National Conference of Regions
February 12-15, 2017
Washington Court Hotel
525 New Jersey Ave N.W., Washington, D.C.

Draft Agenda
UPDATED: January 18, 2017

Sunday, February 12

1:00 – 4:00 PM MOBILE WORKSHOP: DC’s UNION STATION
Tour D.C.’s historic Union Station. Completed in 1908 and recently renovated, more than 100,000 visitors pass through each day on their way to Amtrak, Maryland Area Regional Commuter rail, Virginia Railway Express, Metro subway trains, buses, taxis, tourist buses, and Capital Bikeshare with numerous opportunities to shop and dine. Today the station, which is larger than the U.S. Capitol, is the number one destination for visitors to the nation’s capital. This is a walking tour. Cost is $15.

6:00 – 7:30 PM OPENING RECEPTION
Please join your colleagues in a reception to kick off NARC’s 2017 National Conference of Regions.

Monday, February 13

8:00 AM REGISTRATION OPENS

8:30 – 10:15 AM BREAKFAST & OPENING SESSIONS

WELCOME TO WASHINGTON SESSION & INTRODUCTION OF NARC BOARD MEMBERS
• Hon. Ron Shaffer, NARC President; Commissioner, Johnson County, KS

THE FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA IN A YEAR OF CHANGE, PART 1
With a new president in the White House and the 115th Congress in place, this is a year of significant change in Washington, D.C. It is important to set the stage from a policy perspective and consider some of the broader issues that will set the agenda this year and beyond. This panel of experts will present their perspectives on a range of issues.
• Moderator: Ryan Holeywell, Communications Manager, Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University
• Ryan Alexander, President, Taxpayers for Common Sense
• Anna Holmquist Davis, Director of Government Relations, National Governors Association
• Marek Gootman, Fellow and Director of Strategic Partnerships and Global Engagements, Brookings Institution
Transportation and Infrastructure emerged as important topics during the presidential contest, and are issues that generally garner bipartisan support in Congress. What is unclear is what form an infrastructure package might take and whether Congress will be willing to pass a large new spending bill. This panel will share their perspectives and what it could mean for the future.

- Moderator: Ryan Holeywell, Communications Manager, Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University
- Pat Jones, Executive Director, International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association
- Robert Puentes, President and CEO, Eno Center for Transportation

10:15 – 10:30 AM  BREAK

10:30 – 11:45 AM  BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

TRANSPORTATION: AN INTERSECTOR PROCESS FOR U.S. INFRASTRUCTURE

- Neil Britto, Executive Director, The Intersector Project
- Peter Peyser, Principal, Peyser Associates
- Dan Carol, Senior Advisor, Georgetown's Beeck Center for Social Impact and Innovation

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

This session will discuss alternative fuel vehicle and infrastructure deployment as well as NARC's Fleets for the Future (F4F) project. Through F4F, NARC is working with regional councils and their associated Clean Cities coalitions to launch five regional initiatives and one national initiative for bulk procurement of alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure.

- Chair: Mayor Blair Milo, City of La Porte, IN
- Leah Boggs, Senior Environmental Planner, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
- Kelly Gilbert, Director, Clean Cities at Metropolitan Energy Center
- Barry Carr, Clean Cities Coordinator, Clean Communities of Central New York
- Colleen Crowninshield, Clean Cities Manager, Pima Association of Governments

11:45 – 1:00 PM LUNCH WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS

Fifty years ago, the National Association of Counties and National League of Cities recognized the importance of working together across jurisdictions by creating the National Association of Regional Councils.

- Matt Chase, Executive Director, National Association of Counties

1:00 – 1:05 PM  BREAK

1:05 – 2:20 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

FINANCE

With Congress expected to debate infrastructure investment and tax reform this year, how do local governments play a role in the discussion? Currently, municipal bonds finance over 75% of local government infrastructure investments yet their tax exempt status continues to be threatened. The promise of public private partnerships offer a potential answer to fulfilling the investment gap but how realistic are they for the majority of projects? This session will explore municipal finance opportunities and concerns for the coming year.

- Emily Brock, Director, Federal Liaison Center, Government Finance Officers Association

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

2:20 – 2:30 PM  BREAK

2:30 – 3:45 PM BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Thriving communities depend on citizen’s trust in their safety. An expert panel will discuss strategies to address public safety in a comprehensive manner.

- **Chair**: Byron Ryder, Judge, Leon County, TX
- **Steve Ambrosini**, Executive Director, IJIS Institute
- **Patrick Halley**, Executive Director, NG911 Institute
- **Yucel Ors**, Program Director, National League of Cities
- **George Rice**, Executive Director, Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies

3:45 – 3:50 PM BREAK

3:50 – 4:35 PM LEGAL CHALLENGES FOR COMMUNITIES 2017 AND BEYOND
The Supreme Court and the lower courts, in terms of membership and issues to be decided, will be shaped by the new administration. Hear from the State and Local Legal Center’s Executive Director Lisa Soronen as she explores legal issues relevant to local governments that are likely to be resolved in the courts in the near future. Ms. Soronen files amicus curiae briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of members of the Big Seven (National Governors Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, Council of State Governments, National League of Cities, US Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties, and International City/County Management Association) in cases affecting state and local government.

- **Lisa Soronen**, Executive Director, State and Local Legal Center

4:35 – 4:45 PM BREAK

4:45 – 6:15 PM EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday, February 14**

8:00 AM REGISTRATION OPENS

8:30 – 10:00 AM BREAKFAST & OPENING SESSIONS

**KEYNOTE: GEORGE HAWKINS OF DC WATER**
George Hawkins serves as CEO and General Manager of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water). Upon his arrival in 2009, Mr. Hawkins launched an ambitious agenda to transform DC Water into a customer-oriented enterprise that is driving innovation and delivering improved value to its ratepayers. The core goal is to improve aging infrastructure while complying with stringent regulatory requirements. DC Water is investing in several projects, including the $2.6 billion Clean Rivers Project to nearly eliminate overflows of sewage and stormwater to the Anacostia and Potomac rivers and Rock Creek, and a $470 million waste-to-energy program to help manage solids being removed from reclaimed water while generating 13 megawatts of green power. DC Water is also driving industry-leading efforts in customer engagement, science and engineering research, and development, and product development and licensing. Mr. Hawkins has also launched DC Water Works! – a program to experiment with cost-efficient techniques to encourage local workforce development and hiring.

- **George Hawkins**, CEO and General Manager, District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority

**THE OPIOID TASK FORCE**
The National League of Cities (NLC) and the National Association of Counties (NACo) have launched a joint task force to address our nation’s opioid and heroin abuse crisis. The National City-County Task Force will explore how cities and counties collaborate to address the opioid epidemic and how local leaders can help to build upon these collaborations and scale them nationally, in order to improve outcomes in local communities across America that have been impacted by the epidemic.

- **Hon. Gary Moore**, Immediate Past President, NARC; Judge Executive, Boone County, KY

10:00 – 10:10 AM BREAK
THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND YOUR COMMUNITY
Many communities across the country have close ties with defense and military programs. Some communities are home to military bases or installations, while others have private sector manufacturers supplying defense contractors. Regardless of the relationship, when a defense program change occurs, it can have a major impact on the local and regional communities. The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) works with communities who are facing potential shifts in economic stability because of changes within the defense industry. Learn how the OEA helps these towns, cities and states plan for and implement a future that is both sustainable and successful.
- **U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment**

CREATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
Across the nation, efforts are underway at the city, county, and regional levels to help residents become healthy and stay healthy. All types of initiatives have been undertaken from addressing food deserts, to community-wide, health-related competitions. All of this is ultimately tied into the determinants of health: the range of personal, social, economic, and environmental factors that influence health status. Learn from national and local experts how regions like yours are addressing health issues and creating "communities of health."
- **Hon. Joy Fuchs, Commissioner, Washington County, TX**
- **Megan Lape, Director, National Collaborative for Integration of Health and Human Services, American Public Human Services Association**
- **Sullivan Robinson, Executive Director, Leadership Council for Healthy Communities**

IBTS NATURAL DISASTER EXPERIENCES GAINED
The Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS) will share experiences gained through delivery of natural disaster planning, response, and recovery services across the country. Participants will be introduced to IBTSOnHand.org, an on-line resource of natural disaster-related case studies, tools, and tips being developed to meet the needs of stakeholders at the local level. Priority topics will include U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development CDBG-DR eligibility and compliance, Federal Emergency Management Agency Stafford Act grant and financial management, and volunteer engagement approaches.
- **Christopher Fennell, Institute for Building Technology and Safety**

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: ACCESS TO JOBS
Regional growth is dependent upon private sector investment. That investment is dependent upon the availability of workers and the necessary transportation infrastructure for them to get to work. While suburban workers often have the advantage of being able to use private transportation, individuals with lower incomes often have to rely on public transportation. Effective planning needs to consider this intersection between jobs and transportation. This is true in inner cities and it is true in more rural areas, where incomes may not guarantee adequate private transportation. Learn from our panel of experts about what can be done and what has been done to address this important problem.
- **Chair: Betty Voights, Executive Director, Capital Area Council of Governments**
- **Kermit Kaleba, Federal Policy Director, National Skills Coalition**

BROADBAND
The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) developed BroadbandUSA to provide assistance to communities that want to expand their broadband capacity and promote broadband adoption. Join us as we learn how BroadbandUSA brings stakeholders together to solve problems, contribute to emerging policies, link communities to other federal agencies and funding sources, and address barriers to collaboration across agencies.
- **National Telecommunications and Information Administration**
1:55 – 2:00 PM  BREAK

2:00 – 3:15 PM  BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

- AGING IN AMERICA: HELPING SENIORS LIVE BEYOND EXPECTATIONS
  Learn how regional councils and their area agencies on aging are helping seniors live beyond expectations. To do this, they have developed a wide range of services, including employment for older workers, easy access to healthcare, affordable housing, healthy living through physical activity, social interaction, and mobility options so that seniors may live at home and access the services they need.
  - Mary Tonore Blumberg, Program Manager, Strategic Planning and Development, Area Agency on Aging, Atlanta Regional Commission

- TRANSPORTATION ROUNDTABLE
  - Joung Lee, Policy Director, AASHTO

3:15 – 3:20 PM  BREAK

3:20 – 4:00 PM  ADVOCACY TOOLS FOR CAPITOL HILL WITH NARC STAFF

4:00 – 5:15 PM  BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, February 15

8:45 AM  CAPITOL HILL AND FEDERAL AGENCY DAY BREAKFAST
Join NARC for a breakfast to hear from federal lawmakers before you meet with your delegations and agency contacts.