



Take a look at the **draft agenda** for this year's legislative conference! Remember to **register** by Friday for the early-bird registration rate.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

The 115th Congress is now in session.

The 115th Congress

The 115th Congress convened today with Republicans ready to take control of Congress and the White House for the first time in a decade. Last night, House Republicans met to move the independent Office of Congressional Ethics under the oversight of the House Ethics Panel, and discuss other items on their agenda. Healthcare will be first item on their ambitious agenda. President Barack Obama heads to the Capitol tomorrow to meet with House and Senate Democrats on healthcare legislation, and Vice President-elect Mike Pence will meet with the House Republican conference the same day on the plan to roll back the health care overhaul.

Other Republican agenda items include: tax reform; immigration reform; the unraveling of environmental, labor, and financial regulations enacted over the last eight years; and a massive infrastructure spending package. The proposed U.S. Department of Labor overtime rules raising the threshold for paying overtime to professional staff, recently put on hold by a judge in Texas, will certainly face the chopping block. The proposed legislation on infrastructure still has more questions than answers including how to pay for it and what infrastructure would be included. These questions will be put on hold until Congress approves Transportation Secretary designee Elaine Chao (probably shortly after the inauguration).

Congressional leaders will need to make compromises to successfully move controversial legislative packages, including the FY2018 budget that will require spending cuts to balance the budget and raising the debt ceiling when the current one expires on March 15. There will be

difficult discussions over changes in entitlement programs, a key item on the conservative agenda. The extensive legislative agenda promised during the campaign will have to happen alongside Senate confirmation of the President--elect's Cabinet nominees.

In order to overturn regulations targeted by Republicans, lawmakers are expected to discuss the *Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act* and the *Midnight Rules Act*. The REINS Act would require both chambers to pass a resolution of approval before a major regulation can take effect. *The Midnight Rules Act* would allow Congress to overturn a group of rules enacted in the final year of a presidential term rather than blocking them individually.

REGION SPOTLIGHT

Greater Portland COG Receives Every Body Walk! Support

America Walks and the Every Body Walk! Collaborative announced the second round of Every Body Walk! Micro Grant awardees. The micro grant program provides funds that support grassroots efforts aimed at getting communities walking and creating more safe, accessible, and enjoyable places to walk and be physically active. With support from partners, including WalkBoston, American College of Sports Medicine, and the TransitCenter, **22 projects will be supported in 2017**. The **Greater Portland Council of Governments** in Portland, Maine was selected to do their public service fund project.

Portland is Maine's largest and most diverse city – home to 66,000 people including a sizeable immigrant and refugee community. In 2015, Portland Public Schools began partnering with the local public transit provider, switching high schoolers from yellow busses to public busses. This project will maximize and sustain the benefits of student transit use by engaging youth as planners and civic leaders. Led by the Public Health in Transportation Coalition – a group of planners, public health practitioners and active transportation stakeholders – this effort will involve students in implementing a bus stop placemaking demonstration project and developing recommendations for region-wide transit improvements.

Upcoming Peer Exchanges

Join NARC for two different peer exchange groups during the 2017 National Conference of Regions in February! NARC intends for these meetings to initiate a network of peer-to-peer learning and best practice sharing.

For the Energy and Environment Group, the meeting will be our second convening of environmental and energy directors from regional COGs across the country, following our initial session at the Executive Directors Conference in South Bend. If you are interested in participating, please email Cameron Herbolsheimer (cameron@narc.org) with the proper contact for your organization.

For communications and public affairs directors, this will be the kick-off meeting for a NARC Communications Committee. We want this initial convening to spearhead future efforts and engagement among member communications and public affairs directors. If you are interested in participating, please email Anna Rosenbaum (anna@narc.org) with the proper contact for your organization.

FEATURED JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Associate Planner – Transportation

Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, Omaha, NE

Alamo Regional Transit Area Supervisor

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Services Coordination Mentor

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Principal Planner – Mobility Programs

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Newark, NJ

Planner IV (Lead Demographic/ Data Analyst)

Maryland Department of Planning, Baltimore, MD

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

Prepare Communities for Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks Grant Program

Application Period Closes: February 10, 2017 at 11:59:59 PM ET

The grant application period for the FY16 Program to Prepare Communities for Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks (CCTA Program) is currently open. The CCTA program provides \$35.94 million to state, local, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions to improve their ability to prepare for, prevent, and respond to complex coordinated terrorist attacks in collaboration with the whole community. The FY 2016 CCTA Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (**NOFO**) is also located on the [Grants.gov website](#) Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 97.133. Send questions to FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at 202.646.3444 or FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

Technology Forecast 2017: What State and Local Government Technology Officials Can Expect

January 12, 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET

The National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) and Public Technology Institute (PTI) will provide a picture of what the technology priorities, issues, and trends for state and local governments will be in 2017.

BroadbandUSA Community Connectivity Webinar Series

January 12, 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET

Participate in this month's discussion about the BroadbandUSA Community Connectivity Initiative – a local planning tool that promotes broadband planning, action and progress. The online tool includes twelve models that combine data, questions, responses, and resources to support local leaders explore key topics related to broadband availability, adoption and skills, and the community context that informs local efforts. In addition to providing an overview of the initiative and assessment, we will preview the online tool and discuss the 2017 timeline and delivery schedule.

BroadbandUSA Practical Broadband Conversations: Broadband Opportunity Council: Accomplishments and Outlook

January 18, 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET

The BroadbandUSA Monthly Webinar Series is now called Practical Broadband Conversations. Since the Broadband Opportunity Council was formed in March 2015, federal agencies have made great strides toward meeting the goals and fulfilling commitments to increase broadband deployment, competition and adoption through executive actions within the scope of existing programs, missions and budgets. Read the report here and join BroadbandUSA to learn about the progress made and what the future holds for this interagency working group.

Early-bird Rate Closes Friday! 2017 National Conference of Regions

February 12-15 – Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Ave NW Washington, DC

The National Conference of Regions is NARC's forum to determine key policy issues and a legislative agenda for the year ahead, targeting topics central to our members' missions and their local elected officials' focus. Additional information will be available soon. Capitol Hill Day is the final day of the conference, February 15, 2017.

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