work on a long-term authorization bill.

Congress to Work on Basic Continuing Resolution Measure: In order to keep the federal government and many other programs funded, Congress is working to pull together a Continuing Resolution (CR). This is required because the fiscal year 2011 appropriations bills have yet to be completed, and the new fiscal year is right around the corner – October 1, 2010. Congress is expected to pass and send a CR to the President next week before leaving Washington to hit the campaign trail. This CR is anticipated to include basic funding to fund the government through until December, when it is likely that Congress will enact an omnibus package for any remaining FY11 appropriations bills.

Support Livable Communities: Both the House ([HR 4690](#)) and Senate ([S1619](#)) have legislation 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](#).

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.

ESRI ArcLogistics Government Grant Program -

Deadline: November 11, 2010

ESRI recently announced a grant program that will award subscriptions to their new cloud-based vehicle routing solution. One hundred state, regional, and local government agencies across the U.S. will receive grants totaling \$450,000 in value. For more information about the grant, please visit www.esri.com/govgrants.

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 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](#).

October 14, Webinar, 3:00-4:00pm ET: The Office of Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships and Outreach (OSIPO) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will host a webinar on their Grasstops Partnership Campaign, whose goal is to aggressively increase FNS program awareness and participation through local level initiatives. The Grasstops Partnership Campaign seeks to engage state and local elected officials and jointly create action plans and/or partner agreements, including one with NARC, to promote nutrition programs respective to their locale. FNS will provide an overview of the program and how elected officials and regional councils alike can work together to assist in these efforts. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to register.

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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