



Register Today!
2016 NATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF REGIONS
FEBRUARY 7-9*
WASHINGTON, DC

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Both the House and Senate have delayed their schedules this week due to the blizzard that hit the East Coast over the weekend. The House cancelled all votes for the week and the Senate reconvenes Tuesday.

Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015 and Possible Provisions

Senate action will begin with consideration of a bipartisan energy bill (**S 2012**) that would streamline permitting for gas exports and boost energy-efficiency standards, among other priorities. The Senate measure, introduced by Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and ranking member Maria Cantwell (D-WA), would mandate infrastructure upgrades to ensure reliability and security of the electric grid and boost energy-efficiency standards for commercial and federal buildings. The bill would also permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund and streamline permitting for liquefied natural gas exports.

Other issues that could come up with the bill include the recent lifting of economic sanctions on Iran and policy initiatives to increase use of renewable sources. So far, the Senate energy bill has avoided partisan provisions to maintain broad political support, but some lawmakers might attempt to add provisions to oppose the Administration's low-carbon energy agenda. The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will have to factor in the declining price of oil, which could affect the bill by encouraging lawmakers to lower regulatory barriers to sustain output and stabilize prices.

Supreme Court Rules on Wholesale Energy Market

The Supreme Court ruled last week that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) can

regulate payments to electricity customers who curtail their usage, a decision that environmental groups called a major victory for consumers. The court found that FERC did not overstep its authority on a rule requiring electricity wholesalers to pay customers who commit to reduce electricity demand at a rate generally used to compensate power plant operators. The ruling would expand consumer's ability to access lower cost energy, supporters contend.

OTHER NEWS

2015 Menino Survey of Mayors Released

The U.S. Conference of Mayors in partnership with The Boston University Initiative on Cities released the **2015 Menino Survey of Mayors**, which details the most pressing needs and policy priorities of mayors in cities across the country. Topping the list was infrastructure investment needs, with a special emphasis on improving roads and adding more facilities for walking and biking. Local officials also indicated that the level of investment in transportation and other key systems is insufficient. Nearly half of participating officials cited infrastructure needs as their biggest local challenge. By contrast, the next-largest response came from the category of economic structure/mobility, which is in many ways closely related to transportation development. Fewer than 20 percent of respondents listed that as their top challenge.

National Disaster Resilience Competition Winners

On Thursday, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro and the Rockefeller Foundation announced the winners of the \$1 billion National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC). Through NDRC, HUD will provide funding for resilient housing and infrastructure projects to 13 states and communities that were impacted by major disasters between 2011 and 2013. NDRC was developed in response to requests from state and local leaders seeking to build resilience and better prepare their communities for the impacts of climate change.

MEMBER REQUESTS

Email responses to anna@narc.org.

MVRPC: Individualized Member Reports

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) in Dayton, Ohio is thinking about providing a custom annual summary to their government members to help demonstrate the value of membership in MVRPC. MVRPC currently releases a global annual report, but they are looking for a more localized example directed to each member. Does your organization provide a summary annual report of services and funding to members? If so, please share it with us as a best practice.

PAG: Dispose-A-Med Program

Pima Association of Governments (PAG) in Tucson, Arizona is working with local stakeholders to coordinate a region-wide Dispose-A-Med program. Has your COG/MPO successfully coordinated a similar effort? If so, please share information, web links, plans, documents, or best practices your organization employed to promote, implement, and quantify your efforts for the program. Additionally, PAG is interested in how your organization addressed poison control, water quality, and partnerships with stakeholders.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Transportation Engineer/Planner

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Detroit, MI

Director of Transportation

East Texas Council of Governments, Kilgore, TX

Entry-Level Transportation Planner

South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization, Vineland, NJ

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

Inclusive Transportation Planning Grants

Conference call to answer questions: January 27

Application deadline: March 18

Your organization can now apply for a new round of ACL-funded demonstration grants. The grants seek to make transportation more responsive to the needs of people with disabilities and older adults by giving consumers a voice in the design and implementation of coordinated transportation systems.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

Active Cities Equal Healthy Economies: Success Stories

January 26, 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET

The National League of Cities, U.S. Department of Transportation, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are teaming up to host a webinar for jurisdictions participating in the **Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties** and **Mayors' Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets** initiatives. South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg and St. Petersburg, Florida Mayor Rick Kriseman and their key staff will talk about the action they are taking to integrate efforts to achieve both transportation and health goals. Both cities are participating in the Mayors' Challenge and Michelle Obama's initiative: Let's Move!

REGISTER TODAY! 2016 National Conference of Regions

February 7-9, 2016* – 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. **Note: Capitol Hill Day is February 10. Please make room in your travel plans to meet with your representatives.*

America's Model Energy Code Webinar

February 17, 2:00 PM ET

The International Code Council is updating America's Model Energy Code. This is your chance to make an impact on critical energy policy in America. Local officials play a pivotal role in ensuring that energy codes remain efficient, saving governments and constituents money. This webinar will discuss what is at stake in the next vote and what regional councils' member jurisdictions **MUST** do to be eligible to cast a vote. To learn more about this initiative and how your region can get involved, visit www.narc.org/energy-codes.

2016 EDA National Conference

April 7-8 – Washington, DC

This year's event will focus on the next 50 years of economic development, including high-level conversations about how to create conditions for economic growth for decades to come, panel discussions with administration and congressional officials, and in-depth analysis from public and private sector economic development leaders.

CONTACT US

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