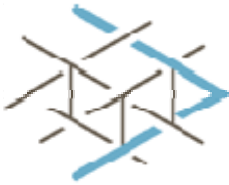


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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Kentucky-Indiana

Regional Council of

Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

This week the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee released their version (MAP-21) of the Surface Transportation Authorization. Led by Chairwoman Boxer of California, the Committee makes sweeping changes to programs including the

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)
[PARTNER UPDATE](#) [GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#)
[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

PROGRAM UPDATE

NARC Transportation Committee Webinar Has Been Rescheduled:

The next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2011 from 12:00-2:00pm ET. The webinar will focus on *Regional Aviation Systems Planning: Introductions and Perspectives* and will feature the case studies we've recently created. While the agenda is yet to be released, you can Click [HERE](#) to register early.

EPA Announces Final Study Plan to Assess Hydraulic Fracturing:

EPA announced last week its final research plan on hydraulic fracturing. The *Congressionally directed study will evaluate potential impacts on drinking water resources*. The initial research results and study findings will be released to the public in 2012. The final report will be delivered in 2014. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

First Nationwide Test of the Emergency Alert System to Take Place on November 9:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region III office announced today that at 2:00pm ET on November 9, the federal government will conduct the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), an alert and warning system that

structure of MPOs. NARC is analyzing the proposal this week and has already begun efforts to communicate to its members areas of concern and support.

Tangentially, we are also watching and communicating on a proposed House bill that would eliminate the Economic Development Administration (H.R. 3090). In addition, the Deficit Reduction Committee has to make recommendations on federal spending and revenues shortly. You will see a lot of communication and calls to action on all of these issues over the next month.

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

can be activated by the president, if needed, to provide information to the American public during emergencies. The test will last approximately 30 seconds. During this period, regularly scheduled television, radio, cable, and satellite shows will be interrupted as the system is being tested.

FEMA is working to ensure that the public is aware of this test and that it will not be a real emergency alert. The test is being conducted by FEMA, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as part of their ongoing efforts to keep the nation safe during emergencies and strengthen our resilience against all hazards.

POLICYUPDATE

The Senate is in session; the House is in recess.

Senate Continues FY12 Appropriations Work: The current funding stopgap bill expires on November 18 and Congress has yet to pass the 12 appropriations bills. This week, the Senate is debating its second combined appropriations bill, which would provide \$ and rolls together Energy-Water (HR 2354), Financial Services (S 1573) and State-Foreign Operations (S 1601) spending bills. Last week the House and Senate appropriators held a conference on HR 2112, approved by the Senate on November 1, which would provide combined spending for FY12 Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, and Transportation-HUD spending bills. This bill, which could have a couple additional spending bills attached to it, is slated for a vote next week.

Coburn Amendment to Cut USDA Rural Development Funding

Defeated: Senator Coburn's (R-OK) Amendment No. 800 to cut funding to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program was defeated by a very strong vote of 85-13 last week. A summary of the vote is available [HERE](#).

Transportation Reauthorization Bill Text Released: The U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer and Ranking Member James Inhofe have released the text of their transportation reauthorization bill. The bill is scheduled for full Committee markup at 10:00am ET on Wednesday, November 9, 2011. Click [HERE](#) to access the bill text and [HERE](#) to access a summary. A NARC analysis of the bill will be released soon.

Lindsey Riley

Deputy of
Communications

Erika Young

Transportation Director

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PARTNERUPDATE

ICMA Event: Finding Your True North: Leading with Purpose:

ICMA, in partnership with the Authentic Leadership Institute, is offering a new, one-and-a-half-day program that will set you on the path toward discovering the authentic leader within you. Through stories, guided exercises, and feedback, **Finding Your True North** will help you gain perspective about your identity and true purpose and how best to apply your authentic leadership talents. By understanding at a deep level your motivations, passions, strengths and weaknesses, you'll clarify your leadership "sweet spot." Most importantly, you'll become part of a group of like-minded leaders, who will help you create and implement an action plan for leading an authentic, purposeful life. Join us for this powerful, life-changing program and learn how to lead authentically and with purpose. For more information, visit **icma.org/TrueNorth.**

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.**

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

NIFA Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program Accepting Applications

Applications Due: November 17, 2011

The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is accepting applications for its Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program, which includes funds for nonprofit organizations engaging in Community Food Projects, Planning Projects of Capacity Building Projects. Anticipated funding for the full program is \$5 million. More information is available **HERE.**

2012 NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program

January 2012

Preliminary information regarding the 2012 National Spatial Data Information (NSDI) Cooperative Agreements Program has been released. A full grant announcement will be posted by the end of October. Click [HERE](#) to access the information that is available now.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

White House State Specific Conference Call

November 10: Please join White House officials for our next round of State specificConference Call. White House officials will provide a series of updates, including the American Jobs Act, the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget, and President Obama's "We Can't Wait" series of Executive actions. Please RSVP to OPERSVP@who.eop.gov with your name, organization, and city, state. Click [HERE](#) for specific times for MO, MN, IL, FL, NY, MA, ME, CO, AZ, MI and WI.

White House State Specific Conference Call

November 14: Please join White House officials for our next round of State specificConference Call. White House officials will provide a series of updates, including the American Jobs Act, the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget, and President Obama's "We Can't Wait" series of Executive actions. Please RSVP to OPERSVP@who.eop.gov with your name, organization, and city, state. Click [HERE](#) for specific times for VA, TX, OH, PA, NJ, CA, MT and OR.

2012 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program Webinar

November 14, 1:00-2:00 pm ET: The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) invites you to participate in a free webinar that will provide information about the 2012 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program (NSDI CAP). The purpose of NSDI CAP is to fund innovative projects in the geospatial data community to build the infrastructure necessary to effectively discover, access, share, manage and use digital geospatial data. Participants will learn what the NSDI CAP is and how to apply for this federally funded program. Click [HERE](#) to register.

2012 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program Webinar

December 1, 1:00-2:00 pm ET: The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) invites you to participate in a free webinar that will provide information about the 2012 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program (NSDI CAP). The purpose of NSDI CAP is to fund innovative projects in the geospatial data community to build the infrastructure necessary to effectively discover, access, share, manage and use digital geospatial data. Participants will learn what the NSDI CAP is and how to apply for this federally funded program. Click [HERE](#) to register.

2012 National Conference of Regions

February 12-14, 2012, Washington, DC: Save the Date! NARC will host its 2012 National Conference of Regions, which will focus on Obama Administration's priorities, Congressional activities, and critical policy issues and pending federal legislation that will impact regions. Registration and additional information will be available soon.

46th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 10-14, 2012, St. Petersburg, FL: Save the Date! Join us for the the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. NARC's annual conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Registration and additional information will be available in early 2012.

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