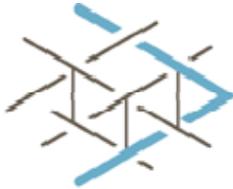


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

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2012 NATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF REGIONS
FEBRUARY 12-14, 2012

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I know we all have things to be thankful for, including friends, family and colleagues!

On that note, as we are thankful of your

PROGRAMUPDATE

Guidebook for Sustainability Performance Measurement for

Transportation Agencies: The Transportation Research Board has available, "[A Guidebook for Sustainability Performance Measurement for Transportation Agencies](#)," which describes the underlying principles of sustainability as it relates to transportation, possible goals that can be used to address those principles and performance measures that can be used to address those goals. In addition to the guidebook, the [contractor's project Final Report](#) that contains the results of the literature review, surveys of the state of the practice, case study interviews, detail on research methodology and findings, and a discussion of future research needs is available. A [CD-](#)

continued support and participation, we've launched the 2012 National Conference of Regions (NCR). This is the premier event for regional leaders to come together and discuss the future of our communities in Federal policy and programs. Given the state of our Federal budget and the discussion revolving around debt and deficit this year and next, the NCR will be informative in discussions, presentations and strategies in moving our agenda forward. If the 2012 NCR is anything like the last few, it will prove to be one of the best events you will attend. Please join us and your colleagues from around the country to shape federal policy. Register early!

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

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Deputy Director

Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Kristin Heery

Program Analyst

ROM, included in the print version of the guidebook, is also provided and contains an Excel-spreadsheet-based version of the performance measures compendium located in Appendix B of the guidebook.

Free GIS Mapping Tool: The Urban Network Analysis (UNA), developed by **MIT**, uses mathematical network analysis methods to give policymakers a detailed, visual look at how decisions would shape nearly every aspect of urban development, including where jobs could land and where street traffic would be highest. The tool measures the "reach, gravity, betweenness, closeness and straightness" to urban elements like public transit. Unlike other similar tools, UNA allows users to assign characteristics to individual buildings to get unique, more accurate results. The tool is an open-source plug-in for the ArcGIS mapping system and can be downloaded **HERE**.

POLICYUPDATE

The Senate is in session. The House returns to session on Tuesday.

FY12 Appropriations Update: Finishing the remaining nine appropriations bills is top priority for Congress before the holiday recess. A continuing resolution is keeping government operations funded through the unfinished appropriations bills through December 16. It is expected that the remaining spending bills will be placed into a single omnibus bill for finalization before the end of the year. This week the Senate will continue consideration of the FY12 defense authorization bill.

House to Consider Regulatory Bill: This week the House Rules Committee is scheduled to debate **HR 3010**, the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2011, which would reform the process by which federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents. It would require agencies to publish advance notice of proposed rulemaking for major rules and high impact rules having an annual cost on the economy of \$100 million or \$1 billion or more respectively. It also would set criteria for issuing major guidance.

REGIONS360

Jenee Kresge

Economic and
Community
Development Manager

Lindsey Riley

Deputy of
Communications

Erika Young

Transportation Director

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of *eRegions*, **visit our
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SJCOG, MTC and StanCOG Release Video Executive Summary: The San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG), METropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) have released a video executive summary of their I-580 Interregional Corridor Report. The video is designed to be the executive summary, but will live on beyond the report itself. Click **HERE** to access the video.

ASSISTANCE REQUEST

SOLAR CASE STUDIES: As part of NARC's work with the **SunShot Initiative**, NARC is developing case studies of regional councils who have done work in the field of solar energy. The goal is to include a variety of examples to be highlighted in a publication. We would love to hear about your experience working to promote solar energy in your region. CONTACT: Kristin Heery, **kristin@narc.org** or 202.986.1032 x225

PARTNER UPDATE

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**.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. Forest Service 2012 National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grant – approximately \$900,000

Pre-proposal (Required) Due: December 1, 2011

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council is offering Innovation Grants for program development, research and collaboration to address three strategic priority issues widely seen as confronting the urban and community forestry community at a national or multistate level: Climate Change, Public Health and Economic Development. The Council seeks proposals from organizations, agencies, and partnerships to fund innovative projects that will demonstrate the reach, resources, and expertise needed to address the three priority issues in ways that will lead to meaningful, replicable results. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Community Planning Assistance Team Initiative

Deadline: December 13, 2011

The American Planning Association is seeking applications from local communities for the Community Planning Assistance Team (CPAT) initiative. The CPAT gives communities an opportunity to engage, educate, and empower its citizens in order to accomplish a planning goal related to social equity and affordability, economic development, sustainability, consensus building, or urban design. The CPAT program is open to local jurisdictions, regional planning organizations and non-profit organizations. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

2012 IBM Grants Available for Cities

Deadline: December 16, 2011

IBM will award \$50 million in grants and expert advice to cities that want to solve their problems using data-based solutions. One hundred cities worldwide will have the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to becoming a "[smarter city](#)"-- using data to study local urban issues like high crime and food deserts, and come up with solutions based on scientific, systematic observations. IBM's Smarter Cities Challenge, embarking on its second year, provides winning cities with free consulting services from urban and technology experts, who will study each city and offer tailored recommendations for improving their services (approximately a \$400,000 value). Last year, 24 grants were given out and [U.S. cities](#) nabbed eight of them. Applications can be found [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.

DOI WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2012

Application Due: January 19, 2012

The DOI WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program establishes a framework to provide federal leadership and assistance on the efficient use of water, integrating water and energy policies to support the sustainable use of all natural resources, and coordinating the water conservation activities of various DOI bureaus and offices. DOI invites eligible entities to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with the Bureau of Reclamation on projects that seek to conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the use of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency, benefit endangered and threatened species, facilitate water markets, or carry out other activities to address climate-related impacts on water or prevent any water-related crisis or conflict. More information is available [HERE](#).

U.S. EPA Sustaining Urban Areas: Water Quality

Application Due: January 23, 2012

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expects to award between \$1.8 to \$3.8 million in funding for projects across the country to help restore urban waters by improving water quality and supporting community revitalization. The goal of the Urban Waters Small Grants program is to fund research, studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities such as public health, social and economic opportunities, general livability and environmental justice for residents. Information about Urban Waters Small Grants including the Request for Proposal (RFP) and registration links for the webinars is available at <http://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/funding>. The U.S. EPA expects to award the grants in Summer 2012.

U.S. DOE Smart Grid Data Access Funding Opportunity – \$8 million

Application Due: March 1, 2012

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory is seeking applications aimed at empowering consumers to better manage their electricity use by enabling access to electricity consumption data by customers and their authorized third parties, and providing or

supporting the use of third party tools and software products that use the available data to deliver a value-added service to the customer.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

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: Register Today! 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. Click [HERE](#) to access registration and additional information.

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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