

MEMBER ACTION ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NARC Urges Members to Contact Congress *Economic Recovery Package Advocacy Materials Available Through NARC Website*

WASHINGTON, DC – December 23, 2008 – The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) has been active in shaping the debate surrounding the economic recovery (stimulus) package. To assist members, NARC has prepared an overview of what is happening in Congress, items to consider and actions to take. All materials are currently available on [NARC's website](http://www.narc.org).

Please contact your Congressional delegation to let them know the importance of directing federal stimulus dollars down to the local level.

Available NARC materials for members include:

- Economic Recovery Package Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- General NARC Member Talking Points (for use in Congressional delegation discussions)
- General NARC Member Congressional Letter (to personalize and send to your Congressional delegation)
- An online survey to submit your “ready-to-go” infrastructure projects

To date, NARC has:

- Conducted meetings with the Obama Transition Team, several Members of Congress and Congressional Committee staff to advocate for locally and regionally directed funding as a component of a stimulus bill;
- Held a conference call with the NARC Board of Directors and Executive Directors Council to discuss stimulus status, implications, concerns and next steps;
- Submitted support letters on April 17, 2008 as a part of the Economic Development Coalition to encourage Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding in a stimulus bill;
- Submitted letters to Congressional leadership from NARC President Betty Knight on October 27, 2008 detailing infrastructure needs and offering solutions;
- Testified before the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee's hearing, “Investing in Infrastructure: The Road to Recovery” on October 29, 2008;
- Submitted letters to Congressional leadership from President Knight on November 14, 2008 offering specific stimulus funding recommendations;
- Submitted commentary from President Knight to the *National Journal* blog on December 5, 2008, responding to the question: “How Should The Infrastructure Stimulus Be Spent?”;
- Released the NARC report, *Regional Infrastructure Investment: Building Our Economies; Investing in Our Communities*, on December 8, 2008;
- Issued a press release on December 8, 2008 about NARC's regional infrastructure investment report;
- Earned an article in *Traffic World*, “Regional Councils Urge Recovery Spending,” on December 11, 2008; and,
- Released a letter with the other local government associations to Congressional leaders on December 22, 2008, urging stimulus transportation funding to go to local governments.

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About the National Association of Regional Councils

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) serves as the national voice for regionalism by advocating for regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety of community planning and development opportunities and issues. NARC's member organizations are composed of multiple local governments that work together to serve American communities – large and small, urban and rural. In 2008, NARC launched the first of four public awareness campaigns – Green Regions, Mobile Regions, Build Regions and Secure Regions. For additional information, please visit www.NARC.org.