

February 4, 2019 [View this email in your browser](#)



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

NARC's **2019 National Conference of Regions** will be held Sunday, February 10 - Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at the Washington Court Hotel. **Register for the conference today.**

Be sure to check out our updated **draft agenda**.

- **Mobile Tour: National Landing, Amazon**
*Sunday, February 10, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**
- **NARC Executive Directors Council Business Meeting**
Monday, February 11, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
- **General Session: Perspectives from Local Government Partners**
Monday, February 11, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Featuring the Honorable Gary Moore, Judge/Executive, Boone County, Kentucky; NARC Past President; NACo 2nd Vice President
- **General Session: Federal Agency Partners**
Tuesday, February 12, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Featuring the Honorable Benjamin Carson, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Congressman Sam Graves (R-MO), Congresswoman Dina Titus, (NV-1), and the U.S. Department of Transportation
- **NARC Board of Directors Business Meeting**
Tuesday, February 12, 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
- **Capitol Hill and Federal Agency Day**
Morning of Wednesday, February 13
End your trip to Washington with a congressional breakfast and visits to Capitol Hill.
 - If you plan on bringing someone to the breakfast that is not registered for the conference, please send their name to Marcy Fritter at marcy@narc.org.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

The House and Senate are in session.

Another Government Shutdown?

Less than two weeks remains until the current continuing resolution for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other federal agencies, including the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Treasury, Commerce and Justice, expires. Concern abounds in Washington that an agreement over southern border security is out of reach, and the government will be forced into a second partial shutdown in less than two months.

Politico is reporting that lawmakers will try to come up with a proposal by Friday, February 8, in order to allow enough time for both chambers to vote on the measure next week. But whether such a deal would be approved by the president, who continues to call for a funding bill that includes

\$5.7 billion to construct a southern border wall, remains an open question.

In the meantime, some in Washington are expecting the president to declare a national emergency at the border during his State of the Union address tomorrow, Tuesday, February 5. Such an announcement would allow the president to move funds from existing accounts with surplus funds to the Army Corps of Engineers so they can construct a southern border wall.

Such a move, however, would take significant pressure off Congress as it tries to come up with a funding bill that will keep the government open, and would probably guarantee that a bill to fund DHS and other federal agencies would pass the House and Senate and be signed by the president before the February 15 deadline.

Aside from the politics of a shutdown, there is concern among many senators and representatives that a shutdown would have devastating effects on the Washington area economy, put many federal workers and federal contractors at significant financial risk, and ultimately continue to damage American's perceptions of the federal government and the ability of Congress and the president to govern.

As always, NARC will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed through *eRegions* and *Transportation Thursdays*.

Trump to Tout Immigration, Roads, Drug Prices in State of Union

According to *CQ*, President Donald Trump use tomorrow's State of the Union to address three topics: immigration, infrastructure, and drug prices. A senior White House official said the president would renew his call for tough action on immigration following a 35-day partial shutdown over funding for building a southern border wall. The president will talk about infrastructure very broadly, but it is unclear whether he will put a figure on how big an infrastructure program he will seek. He is also expected to call on Congress to pass bipartisan legislation that would lower the cost of prescription drugs and to work with the administration to lower overall healthcare costs.

CBO Reports Partial Shutdown had Significant Impact on Federal Spending, Economy

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the partial government shutdown delayed \$18 billion in federal spending and suspended some federal services. Real gross domestic product (GDP) in the fourth quarter of 2018 was reduced by \$3 billion. In the first quarter of 2019, real GDP is estimated to be \$8 billion lower than it would have been. Although most of the real GDP lost during these two quarters will eventually be recovered, CBO estimated that \$3 billion will not be, reducing the level of the annual GDP in 2019 by 0.02 percent.

OTHER NEWS

Opioid Money Has Helped, But States Want More

More than 10 years into the opioid crisis that is costing the United States an estimated \$78 billion per year, emergency federal dollars are allowing communities to tackle the epidemic in ways and save thousands of lives. However, state and local officials say that they need more sustainable funding for what they expect to be a long-term challenge for many communities. Roughly \$2 billion in federal grants have been provided to states, but unless a more permanent funding stream is provided, this emergency federal funding can dry up very quickly.

NAACP Challenge To 2020 Census Preparations Moves Forward

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) won a major court ruling last week, giving the organization okay to proceed with a federal lawsuit challenging the administration's amount of preparations for the 2020 census. The complaint alleges that unless the Census Bureau significantly improves its plans for 2020, the upcoming census will drastically undercount African Americans and people of color across the country. U.S. District Judge Paul Grimm said, "[T]he census must be conducted in a way that will not thwart the goal of equal representation... This ongoing state of uncertainty [makes it more likely that the Census Bureau] will be unprepared (in terms of funding, workforce, and testing) for the 2020 census."

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

TJCOG ED Discusses Regionalism and Rural-Urban Divide

Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) Executive Director Lee Worsley was a guest on the First in Future podcast hosted by the North Carolina State University Institute for Emerging Issues. During the conversation, they discussed how TJCOG works to influence 43 other units of local government and encourages them to work together on regional issues. They also spoke in depth about working with both rural and urban areas, with Lee Worsley saying, “When an urban area wins, it ends up being a victory for the entire state, when a rural area struggles, it is a concern for the whole state.”

MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS

Questions for Upcoming NCR Broadband Session

At the National Conference of Regions (NCR), we will have a moderated session exploring how Congress and the Administration will work to expand broadband’s reach nationally. Topics of discussion will include broadband data and mapping, the Federal Communications Commission’s recent actions on 5G and cable franchising, and the House’s 2019 priorities to address a wide range of broadband and e-connectivity issues. Would you like to submit a question ahead of time for our speakers to address? Please send all questions/comments to Maci Morin at maci.morin@narc.org.

FEATURED JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Tribal and Regional Transportation Planning Manager

Posted: 2/1/2019

Washington State Department of Transportation, Olympia, WA

Transportation Planner/Engineer

Posted: 1/31/2019

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

Planner

Posted: 1/31/2019

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Executive Director

Posted: 1/25/2019

Southern California Association of Governments, Los Angeles, CA

Transportation Travel Demand Modeler

Posted: 1/25/2019

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA

FUNDING

View full list of grants!

EDA Launches 2019 Regional Innovation Strategies Program Competition

Applications Due: April 4

The Economic Development Administration is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for the **2019 Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) Program**. The RIS Program, operated by EDA’s Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (OIE), continues to increase regional capacity to bring technologies to market and grow innovative companies by investing in projects that support entrepreneurs and increase access to risk capital. This sixth iteration of the RIS Program again offers funding through two competitions:

- Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 i6 Challenge—catalyzing high-growth entrepreneurship throughout the country, the i6 Challenge awards up to \$750,000 for projects that increase regional capacity to accelerate the translation of innovations, ideas, intellectual property, and research into products, services, companies, and jobs.
- FY 2019 Seed Fund Support (SFS) Grant Competition—unlocking risk capital for entrepreneurs and startups to grow, SFS grants provide up to \$300,000 for projects that

create, launch, or expand equity-based seed funds or that create networks and tools that enable capital to flow into high-growth startups in all parts of the U.S.

SAMHSA Targeted Capacity Expansion: Special Projects

Applications Due: March 25

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), is accepting applications for fiscal year (FY) 2019 Targeted Capacity Expansion: Special Projects (TCE – Special Projects) grants. The purpose of this program is to develop and implement targeted strategies for substance use disorder treatment provision to address a specific population or area of focus identified by the community. The length of the project is up to 3 years, and proposed budgets cannot exceed \$375,000 in total costs (direct and indirect) in any year of the proposed project.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

The Flint Water Crisis: Lessons Learned

February 5, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

The Flint water crisis, involving lead contamination of the city's drinking water and an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, has been on the national radar for years—but there are still unanswered questions. What happened, and how? What are the health, political, and economic implications for the city and its people? How widespread is the lead problem in America's water supplies? How are water utilities and governments responding? What are the possible solutions to address this public health problem? Join Brookings for a webinar on these topics.

ReConnect Program Informational Webinars

February 7, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

February 13, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

These hour-long technical assistance webinars will provide a high-level overview of the funding opportunity available under the ReConnect Program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development staff will discuss types of funding available, eligibility provisions, notice of proposed service area, and evaluation factors. It will be offered twice. You may pre-register for either the February 7 or the February 13 webinar. The webinar link and event details will be emailed to you after registration.

The Potential of Opportunity Zones

February 26, 1:30-3:00 PM ET

This How Housing Matters briefing will provide an overview of Opportunity Zones and how housing and community development agencies can benefit from and interact with Opportunity Zones, their tax benefits, and their investment dollars through Qualified Opportunity Funds. This session will also review the first set of Opportunity Zones-related proposed rules from the US Department of Treasury.

CONTACT US

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