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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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# eRegions

### EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Autumn Campbell, our Director of Community Programs, will be leaving NARC at the end of the week to pursue a policy position focused on aging here in Washington D.C.

Autumn has been with us for just over a year, helping to build our community and economic development program; expanding our advocacy on aging, workforce, rural development, and other issues; and growing outreach to members most recently through *Development Digest*, now published monthly. Autumn has traveled to many events, provided timely development updates, and

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#) [REGIONS 360](#)  
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



### Check Out Our New Webpage for Grants & Opportunities!

Now, you can look to one place for our latest updates regarding grants, webinars, workshops, surveys, and conferences. This webpage will compile information from all three of our newsletters: *eRegions*, *Transportation Thursdays*, and *Development Digest*. Moving forward, these newsletters will only contain new information. Click [HERE](#) for the webpage where you can view the list of grants and events still open!

## PROGRAM UPDATE

### NARC Survey: Creating Effective Green Infrastructure Plans:

NARC is looking for feedback from regional planning organizations and

spoken on your behalf - both here and in your communities. Please take a moment to thank her for all she has done for NARC.

Please refer any questions you have to me, and I will make sure that our staff assists promptly.

Thank you,  
Lindsey

## **NARC**LEADERSHIP

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Acting Executive Director

### **Shannon Baxevanis**

Deputy Director

### **Autumn Campbell**

Director of Community  
Programs

### **Mia Colson**

Program Analyst

### **Nathan Devers**

Intern

### **Marcy Fritter**

Office Manager

### **Taylor Markwith**

Program Associate

### **Anna Rosenbaum**

Communications Associate

their local governments to assist in creating a green infrastructure framework and tool set, to help regions develop and implement effective green infrastructure plans that incorporate urban forestry as a core component. **The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes.** Please complete our brief survey by clicking [HERE](#).

**APWA Features NARC's Solar Ready II Project:** The American Public Works Association's (APWA) Sustainability Works Blog featured NARC's *Solar Ready II* Project last week. The blog post details how NARC's Solar Ready II website is a great resource for city planners and managers, community developers, utility managers, and other public works officials interested in solar energy. Read the blog post [HERE](#).

**NARC Talks Solarize!** Learn how regions like Plano, Texas are bringing solar to its residents by shining light on the benefits of solar group purchasing in NARC's latest blog post on SolarOutreach.org. Read the blog post [HERE](#).

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## **POLICY**UPDATE

*Congress is in session.*

**Budget Update:** Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's summary of the President's fiscal year (FY) 2015 budget request, which highlights core priorities for regions. In other budget news, appropriators in both Chambers of Congress have set their timetable for the FY15 appropriations process to be enacted before the start of the new fiscal year on October 1. Markups are scheduled for May, and floor action throughout the Summer.

**Democrats Release Proposal to Reauthorize the OAA:** Last week, Democrats on the U.S. House of Representatives Education and Workforce Committee introduced legislation to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA). The bill, HR 4122, was introduced by Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX) and co-sponsored by Rep. George Miller (D-CA), who serves as the Senior Democratic Member on the committee of jurisdiction. According to a press release issued by Rep. Bonamici, the bill "includes new provisions that offer additional support to seniors... strengthens the program's provisions and improves the services that seniors receive." In January, another straight reauthorization proposal was offered that

**Erich W. Zimmermann**

Director of Transportation  
Programs

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didn't make drastic changes to the previous law, which expired in 2011. The Education and Workforce Committee held a hearing on reauthorization in February.

**GAO Releases Report on Tracking Results of Workforce System**

**Activities:** Last week, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report examining state capacity to evaluate and track the number of participants in the workforce delivery system who obtain credentials and enter employment related to the training they receive. The report recommends that the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) identify and share with states strategies that may ease collection and improve the quality of training-related employment data. The full report is available **HERE.**

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## REGIONS360

**San Francisco Bay Region, *The Park Squeeze*:** Around San Francisco Bay, land is scarce and costly. There is also a lack of political consensus, resulting in varied public opinions that slow down the process of getting parks (among other things) developed. Getting around the development obstacles in the greater San Francisco Bay Area can be quite daunting. See how planners were able to plan and execute the development of four new parks in this article put out by *Landscape Architecture Magazine* **HERE.**

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Click **HERE** to view the list of grants still open!

**FHWA – Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration**

*Open until the Program Ends or Funding is No Longer Available*

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) announced the availability of \$30 million in funding for FHWA's Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration authorized within the *Technology and Innovation Deployment Program* under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). On a rolling basis, AID Demonstration funds will award multiple projects that meet eligibility, requirements, and selection criteria. Click **HERE** to view the notice, and **HERE** to apply.

**Extended Deadline! FTA Announces Availability of \$24.9M to Put More Zero-Emission Buses into Service Across America**

*Deadline: April 10*

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the availability of \$24.9M through its Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment Program that will put a new generation of advanced, non-polluting transit buses on the road in communities nationwide. The funds are intended to encourage more widespread adoption of reliable “green energy” buses into transit fleets. Click [HERE](#) for the announcement, and [HERE](#) for related information.

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

Click [HERE](#) to view the list of events still open!

### **2-Day PROGRAM: ICMA Young Professionals Leadership Institutes**

*Various Dates, Depending on Location*

A special leadership program that offers assistants, assistant managers, and those beginning their career path in local government, a way to build their leadership skill set through the art and practice of leadership. This \$99 2-day program includes two ICMA University workshops and a session on work life balance. This institute is designed for emerging leaders who may have MPA degrees, but who may not be ICMA members or who may be working in the organization in their first job but are not in the manager’s office. Managers are encouraged to invite young professionals to attend this leadership institute. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

### **WEBINAR: TIGER Application Process**

*March 12, How to Compete for TIGER Grants, click [HERE](#).*

*March 19, Preparing a TIGER Planning Grant Application, click [HERE](#).*

*March 26, Preparing a Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) for TIGER Grants, click [HERE](#).*

*\*NARC is aware that registration for these webinars is already full and has confirmed that the webinars will be recorded. As soon as the recordings are released, NARC will forward that information to members.*

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is offering a series of special topic webinars that delve into various aspects of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) application process. These will be a great resource for anyone either considering applying to TIGER this year or actually preparing a TIGER application, as the webinars come from the funding source and share

the expertise of the U.S. DOT to prospective applicants. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

**WEBINAR: America's PrepareAthon! Campaign to Increase Individual and Community Preparedness**

*March 18, 10:30 AM EST*

*March 20, 4:00 PM EST*

The first America's PrepareAthon! national day of action is April 30, 2014. America's PrepareAthon! is a nationwide, community-based campaign for action to increase emergency preparedness and resilience. Twice yearly, in the spring and fall, America's PrepareAthon! will provide a national focus for individuals, organizations and communities to participate through drills; group discussions and exercises to practice for local hazards. The federal agencies supporting America's PrepareAthon! invite your organization to participate to learn about the campaign and ways to be involved. Click [HERE](#) for additional information. Click [HERE](#) to register for March 18, and [HERE](#) for March 20.

**WEBINAR: REMI: The Graying of America**

*March 18, 2:00 PM EST; Register [HERE](#).*

*March 20, 2:00 PM EST; Register [HERE](#).*

By 2035, one in five Americans will be 65 or older, up from the current ratio of one in seven. This long-term trend will have significant economic implications, with impacts ranging from a changing labor force to a shift in consumer spending. Regional Economic Models, Inc (REMI) is hosting this webinar to examine the economic challenges and opportunities of an aging population.

**WEBINAR: Keeping Pedestrians Safe in Urban and Suburban Settings**

*March 20, 2:00 PM EST*

Walking is the mode of choice for some, and the only choice for many. Pedestrian safety should be a priority and thus incorporated into all planning and design processes. This webinar will provide an overview of tools, campaigns, and strategies you can use to help reverse pedestrian fatalities and injuries. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**WEBINAR: Eco-Logical Step 8: Implement Agreements and Deliver Projects**

*March 27, 3:00 PM EST*

Learn how agencies are implementing transportation projects and

programs developed through the Eco-Logical approach, plus key lessons from regional and statewide Eco-Logical implementations in Montana and California. There will also be a discussion on Step 8 of Integrated Ecological Framework, where agencies deliver projects and implement the previous steps of the Eco-Logical ecosystems approach to environmental mitigation, and will feature speakers that are using the Eco-Logical framework to enhance and streamline mitigation efforts in their community. Click [HERE](#) to register.

#### **REGIONAL WORKSHOP: Solar in Western Kentucky**

*March 27, 10:00-3:00 PM CT*

Local governments interested in learning about how to make their community solar ready in Western Kentucky are invited to a free workshop sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership, Green River Area Development District, and NARC. The workshop will provide actionable information on creating local-level solar policies and permitting processes. Areas of focus include: the benefits and barriers of solar development in your region; creating solar friendly planning and zoning codes and ordinances; and innovative financing options for solar projects. To register and learn more, click [HERE](#).

#### **SURVEY: Next Phase of the Regulatory Review of Existing DOT Regulations**

*Deadline: March 31*

The U.S. DOT has long recognized that there should be no more regulations than necessary and that the regulations they issue should be simple, comprehensible, and impose only as much burden as is necessary. That is why they want your advice on cutting more red tape and how this second round of retrospective review should be managed. Click [HERE](#) for information and [HERE](#) to submit comments.

#### **5-day PROGRAM: Midwest Leadership Institute**

*March 31- April; Northern Illinois University, Naperville, IL*

This Midwest Leadership Institute program will focus on successful outcomes in local government that require a deep understanding of interpersonal leadership. Participants will be led through an intensive five-day program designed to address the challenges facing local government professionals. Open to All. Team rates available. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

#### **WORKSHOP: ICMA University: Facilitation: A Skill to Run A**

**Meeting or The Platform For Leadership?**

*April 2; Princeton, NJ*

*April 30; Grapevine, TX*

Discover how to foster effective decision making in work groups and teams. Two hour skill building workshop. Reserve your space [HERE](#).

**CONFERENCE: NARC's 48th Annual Conference and Exhibition**

*June 6-11, Louisville, KY*

The Annual Conference and Exhibition is the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. Held annually in June, NARC's Annual Conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Additional information will be available in early 2014.

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