Regional TCI Convening in Philadelphia (MAPC and DVRPC)

In June, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) held a regional meeting in Philadelphia on regional involvement in the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI), a multi-state effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector. The convening included conversations on greenhouse gas reduction strategies and focused on best practices and opportunities to work together on greenhouse gas reduction efforts both with the TCI program and with other regional initiatives.

Leslie Wollack (right), Executive Director of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), was a guest speaker and offered her insights regarding regional involvement and federal efforts in greenhouse gas reduction and climate change mitigation.
Puget Sound Regional Council (Seattle)

King County has announced a new Forest Carbon Program that offers local companies the opportunity to offset a portion of their carbon emissions and support healthy forests within King County. In the first five years, the Forest Carbon Program is expected to store at least 100,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide that otherwise would have been emitted into the atmosphere. The program also helps to preserve the region’s forests, one of the goals of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan.

MetroPlan Orlando

VR in Corridor Planning: An open house held by the City of Orlando and FDOT on a proposed redesign of a central city corridor, Robinson Street, had the usual maps and comment cards. But it also used something innovative to offer a feel for the project -- virtual reality goggles. Attendees could don the goggles and experience walking along a section of the street that included new pedestrian and cycling elements.
At left, attendees of the VR in Corridor Planning Open House try out the virtual reality googles.

NARC Annual Conference, Omaha

Last month, NARC held a very successful Annual Conference in Omaha, NE. The conference, which was hosted by the Omaha - Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) drew nearly 200 NARC members. If you would like to see the full agenda click here. Here are a small sampling of photos from the conference.

Geof Benson, council member, Town of Beverly Shores, Indiana, and Immediate Past President, NARC, turns the gavel over to newly installed NARC president Marge Vogt, council member, City of Olathe, KS.
NARC’s Board of Directors is introduced to the conference at the Opening General Session.

NARC Executive Directors Council (EDC) is introduced to the conference at the Opening General Session.
Omaha mayor Jean Stothert (below left) and La Vista, Nebraska mayor Douglas Kindig (below right) welcome conferees to the conference and to the Omaha region.

Jane Oates (left), president of WorkingNation, spoke at a general session on the ways in which work is changing. Her message focused on the important changes in work that are taking place and how we as a nation should respond.
National Association of Counties (NACo) associate legislative director for community, economic and workforce development Daria Daniel, spoke on affordable housing and economic development to the Economic and Community Development Committee (left).

Rosa De León Park, Executive Director, Stanislaus Council of Governments, Stanislaus County, CA; Bill Zoslocki, Council Member, City of Modesto California; Julie Pierce, Council Member, City of Clayton, CA; Fred Strong, Council Member, City of Paso Robles, CA; and Pete Rodgers, Executive Director, San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, CA (above right).

Jon Clifton (above), Global Managing Partner, at Gallup, spoke to a general session on big data analytics to help every world citizen be heard on their most pressing work and life issues through the Gallup World Poll, a 100-year initiative spanning 150 countries.
Conference attendees on a stop on Tuesday’s bike tour around Omaha, led by Marty Shukert of RDG (far left).

Members of the Major Metros Roundtable discuss housing and transportation at a meeting of the group on Sunday.
Leslie Wollack, NARC Executive Director, addresses the NARC Board of Directors on the organization’s achievements over the past year.

Danielle Render, Director of External Engagement & Public Affairs for the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) and Jennifer Robinson, Council Member, Town of Cary, North Carolina at the NARC Awards Dinner, accepting awards on behalf of NOACA and Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG), respectively.