

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Lindsey Riley
202.986.1032 / lindsey@narc.org

The National Association of Regional Councils Identifies Over \$25 Billion in Ready-To-Go Regional Projects *Encourages Congress to Consider Sustained, Strategic Public Investments in Economic Recovery*

WASHINGTON, DC (December 8, 2008) – The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) today released a report identifying over \$25 billion in ready-to-go regional projects within 30, 60 and 90-day time periods. The NARC report, [Regional Infrastructure Investment: Building Our Economies: Investing in Our Communities](#), is a snapshot of regional and local transportation and wastewater infrastructure projects offered by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), regional Councils of Governments (COGs) and Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs) in urban, suburban and rural America.

“It is imperative that any economic recovery package contain regionally strategic infrastructure investments that maintain a strong focus on the priorities of local communities, act in partnership with regional planning organizations, and provide transparency in the process,” said NARC President Betty Knight, Presiding Platte County, Missouri Commissioner. “NARC is pleased to present this report and recommendations to Members of Congress and the new Administration, as examples of projects that, if funded, could immediately begin to create jobs, strengthen communities and stimulate local, regional and national economies.”

NARC urges Congress to make local infrastructure projects a top priority of economic stimulus by acting on thousands of “ready-to-go” local infrastructure projects through an economic recovery package. Congress should also ensure an equitable distribution of funds via formula allocation – transportation projects should receive funding through the Surface Transportation Program allocation process and wastewater projects should receive grant funding through a flexible Clean Water State Revolving Fund process.

Most recently, President Knight sent letters to Congressional leadership and NARC Executive Directors Council member Gary Gallegos, executive director of the San Diego Association of Governments, testified at the October 29th House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hearing. The letters and testimony make the case that funding ready-to-go local and regional infrastructure projects through a national economic recovery program will create jobs, stimulate economic renewal and lay the foundation for long-term economic growth.

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About The National Association of Regional Councils

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) serves as a 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. For additional information, please visit www.NARC.org.