



## EXECUTIVE NOTE

NARC Members,

In addition to an agenda packed with great speakers and ideas you can bring back home, NARC's 51st Annual Conference and Exhibition includes elections for NARC Executive Directors Council (EDC) officers and NARC Board of Directors candidates.

NARC's Board of Directors is the governing body of the organization and guides its policy. On Wednesday, June 7 at 9:00 AM following breakfast, NARC members will vote for the NARC President, President-elect, Sr. Vice President, and regional representatives to the Board. Information on NARC elections and procedures are outlined in the NARC By-laws. Regional members of the board serve for two years. Consult our **memo and list of open Board seats** to see if you or an elected official from your region are interested in running.

NARC's EDC serves as the organization's advisory body. EDC Elections take place on Monday, June 27 during the EDC business meeting, which is open to all members. Consult our **list of open EDC seats** to see who represents your region.

We encourage you to get involved, meet your regional Board representative and participate in a committee discussion. NARC belongs to you!

**Please note:** Today is the last day to book Saturday, June 3rd at the conference hotel using the group rate. The group rate for all other days expires on May 12th. Please consult our **conference webpage** for more details.

Additionally, NARC is heading to Long Beach, California next week for the Advanced Clean Transportation (ACT) Expo to present on our Fleets for the Future project. If you want to learn why alternative fuel vehicles would make a good addition to your municipal or county fleet and how to

save money on them, drop by for the free workshop. You can also check out our [website](#) at or contact Sarah Reed ([sarah@narc.org](mailto:sarah@narc.org)) for more information.

Finally, NARC is preparing to celebrate a hard-fought victory tomorrow on behalf of many of our members when the House passes legislation to reverse the MPO coordination rulemaking. We expect smooth sailing tomorrow, and passage in the House sends the bill to the president for his signature.

See you soon!  
Leslie

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

### NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

*Congress is in session.*

#### **This Week**

Lawmakers return to Washington with eyes on appropriations, which need to be reconciled by April 28 to fund government operations through the rest of the fiscal year. Pressure is on leadership to avoid a politically risky government shutdown, which coincides with Trump's 100th day in office on April 29. How to handle the White House request for \$33 billion in additional funds for defense and border security (including funding for the border wall) is just one of a number of issues that Congress faces in this spending package. If lawmakers can't negotiate a spending package, Congress may pass a one- or two-week stopgap spending measure to prevent a shutdown.

A stopgap bill will keep current spending levels in place, avoiding the major cuts proposed by the president that would eliminate or make major cuts to key local programs, such as the entire U.S. Economic Development Administration; Community Development Block Grants; funding for water infrastructure, transit, Amtrak passenger rail; USDOT's TIGER grants; and human services programs.

Meanwhile, House Republicans may take another stab at repealing Obamacare. House leaders pulled their original legislation in March when it became clear that it wouldn't pass. Since then, lawmakers and the White House have been working to negotiate a compromise. Tomorrow House Republicans have a conference call to discuss repeal efforts and spending legislation. On the agenda is an amendment by Thomas MacArthur (R-NJ) to allow insurers to charge higher premiums to people with pre-existing conditions in states that get a waiver. Other measures the House will be considering this week include: Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac records requests; replacement of the Dodd-Frank Act; nuclear waste storage at Nevada's Yucca Mountain; and the MPO Coordination Rule.

The Senate resumes efforts to confirm President Trump's nominees for administration posts, including a confirmation vote for former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue to head the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The chamber also plans a cloture vote on the nomination of Rod Rosenstein to be deputy attorney general. The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee plans a Wednesday vote on the nomination of Scott Gottlieb to lead the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). And on Thursday, a Special Committee on Aging will hold a hearing, **[Aging Without Community: The Consequences of Isolation and Loneliness](#)**.

According to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, the Trump administration is aiming to complete the biggest tax code overhaul since President Reagan by the end of the year, even if a second attempt to repeal Obamacare fails.

There is little time left to enact *Congressional Review Act* resolutions to negate government regulations published last year. One of the resolutions awaiting action (H.J. Res 36) would overturn Bureau of Land Management rules that require operators of gas and oil wells on federal land to use advanced technology to reduce the venting and burning of methane gas.

## Support for Park Funding

In a recent bipartisan letter to the House Interior-Environmental Appropriations Subcommittee over 200 members called for healthy funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund in fiscal year 2018. Mike Thompson (D-CA) and Patrick Meehan (R-PA) led the letter supporting the fund that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke committed to making permanent during his confirmation hearing. The last Congress had two bills to permanently reauthorize the Land Water Conservation Fund that had 212 sponsors in the House and 19 sponsors in the Senate.

## Trump Supports Dem Buy America Bill

Last week President Trump expressed support for a bill that would increase requirements to buy American. The bill, sponsored by Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), would require American iron or steel for certain drinking-water projects. A similar provision was in the waterways bill last year, but was removed by House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI). Trump said, "I agree with her 100 percent" when asked about the bill after signing his Buy American, Hire American executive order.

## OTHER NEWS

### Better Buildings Challenge SWAP 3

This U.S. Department of Energy reality-style web series' features the cities of **Atlanta** and **Boston** paving the way for tomorrow's energy efficiency leaders. During SWAP 3, each energy team found innovative ways to save energy in two cities very different than their own. They tackle challenges ranging from exploring new technology to saving energy in historic buildings and newer airports, to working with city employees and residents on encouraging behavior change. Previous episodes covered the Navy and Air Force academies and Whole Foods and Hilton Worldwide.

### NARC RFI! NARC Seeks Cooperative Procurement Partner for AFVs in the Private Sector

Submission Deadline: June 2

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to facilitate a process to gauge interest from trade associations or other agencies that have a national membership base or the capacity to reach a national target audience to create a cooperative procurement program that includes alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). The target audience is private sector fleets, or the commercial market. The **Fleets for the Future** (F4F) project, led by NARC, currently includes a national-scale public sector procurement initiative for AFVs along with fleet services, parts, and equipment.

## REGION SPOTLIGHT

### Infrastructure Week is May 15-19

Infrastructure Week is a national week of education and advocacy to draw attention to the importance of infrastructure to our nation's economy, jobs, communities, and future. There are events all week in Washington, D.C. and across the country highlighting different aspects of infrastructure from autonomous vehicles to broadband. Your community can also plan its own event with help from an online toolkit. Please tell us what your organization is doing for Infrastructure Week! Send details to [anna@narc.org](mailto:anna@narc.org).

### Broward MPO's STARTED Plan and Video

The Broward MPO's Plans and Programs are guiding future transportation investment, and their *Strategic Transportation and Regional Transit Economic Development (STARTED) Plan* will integrate all of their programs and projects to establish a comprehensive and connected transportation system. A number of projects have been identified to enhance Broward's current transportation system, including: **Brightline**, **the Wave Streetcar**, an expansion of Tri-Rail on the east coast corridor (**Tri-Rail Coastal Link**), express lanes on interstates, future corridors for premium transit service, and **Mobility Hubs**. All those improvements, complemented by **Complete Streets** enhancements, will allow Broward's residents to easily move from one place to another throughout the region.

### MWCOG Celebrates 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary throughout the month of April. On April 11, 1957 more than forty public officials from across the D.C. region met to discuss regional collaboration and created the Washington

Metropolitan Regional Conference, now known as MWCOG. Join their celebration on Twitter at #COG60th to learn about their current work, future goals, and past accomplishments.

### **ILARC's New Website**

The new Illinois Association of Regional Councils (ILARC) website offers an online community for Illinois' professional planners and a content-rich experience for visitors. The website includes a member directory with identifiable maps and easily accessible links to regional planning agencies throughout the state. Among other features, the online platform includes a library of planning documents produced by Illinois regional councils (click "Services" and "Resources") and a scrolling news segment on the homepage. The website highlights the history, experience and diverse capabilities of Illinois' regional councils to serve local government planning needs.

## **REGIONS LEAD**

Visit [www.regionslead.org](http://www.regionslead.org) to read up on the latest NARC blogs. We invite members to submit blogs to the site too.

### **Want America to Be 'Great' Again? Pay For It**

*by Pat Jones, IBTTA*

This article was originally published in the April 18 issue of *Time* magazine. Pat Jones is the CEO of the International Bridge, Tunnel, and Turnpike Association (IBTTA), an organization that represents tolling agencies from around the nation and world. His organization has been at the forefront of advocating for increased resources to maintain our roads, bridges and tunnels, and other infrastructure. This blog argues for a coherent, thoughtful transportation policy that provides the necessary funds to ensure that America's roads and bridges, and other infrastructure, are properly maintained. Most recently, Mr. Jones was a general session speaker at NARC's 2017 National Conference of Regions.

### **Hearing on Job Training Shows Congressional Support**

*by Neil Bomberg*

On April 4, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing, *Examining Federal Support for Job Training Programs*. Witnesses included University of Maryland School of Public Policy Professor and Atlantic Council Senior Fellow Douglas J. Besharov, Urban Institute Fellow Dr. Demetra Smith Nightingale, and Markle Foundation CEO and President Zoe Baird. What may have been most striking...

### **Budget Facts and Talking Points to Share with Congressional Leaders**

*by Neil Bomberg*

These budget facts and talking points will help you talk to your senators and representatives during this congressional recess, which ends April 23.

## **FEATURED JOBS**

*View full list of jobs!*

### **Senior Director of Operations**

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

### **Assistant Planner**

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

### **Director of Planning**

Southern California Association of Governments, Los Angeles, CA

### **Senior Budget Program Analyst**

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

## **FUNDING**

*View full list of grants!*

## **HUD: Research and Evaluation, Demonstration, and Data Analysis and Utilization**

Applications Due: May 11

The Research and Evaluation, Demonstrations, and Data Analysis and Utilization program (referred to as "HUDRD") is managed by HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R). Through this NOFA, HUD is announcing the availability of up to \$2,900,000 in FY 2016 funding.

## **ACL: Strengthening Coordinated Transportation Systems for People with Disabilities and Older Adults**

Synopses Due: June 6

Applications Due: August 5

The objective of this funding opportunity announcement is to build upon work previously done in this area by promoting continued and expanded engagement in national peer-to-peer networks, furthering the design and implementation of small grants demonstration programs at the community level, strengthening and refining evaluation and continuous improvement processes, and expanding dissemination activities. The goal of this five-year project is to build upon proven models and approaches that can be used by states and communities across the country to involve people with disabilities and older adults in the design and implementation of coordinated transportation systems in ways that successfully make those systems responsive to the needs of these populations.

## **USDA: Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)**

Application Due: September 8, 2018

The AFRI Foundational Program is offered to support grants in the six AFRI priority areas to continue building a foundation of knowledge critical for solving current and future societal challenges. The six priority areas are: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health; Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment; Agriculture Systems and Technology; and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities. Single-function Research Projects, multi-function Integrated Projects, and Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants are expected to address one of the Program Area Priorities (see Foundational Program RFA for details). **Additional details** available.

## **EVENTS**

***View full list of events!***

### **Leading Economically Competitive and Resilient Communities Training Program**

*See full list of locations and dates*

The Delta Regional Authority presents a series of intensive two-day courses focused on economic development and disaster resiliency strategies to enhance the effectiveness of local elected officials, economic development practitioners, and other community leaders in the Delta region. The workshops are held in partnership with the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Each workshop will consist of a two-day training that covers one of the following courses – Module A: Basic Economic Development Strategies, Module B: Economic Resilience and Disaster Recovery, or Module C: Advanced Economic Development Strategies. The courses require no prerequisites, and participants are encouraged to attend any of the training workshops offered.

### **Public Property / Public Need: Using Vacant Federal Property to End Homelessness**

April 25, 2:00 PM ET

On April 25, the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (NLCHP) will release Public Property / Public Need: a Toolkit for Using Vacant Federal Property to End Homelessness, and host an accompanying webinar, designed to help local governments and non-profit agencies obtain unused federal land and real property for free under Title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Under federal law, local governments and non-profits have a right of first refusal to property that is no longer needed by the federal government. Moreover, these properties will be conveyed by deed or lease to successful applicants for free. To date, approximately 500 buildings and nearly 900 acres of land have been transferred to organizations serving homeless people in over 30 states to provide a wide array of services, including emergency shelter,



housing, medical care, job training, food, and other services to over 2 million people each year. The toolkit will be available on the NLCHP [website](#).

### **Federal Reserve Connecting Communities Webinar: Experiences and Perspectives of Young Workers**

April 25, 3:00 PM ET

Young workers in the U.S. experience higher rates of unemployment than the population as a whole. Nonetheless, they are generally optimistic about their job prospects, according to the Federal Reserve Board's new report, *Experiences and Perspectives of Young Workers*. The report, which presents data collected through a 2015 survey, provides a snapshot of the educational attainment, employment experience, job market outlook and financial self-sufficiency of 18- to 30-year-olds. Participation is free, but preregistration is required.

### **Community Resilience Webinar: Modeling, Field Studies, and Implementation**

April 27, 11:00 AM ET

A Resilient Community is one that is prepared for and can adapt to changing conditions and can withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions to its physical and social infrastructure. Modeling community resilience comprehensively requires a concerted effort by experts in engineering social sciences and information sciences to explain how physical, economic, and social infrastructure systems within a real community interact and affect recover efforts. Join this webinar to learn more about the NIST-funded Center for Risk-Based Community Resilience Planning's recent activities. A Center overview will be followed by a session on the Center's recent Special Issue of Resilient and Sustainable Infrastructure, which features six papers on the virtual community Centerville. The modeling and analysis theory behind each paper will be explained followed by a demonstration of IN-CORE, the Interdependent Connected Modeling Environment for Community Resilience. Presentations on the first validation study, The Joplin Hindcast, and the Center's First Field Study, The Lumberton, NC Floods of 2016, will also be highlighted.

### **Federal Reserve Connecting Communities Webinar: Preserving Affordable Rural Rental Housing: New Tools and Promising Practices**

May 4, 3:00 PM ET

Thousands of affordable rental properties in rural communities are in danger of being lost to disrepair or market forces in the next decade. This webinar will explore strategies that are being implemented to try and preserve them, with a focus on recently released data and tools that can help community organizations and their partners better understand the current landscape of rural affordable rental housing. Hear presenters from PolicyMap and USDA Rural Housing Service describe the tools and data their organizations have developed or are hosting. You'll also hear a practitioner's perspective, as the leader of Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership discusses how his organization is using those tools and resources to identify at-risk properties and assess preservation strategies. Participation is free, but preregistration is required.

### **Draft Agenda Available! 51st Annual Conference & Exhibition**

June 4-7 - Monterey, CA

Join NARC and the California Association of Councils of Governments for NARC's 51st Annual Conference and Exhibition.

## **CONTACT US**

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