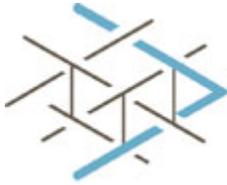


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 6, February 19, 2013

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Our Board of Directors and Executive Directors Council were hosted last Wednesday, at the conclusion of the National Conference of Regions, at the White House in a special briefing by White House Intergovernmental Affairs staff, senior staff from the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Housing and Urban Development and the White House Council on Environmental Quality. We discussed the Sequester and budget as well as ways we can work together to improve agency coordination and program delivery. What we heard in every discussion was how important regions and local governments are and how can the Departments and

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[MEMBER UPDATES](#)

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PROGRAM UPDATE

NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Meetings: NARC is hosting regional roundtables to examine and discuss the implementation of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) from the perspective of metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and regional councils of government (COGs). Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information and to access the agendas for each meeting.

- **Indianapolis, IN** - February 27-28, 2013
- **Tulsa, OK** - March 4-5, 2013
- **Worcester, MA** - March 8, 2013
- **Washington, DC** - March 14, 2013

Mayor Marie Lopez-Rodgers Published Editorial on the Role of Local Governments and the Need for Immigration Reform:

NARC Board Member and National League of Cities President Mayor Marie Lopez Rodgers published an editorial, which highlighted the responsibilities and challenges that local governments face in dealing with immigration issues. Promoting a call to action in Washington, Lopez Rodgers stated, "As city leaders, we have no control over the regulation of immigration, yet we must

White House make their programs work better for us. From information gathered at the meeting, we will be launching a few new initiatives to answer some of those questions as well as to continue to raise awareness of regional coordination with the Administration.

Building off last week's White House Meeting, I was honored to be invited to the White House today to hear the President's message on the Budget and sequester. On stage with the President, were representatives of the Nation's first responders. There will be significant cuts as the President pointed out ([HERE](#)), to all of our community programs, including EMS and border patrol, as well as a devastating blow to the recovery of our economy if the sequester enacts next Friday. We are in a countdown to avoiding the sequester disaster.

Many of you discussed sequester with your Congressional delegations when you were here at the National Conference of Regions. You used the materials we provided and the talking points we prepared to show the impact of sequester on community programs. We have to continue to make the case. There are rumors of a

deal with the responsibility for integrating immigrants into our communities and providing the services necessary for stable neighborhoods...reform will provide cities and towns with the support needed to integrate immigrants into our communities and allow them to make cultural and economic contributions to the nation." Read the full editorial [HERE](#).

NARC Needs Your Livability Case Studies: NARC continues to solicit best practice examples of regional and local livability practice from a variety of perspectives. Feel free to submit your case study [HERE](#) and share this opportunity with your cities, counties, public works departments and city and county managers.

New Local Government Solar Website: As part of NARC's work with the U.S. Department of Energy SolarOPs project, NARC and its project partners ICMA and ICLEI, launched a new website aimed at helping local governments advance solar energy initiatives. The website contains all the resources local governments need to get started with solar in your community. For more information about the new SolarOPs website, click [HERE](#).

Creating Equitable, Healthy, and Sustainable Communities Report: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released a report that offers low-income, minority, tribal, and overburdened communities approaches to shape development that responds to their needs and reflects their values. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

EPA's CUPSS Tool: The U.S. EPA has developed a free software tool, *Check Up Program for Small Systems* (CUPSS), to help small to medium-sized water and wastewater systems implement asset management principles at their utilities. For more information about CUPSS and free trainings, click [HERE](#).

POLICYUPDATE

The House and Senate are on recess; they return to session on February 25.

Senate Introduces Balanced Budget Amendment: Senate Republicans, led by Sens. Inhofe (R-OK) and Cornyn (R-TX), introduced S.J. Res. 7, a balanced budget amendment to the U.S.

Senate deal to either stall or fix the sequester. We will provide more information as we receive it. However, in the meantime please continue your outreach. We had a successful and engaged Conference of Regions and we hope to continue the momentum we built last week.

Best,
Fred

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Constitution. It would require the President to submit, and Congress to pass, a balanced budget every year, as well as capping federal spending at 18% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and prohibiting deficit spending and increasing taxes without Congressional supermajorities.

Climate Change Update: Rep. Waxman (D-CA), along with 22 House members, announced the creation of the House Safe Climate Caucus, to address climate change issues through legislation and education. Members of that Caucus intend to discuss climate change effects on the House floor for each day they are in session. In the Senate, Sen. Boxer (D-CA) stated that she intends to move a comprehensive climate bill through the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee with the eye for summer floor time. The bill, the Climate Protection Act and Sustainable Energy Act, led by Boxer and Sen. Sanders (I-VT), would impose a carbon tax. Boxer will use her recently established climate change clearinghouse to work on the legislation. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Senate bill.

Sequester Update: Congress is working on legislation to address the sequester cuts (\$85B in cuts), which are set to take place on March 1. House Speaker Boehner (R-OH) stated that he will wait for a Senate passed bill and that any sequestration replacement would have to balance the budget in 10 years. House Democrats are urged to hold local events highlighting the importance of averting sequester while in recess; click [HERE](#) to access the memo and [HERE](#) to access House Democratic talking points.

Meanwhile, the Senate is scheduled to vote on competing sequester bills upon their return from recess. Many Senate Democrats are supportive of Majority Leader Reid's (D-NV) bill, the American Family Economic Protection Act, that is a \$110B sequester replacement split evenly between spending cuts and raising taxes. It would raise \$54B in taxes by implementing the Buffett Rule (30% tax rate for incomes between \$1M and \$2M); change the tax treatment of oil extraction from oil sands; and, end tax breaks that incentivize companies to move jobs overseas. The \$55B in spending cuts are divided equally between defense and non-defense discretionary spending. If passed, it would delay the sequester until January 2, 2014.

Transportation Director

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Senate Republicans may back a proposal that would keep the sequester, but would give agencies greater flexibility to manage the \$85 billion in cuts. Under the plan to grant flexible spending or reprogramming authority, departments and agencies would be allowed to make alternative spending cuts rather than having all accounts cut by a fixed percentage. The plan would apply to both defense and domestic programs. Another Senate Republican plan, S. 263, offered by Sen. Ayotte (R-NH), would cover the cost of canceling the first year of sequestration by allowing the federal workforce to shrink by 10% through attrition.

A new report from the Congressional Budget Office estimates a job loss of 750,000 from 2013, if sequester continues as planned. The White House also released a fact sheet on sequestration impact; click [HERE](#) to access.

Visit NARC's [sequestration webpage](#) for more information.

Farm Bill Update: Senate plan for Sequestration Includes Funding for Farm Programs: Last week Senate Ag Committee Chairman Debbie Stabenow endorsed a plan to avert sequester and highlighted that the measure also includes funding for programs cut out of the temporary reauthorization included in American Tax Payer Relief Act. Reid's plan would include \$3.5 billion to reinstate mandatory funding for disaster assistance, rural small business, renewable energy and other "orphaned programs".

MEMBERUPDATES

SJCOG Finance Team Wins National Award: The San Joaquin Council of Governments' Finance team was recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association with the 2011 Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting. Congratulations! Click [HERE](#) to access additional information from SJCOG's newsletter.

CMP Plan RFP: KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission is seeking Letters of Interest from qualified firms to develop a comprehensive Congestion Management Process (CMP) for the Huntington, West Virginia Transportation Management Area (TMA), and portions of the Charleston, West Virginia Urbanized Area. Click [HERE](#) for additional information on this Request for Proposals (RFP).

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The U.S. EPA Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) Program

Application Deadline: March 1, 2013

SGIA is accepting letters of interest, by March 1, for expert assistance on overcoming barriers to smart growth implementation. This year, the program will focus on: 1) Community Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change, 2) Redevelopment for Job Creation, 3) The Role of Manufactured and Modular Homes in Sustainable Neighborhood Design, and 4) Medical and Social Service Facilities Siting. For more information, visit the [request for letters of interest](#).

RE.invest Initiative Funding

Application Deadline: March 15, 2013

The RE.invest Initiative was developed to create a shift in the way we design, plan, and invest in resilient infrastructure systems to attract large-scale private financing. For more information, click [HERE](#).

The U.S. Administration for Community Living Issues Request For Proposals

Application Deadline: March 20, 2013

Strengthening Inclusive Coordinated Transportation Partnerships to Promote Community Living is a new program seeking request for proposals for innovative inclusive transportation planning projects. These projects are a key component in the overall program's efforts to improve consumer involvement and ensure greater responsiveness to consumers' needs in the planning, design and operation of coordinated transportation systems. A teleconference with more information will be held March 5, 2013, at 2 pm EST. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

NOAA Climate Program Office Funding

Application Deadline: April 8, 2013

The NOAA Climate Program Office's Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) program supports research teams that conduct innovative, interdisciplinary, user-inspired, and regionally relevant research that informs resource management and public policy. For more information, click [HERE](#).

EPA's Smart Growth Achievement Funding

Application Deadline: April 12, 2013

The application period for the 12th annual National Award for Smart Growth Achievement is now open to public- and private-sector entities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially, and economically.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

Health Resources & Services Administration: Rural Health Information Technology (HIT) Workforce Program

Application Deadline: April 15

The Rural HIT program supports formal rural health networks that focus on activities relating to the recruitment, education, training, and retention of HIT specialists and improve existing HIT training materials to develop formal training programs. These formal training programs will result in the development of a cadre of HIT workers that can help rural hospitals and clinics implement and maintain systems, such as electronic health records (EHR), telehealth, home monitoring and mobile health technology, and meet EHR meaningful use standards. For more information, please see [HERE](#).

USDA Farm to School Grant Program

Application Due: April 24, 2013

The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist implementation of programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. The program's grants help eligible schools foster sustainability by connecting with local agricultural producers and help improve the health and wellbeing of their students. For more information, click [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

ICMA Webinar: Fire and EMS: Innovations in Service Delivery

February 20, 1:0-2:30 p.m. ET

Does having more paramedics always produce better outcomes? What is the real story behind compressed air foam? Can emergency medical dispatch create efficiencies in fire and EMS service delivery? Explore the answers to these questions and more with ICMA's Leonard Matarese and Joseph Pozzo, in a frank, engaging web conference that will discuss advances in technology as well as

the latest research in the field. To register, click [HERE](#).

Urban Forestry Public Policy Agenda Webinar

February 21, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

No matter where you are in the US, you have the ability to influence public policy by advocating for greener communities. Together we can speak with a united voice for healthier urban forests. Join ACTrees and the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition to learn how to advocate effectively for trees and green infrastructure in your community. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Ecosystem Services: Water Focus Webinar

February 27, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

Learn about the growing trend of ecosystem service markets as a tool for planning and conservation efforts. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable

February 27-28, 2013, Indianapolis, IN

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable

March 4-5, 2013, Tulsa, OK

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable

March 8, 2013, Worcester, MA

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

FHWA Office of Innovative Program Delivery TIFIA Assistance Program

March 7, 2013, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Innovative Program Delivery will host Introduction to Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Federal Credit Assistance Program. The webinar will assist Transportation Professionals to understand TIFIA fundamentals, identify eligible projects that may benefit from TIFIA credit assistance, provide better guidance; and enable Transportation

Professionals to provide better guidance to State and local partners. Click [HERE](#) to register.

NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable

March 14, 2013, Washington, DC

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

REMI 2013 Training Conference

May 8-10, 2013, Washington, DC

The conference will offer group presentations on the models and methodologies, as well as workshops and one-on-one technical support sessions from REMI economists; it is a unique opportunity for in-depth, focused analysis, connecting with peers involved in economic impact analysis, and experiencing the sights and sounds of the capital in spring. There is no charge to attend, though registration is required. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

Brownfields Renewal: Bringing Stakeholders Together

May 15-17, 2012, Atlanta, GA

The National Brownfields Conference is the largest event in the nation that focuses on environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

NARC's 47th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 20-23, 2013, Philadelphia, PA

Save the Date for NARC's annual conference will focus on best practice and programming for regional and metropolitan planning organizations nationwide. Executive Directors and Staff of regional organizations should plan on attending!

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