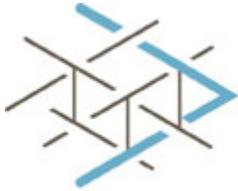


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. X, No. 38, December 6, 2010

eRegions

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Krautler,

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EXECUTIVE BRIEF

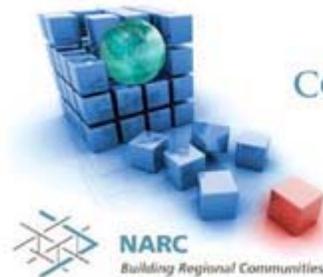
Colleagues,

Congratulations to the National League of Cities (NLC) on a successful conference last week in Denver, CO. I want to thank Phoenix, AZ Council Member Peggy Neely, NLC Representative to our Board, for her leadership.

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

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



2011 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2011

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

You're invited to join local elected officials, Councils of Government and Metropolitan Planning Organizations from around the country at the 2011 National Conference of Regions - *Renewing the Regional Commitment*. Click [HERE](#) to access the current draft agenda; click [HERE](#) to register or contact Lindsey Riley at lindsey@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x220 for more information.

Councilwoman Neely, along with NARC staff and Denver Regional Council of Governments' Executive Director Jennifer Schaufele, moderated two sessions on regional cooperation for local governments. Thank you to NLC for including NARC staff and members in their events.

Earlier this afternoon you were notified that the NARC office is moving to a new location closer to Capitol Hill. We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to seeing all of you at our new location.

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Policy Manager

Sylvia Bryant

Office Manager

Naomi Friedman

Project Director

Jenee Kresge

Program Analyst

Lindsey Riley

Member Services

Manager

Erika Young

Transportation Director

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 at **sylvia@narc.org** or 202.986.1032.

NARCPROGRAM

Upcoming NARC Webinar: *Geospatial Viewers Overview: Tuesday, December 7, 2010, 2pm ET*: This webinar, hosted by Sam Wear from Westchester County, NY GIS, will provide a demo on how to get started with a variety of easy-to-use geospatial viewers (ArcGIS Explorer, Google Earth, NASA World Wind, GAIA 3, etc.) that offer cost effective options in delivering, sharing, and viewing geospatial data and services. Click **HERE** to register.

EPA Launches Website to Increase Transparency of Regulatory

Activity: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched a new website called **Reg Stat** that will enhance public understanding of its regulatory process and the number, type and range of regulatory documents developed each year by the agency. Reg Stat provides information on EPA documents published in the Federal Register between 2005 and 2009. It also provides in-depth information on rulemakings likely to be of most interest to stakeholders -- those rules signed by the EPA administrator that substantively amend the Code of Federal Regulations. Users will be able to determine the number of rules signed by the administrator, how long it took to develop each rule, whether a rule underwent Executive Order 12866 regulatory review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the length of OMB review. Both summary graphics and searchable data tables are available.

EDA Taps Harvard Business School to Develop Cluster Mapping:

The Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness at Harvard Business School has been selected by the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) to lead the Cluster Mapping Project for the United States. The project aims to provide policymakers and development practitioners across America with rich data and tools for understanding industry clusters in every region of the country, together with tool kits and case studies to assist in formulating economic development strategies. In addition, the project will develop a directory of active cluster initiatives throughout the country. Click **HERE** to learn more.

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

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

DOT Secretary Supports Reopening Comments Outlined in the MUTCD:

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Ray LaHood expressed his support for reopening the comment period for the new street sign rules outlined in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). These rules included: an increase in the size of the letters on road signs from four inches to six inches on streets with speed limits over 25 miles per hour; more reflective lettering; and the replacement of lettering on signs from all capital letters to title case. The Secretary expressed concern about the cost to local governments associated with replacement of these signs in a statement issued Tuesday. You can view the Federal Register notice [HERE](#) and U.S. DOT's press release [HERE](#).

NARCPOLICY

The House and Senate are in Lame Duck session.

Debt Commission Recommendations Halted: Last week, the [National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform](#) released their final recommendations on how to reduce the national debt and cut government spending. The Commission failed to reach consensus, falling three votes short of a 14-vote goal. Click [HERE](#) to view the report.

Congress Approves Resolution to Extend Government Funding to Dec. 18: The U.S. House of Representatives voted last Wednesday to pass a continuing resolution (CR) ([H.J. Res 101](#)) extending government funding until December 18. The Senate concurred late Thursday, and it was signed by the President on Saturday. Congress has yet to enact any of the 12 appropriations bills directing federal spending for the fiscal year that began October 1. Congress will continue to work on a large omnibus package before the holiday recess.

Global Warming Select Committee to be Removed for 112th Congress: Last week, Republicans announced the elimination of the [House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming](#) in the next Congress.

House Passes FAA Extension: Last Thursday, the House voted to extend Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) programs, taxes and authority through March 31, 2011 ([HR 6473](#)). The current authorization (PL 111-249) expires December 31. The last long-term authorization (PL 108-176) expired in

September 2007, and the FAA programs have been extended through a series of short-term laws.

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

CM2H Hill: Greenroads Foundation Announces Certification for Sustainable Roadways: Greenroads, jointly developed by University of Washington researchers and CH2M HILL, a NARC Corporate Partner, is a decision-making tool that helps transportation professionals measure, assess, improve and manage sustainability performance of roadway projects. Modeled on existing building rating systems (U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System -LEED® being the most popular), the Greenroads Rating System is a collection of sustainable design and construction practices for roadway and bridge projects. Each one describes a particular sustainable practice and assigns a point value according to its impact on roadway sustainability. There are 11 Project Requirements that must be met in order for a roadway to be considered a Greenroad. The Greenroads certification application, accepted through the end of 2010, can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#). To learn more

about Greenroads, go to <http://www.greenroads.us>.

ICMA Knowledge Network: Join the Conversation! It's Free! The International City/County Management Association (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

National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreement Program (NSDI CAP) Grants - Deadline: January 7, 2011

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) has announced the release of the 2010 NSDI CAP grant applications. This grant opportunity supports organizations across the country develop and implement projects to support several phases of the NSDI. Categories for projects include: Metadata Trainer and Outreach Assistance, FGDC-endorsed Standards

Implementation Training and Outreach, Fifty States Initiative-Strategic and Business Plan Development, Fifty States Initiative-Business Plan Development and Implementation, Return on Investment Methodology and Business Case Development for Multi-agency NSDI Projects and FGDC Standards Development Assistance. More information on the program is available [HERE](#) and additional information on the grant application process is available at www.grants.gov.

U.S. EPA Accepting Applications for Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training – Deadline: January 14, 2011

The U.S. EPA is accepting funding proposals to deliver environmental workforce development and job training programs focused on hazardous and solid waste management, assessment, and cleanup associated activities. These grants are to recruit, train, and place, unemployed and under-employed, predominantly low-income and minority, residents affected by hazardous and solid waste sites and facilities with the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in the environmental field and in the assessment and cleanup work. EPA has available \$4 million to award approximately 13 cooperative agreements. Eligible entities: local governments, government entity created through state legislature, Regional Council or group of local governments, redevelopment agency, Indian tribe, land clearance authority, and non-profit organizations. Click [HERE](#) for the application guidelines. Click [HERE](#) for more information on brownfields funding opportunities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Geospatial Viewers Overview Webinar

Tuesday, December 7, 2010, 2pm ET: This webinar, hosted by Sam Wear from Westchester County, NY GIS, will provide a demo on how to get started with a variety of easy-to-use geospatial viewers (ArcGIS Explorer, Google Earth, NASA World Wind, GAIA 3, etc.) that offer cost effective options in delivering, sharing, and viewing geospatial data and services. These viewers can be used to easily to consume and combine (a.k.a. “mash-up”) Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) compliant map services with local datasets and other digital products. Steps on how to access and use map services (WMS, ArcIMS, KML/KMZ, others) and local shapefiles, and other application highlights will be discussed. Click [HERE](#) to register.

2011 National Conference of Regions

February 13-15, 2011, Washington, DC: NARC will host its 2011 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 register for the conference.

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