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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIV, No. 14, April 21, 2014

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

This week, I am traveling to Florida to meet with the Florida MPO Advisory Council – a forum for all Florida MPOs to discuss regional planning issues of mutual concern. It's a great opportunity for me to learn about Florida's unique challenges and innovative solutions, and to share NARC membership benefits and opportunities with them. We'd also like to hear their thoughts on how we can improve our services.

If there are similar events in your region, if you would just like me or NARC Staff to meet with you or your Board of Directors, or if you

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PROGRAM UPDATE

New APA *Planning for Solar Report* Connects the Dots Between Local Planning and Solar Energy Use: The American Planning Association's (APA) new *Planning for Solar Energy* report places the goal of supporting solar energy use within the context of the local planning system and its emphasis on guiding future community growth and change. To read the report, click [HERE](#).

POLICY UPDATE

Congress is out of session.

want a member of the NARC Team to speak on a panel in your community, please reach out to me. I'm looking forward to working with you!

Sincerely,
Joanna Turner
202.986.1032 x216

NARCLEADERSHIP

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Bipartisan One-Time HTF Revenue Solution Proposed: U.S. Representatives John Delaney (D-MD) and Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA) have called on Congress to issue a one-time revenue fix to the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) while a longer term solution is being negotiated. The funding would be drawn from repatriated revenue, by transferring foreign earnings or returns on foreign investments to the HTF.

USDOT Secretary Anthony Foxx Concludes Bus Tour: U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Secretary Anthony Foxx recently concluded a week-long, eight-state bus tour called "Invest in America: Commit to the Future," to promote the Administration's four-year, \$302 billion transportation funding plan. Transportation reauthorization hearings are currently taking place in Congress, so the Administration is highlighting its own plan while pushing Congress to act faster. The tour also highlighted the looming HTF crisis. USDOT recently moved up its projection of HTF insolvency to July. The funding shortfall could force state and local governments to cancel or delay infrastructure projects. To solve this in the short term, the Administration recommends a \$150 billion cash infusion into the HTF from corporate tax restructuring. Congress faces a September 30 deadline to approve a new transportation bill before the current legislation (*Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act*) expires, but must act sooner to stave off the looming July insolvency threat.

REGIONS360

Transportation Research Record Article Co-Authored by CMAP Staff: The Transportation Research Board (TRB) featured an article, "Assessment of Public-Private Partnership in Travel Information Provision," co-authored by Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) Claire Bozic. *TRB's Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2394* consists of 16 papers, including Ms. Bozic's, that explore a number of topics: travel time and space mean speed of nonmotorized vehicles; a review of India's national urban investment program; lessons of bus rapid transit from nine cities in China; and more. Click [HERE](#) to download any of the 16 articles.

H-GAC Unveils New Website: The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) recently unveiled their redesigned website. Anyone who visits

To access past issues of eRegions, [visit our website](#).

Make NARC your homepage — [click here to learn how](#).

the site will be able to more easily locate information about upcoming events, programs, and services. In addition, their social media links can be found at the bottom of every page of the website. H-GAC's website can be accessed at www.H-GAC.com.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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

USDOL – 6 Million in Job Training Grants for Veterans

Deadline: May 13

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) recently announced the availability of \$6 million for a grant competition that aims to help an estimated 2,000 veterans gain access to employment. The press release states that it will award an estimated 24 or more *Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program* grants. The goal is to provide homeless veterans with on-the-job training, job search assistance, and classroom education to make sure they are able to find good jobs. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to apply.

USDA – \$66 Million in Specialty Crop Block Grants Available

Application Deadline: July 9

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a press release announcing that as part of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill), \$66 million has been made available to state departments of agriculture for projects that help support specialty crop growers. Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture). Almost all states are seeing an increase in funds. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to apply.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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. Click [HERE](#) to access the draft agenda, registration and hotel information. See you in Louisville!

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