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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Would you like to see your organization highlighted in our publications? We'd love to feature your best practices and achievements – send us your press, articles, or pictures and we'll do our best to include them in *eRegions*, *Transportation Thursdays*, or *Development Digest*. Make it easier on yourself, just add Anna Rosenbaum (anna@narc.org) to your media or newsletter distribution list.

The deadline to submit a *Call for Sessions* for our upcoming 48th Annual Conference is next Monday. Let us know what sessions you'd like to see

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PROGRAM UPDATE

HUD Awards \$1.8B to Improve & Preserve Public Housing: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently announced that it will award approximately \$1.8 billion (B) to 3,100 Public Housing Authorities in all 50 states including: the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This money is intended to make major improvements to the nation's 1.1 million (M) public housing units. Funds can be used to build, repair, renovate, or modernize public housing including large-scale improvements such as new roofs, plumbing upgrades, electrical repairs, and energy-efficiency upgrades. Although HUD said public housing authorities need about

on the conference agenda by filling out the form, located [HERE](#).

The 2014 NARC Awards nomination information is also available. This is your opportunity to nominate an exemplary regional leader or program in your community. Click [HERE](#) for those details.

Have a great week,
Lindsey

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\$26B for improvements, the agency awarded far less due to budget realities. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan said that "while the funding we announce today will never be enough to meet the tremendous backlog of capital needs, HUD will be working closely with the Congress to expand efforts to generate approximately \$6B in private investment for the recapitalization of public housing." The nation loses approximately 10,000 public housing units each year primarily due to disrepair. The grants announced are provided through HUD's *Capital Fund Program*.

DHS Releases FY14 Grant Guidance: Last week, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released its fiscal year (FY) 2014 guidance for preparedness grants. For FY14, DHS shifted away from identifying program-specific priorities and instead directs grantees to prioritize grant funds to increase a jurisdiction's capabilities based on the grantees' capability targets set through the annual *Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment* and capability gaps identified through the annual *State Preparedness Report*. Grantees are encouraged to utilize grant funding to maintain and sustain current critical core capabilities through investments in training and exercises, updates to current planning and procedures, and lifecycle replacement of equipment. New capabilities that are built using homeland security grant funding must be deployable if needed to support regional and national efforts. All capabilities being built or sustained must have a clear linkage to the core capabilities in the National Preparedness Goal.

One significant change in the grant programs is that the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) expanded the list of areas to receive funds from 25 to 39. All of the UASI areas that received funding in FY13 will get the same amount or more in FY14, with the exception of Sacramento, CA, which will get \$1M instead of \$3M. UASI areas on the list this year that did not receive FY13 funds include: Riverside, CA; Orlando, FL; Honolulu, HI; Indianapolis, IN; New Orleans, LA; Kansas City, MO; Las Vegas, NV; Cincinnati, OH; Cleveland, OH; Columbus, OH; Portland, OR; San Antonio, TX; Salt Lake City, UT; and Virginia Beach, VA. All cities will receive \$1M except for New Orleans, which will receive \$3M.

Preparedness grant applications are due no later than May 23. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

Director of Transportation
Programs

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POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in session.

Tax Reform Bill Contains Non-profit Concerns: Momentum on tax reform in Congress is increasing. *On February 26, U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee Chairman Camp (R-MI) released a tax reform draft bill.* The draft bill includes language (modifications to unrelated business income tax, UBIT, statute) concerning the treatment of non-profit (501c3) income, which could affect a wide array of organizations and associations. Some of the changes include: making royalties and certain qualified sponsorship payments subject to UBIT. Royalty income is money paid for the use of intellectual property such as an organization's name, logo, copyrighted content, or mailing list. For sponsorship payments, the bill would make qualified payments taxable if the acknowledgement at an event refers to any of the sponsor's product lines or if a sponsor is given greater recognition at an event than other donors. While it is unlikely for Chairman Camp's bill to advance in this Congress, it is important to be aware of these efforts. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the American Society of Association Executives.

President Obama Signs Flood Insurance Bill: Last Friday, President Obama signed into law legislation that will limit flood insurance premium increases to an average of 15 percent a year, and to no more than 18 percent a year for an individual policyholder or primary homeowner. Secondary homeowners, however, can see an increase of up to 25 percent. This will give approximately 5.5 million (M) flood insurance policyholders a break from premium increases that were skyrocketing and due to take effect next year. The bill delays sharp increases in flood insurance rates for millions of property owners in coastal and flood-prone areas. A few of the bill's highlights include the repeal of provisions eliminating flood insurance subsidies on existing properties for home buyers at the time of sale. The bill also reinstates the flood insurance program's grandfathering provision, meaning homes that complied with previous flood maps would not be hit with large increases when new maps show greater risk of flooding. U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) must also obtain input from local communities as it creates new flood maps, and must strive to keep flood insurance policies under one percent of a property's total coverage. A \$25 surcharge on each of the 5.5M policyholders would offset the cost of

continued subsidies for about 1.1M homeowners. Owners of second homes would pay a \$250 surcharge.

REGIONS360

MORPC Named 1 of 5 Nonprofits to Watch: The Columbus Foundation recently unveiled a new annual program, *5 Nonprofits to Watch*, to identify innovative nonprofits that are positioned to make a significant impact in their respective communities. This Program can be used as tool for educating potential donors. Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is one of the Central Ohio organizations that have been included in the 2014 selection. MORPC created a project called *Insight 2050* which they say will test the fiscal, environmental, and public health impacts of alternative land use and transportation scenarios. Douglas F. Kridler, President and CEO of The Columbus Foundation said, “the 2014 *5 Nonprofits to Watch* are scaled for impact and growth” and that “every one of them will have a substantial impact on our community’s progress and quality of life.”

MEMBERREQUEST

Our member organizations ask for your thoughtful reply. Please forward any feedback to Anna Rosenbaum, anna@narc.org.

NOACA – Crisis Communications Plans: The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is seeking information from its peers on any crisis communications plans that you may have developed or are developing. NOACA is currently finalizing its own plan and would like to review best practices of such plans before finalizing its own. Specifically, does your agency possess a crisis communications plan that it would implement if a public relations crisis or controversy erupts?

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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

DHS - FY14 Preparedness Grants

Deadline: May 23

See *Program Update* section above for more details. Click [HERE](#) to read the bulletin.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

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

WEBINAR: Solar Energy Solutions for Transportation: Improving Air Quality and Saving Fuel with Idle Reduction Technology

March 25, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Join us for NARC's first solar transportation webinar focused on improving air quality and fuel consumption through the use of solar technology in trucking. The average heavy-duty truck uses up to 2,500 gallons of fuel per year idling, driving up transportation costs, and producing thousands of pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. We will explore the regulatory and market forces behind the demand for idle reduction technologies, and review innovative solar powered idle reduction systems as a cleaner and more cost effective alternative.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

NARC Transportation Reauthorization Discussion

March 26, 1:00 PM ET - Click [HERE](#) to reserve your space.

April 22 – 1:00 PM ET – Click [HERE](#) to reserve your space.

May 28 – 1:00 PM ET – Click [HERE](#) to reserve your space.

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) has started monthly feedback sessions for its members, in preparation for the next transportation reauthorization. NARC Staff has met with and will continue to meet with the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee Staff to discuss general principles and specific changes the organization would like to see in the next reauthorization. NARC has put together a list of recommendations – but your feedback is needed.

LoNo Program

March 27, 1:00 PM ET

Due to heightened public interest in the Low or No Emission Vehicle Deployment (LoNo) Program Notice of Funding Availability, the Federal Transit Administration will conduct an online webinar for all interested parties. There will be an opportunity to submit questions online during this event. For additional information, contact Sean Ricketson, sean.ricketson@dot.gov. Click [HERE](#) to join the webinar. Audio dial in number: 888-684-8852, participant code: 4302549.

WEBINAR: TRB's SHRP 2 Community Visioning and Performance Measurement Products (C08 and C02)

April 1, 2:00 PM ET

This webinar will summarize SHRP 2 Projects *C08: Linking Community Visioning and Highway Capacity Planning* and *C02: Performance Measurement Framework for Highway Capacity Decision Making*.

Project C08 produced an interactive vision guide to assist practitioners in better integrating transportation decisions with social, economic, and environmental considerations. Project C02 developed a capacity performance measures web resource that allows users to both browse individual planning factors and generate a report with a set of measures that are relevant to a given project. Both tools have been incorporated into a beta web portal known as "Transportation for Communities - Advancing Projects through Partnerships" (TCAPP). TCAPP will be re-launched at a future date as "PlanWorks" by FHWA. Click [HERE](#) for additional information. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: U.S. DOT's Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program

April 30, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM ET

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) will host a free public meeting and webinar on the progress, products, and next steps of the Connected Vehicle Pilots Program in Washington, DC. The purpose of the meeting is to inform private sector stakeholders on upcoming opportunities and seek input from public sector implementers as they prepare to integrate emerging connected vehicle and mobile device technologies into operational practice. The meeting will provide information on the organizing principles and preliminary schedule of the Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program. In addition, the meeting will provide a summary of challenges identified in the RFI and facilitate further discussion with stakeholders regarding the most salient challenges. Contact Carlos Alban, calban@itsa.org, for more information. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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