



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS



Need **5 Reasons to Attend** NARC's Annual Conference?
We've got them right **HERE**.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress is in session.

Washington Brief

This week, the Senate resumes consideration of the Iran nuclear deal. Following that action, the Senate could vote to override President Obama's March 31 veto of **S.J. Res. 8**, which overturns a National Labor Relations Board rule on labor-organizing practices. Starting Wednesday, the House will bring up for floor consideration the first two spending bills for fiscal year 2016 – Energy and Water Development and Military Construction – VA. Both chambers will hear from Japanese **Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe**, who will address a joint meeting of Congress on Wednesday.

NARC, with a Coalition of National Associations, Sends Letter to Congressional Leadership on MAP-21 Reauthorization Priorities

Leaders from six national organizations representing elected and appointed transportation officials sent a **letter** last week to transportation leaders in both the House and Senate asking them to direct a greater share of available transportation funds to local governments and their regional agencies.

DOE Releases Quadrennial Energy Review

Last Tuesday, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released its *Quadrennial Energy Review: Energy Transmission, Storage, and Distribution Infrastructure*, which aims to provide a multi-

year road map for U.S energy policy. The **report** includes recommendations to modernize, replace, and expand the nation's energy infrastructure, focusing on energy transmission, storage, and distribution. The report seeks to identify vulnerabilities in the system and includes proposals to reduce those risks.

House Passes Shaheen-Portman Energy Efficiency Legislation

The House passed **S. 535**, *the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015*, sponsored by Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH). S. 535 encourages energy efficiency measures in commercial buildings, requires federal buildings to release energy data, and directs DOE to study ways to make energy data usage information available to more building owners. The Senate has also passed the bill, which now goes to the president for signature.

Communities that Work Partnership

Today, the U.S. Department of Commerce and Aspen Institute launched the Communities that Work Partnership. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and President and CEO of the Aspen Institute, Walter Isaacson, discussed the Commerce's commitment to workforce development and the important role this partnership will play in creating long-lasting regional workforce ecosystems. This partnership aims to build more effective, employer-led workforce initiatives across the country. The Aspen Institute released a **request to participate** to select six teams from different regions, comprised of leaders in industry, government, education, and workforce/economic development. These six groups will receive technical assistance and participate in leadership development activities to boost skills development in their regions.

OTHER NEWS

New Census Bureau Infographic Shows How Communities Rely on ACS

Why We Ask, a new U.S. Census Bureau infographic in the Measuring America series, explains the important role the American Community Survey (ACS) plays in the future of America's planning needs. The survey asks questions about our lives — how old we are, how much we earn, whether we work or go to school, how much we pay in rent or on a mortgage, whether we need assistance with daily routines and more. These 72 questions provide an annual portrait of the nation and our communities that America can use to assess the past and plan the future.

FEATURED JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Regional Planner

Michiana Area Council of Governments, South Bend, IN

Executive Director

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

Policy Analyst - Regional Economy

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Policy Analyst - Regional Land Use and Housing

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Transportation Planner/Analyst

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

FUNDING

View full list of grants!

FHWA Notice of Funding Opportunity

Application Deadline: June 5

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Freight Office released a Notice of Funding Opportunity to award up to \$100,000 to two eligible Off-Hours Freight Delivery research projects.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

How to Compete for TIGER Discretionary Grants

April 28, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

For the 2015 TIGER round, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is offering a series of special topic webinars that delve into various aspects of the TIGER application process. These webinars are 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 USDOT to prospective applicants. **Reminder! Required pre-applications are due May 4 by 11:59 ET.**

Transportation Planning Information Exchange Webinar

May 7, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET

Speakers from FHWA and the Federal Transit Administration, as well as staff from various organizations, will provide information on Public Involvement Tools for Transportation Agencies. Presenters will introduce the benefits of online public involvement for transportation agencies, explore the range of online public involvement tools, and provide case studies demonstrating planning situations in which each tool can be used. Q&A will follow the presentation. You will have to **request an account** (with **step-by-step instructions**) before you can register.

Using Technology to Connect Health Care for People with Mental Illness

May 7, 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM ET

The push to integrated care, particularly for those with serious mental illness, led a comprehensive community provider and more than 30 North Carolina counties to explore their fragmented health care landscapes and transform them by effectively leveraging technology. This National Association of Counties webinar will detail how counties are helping to keep people with serious mental illness in cost effective treatment and out of hospitals and jails by improving care and outcomes.

NARC's 49th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 7-10, Raleigh, NC - **Early Bird Rate Extended through May 1st!**

Join the conversation on the latest in regional government at NARC's Annual Conference and Exhibition, hosted by the Triangle J Council of Governments. Events begin Sunday afternoon with two optional mobile workshops exploring Raleigh. Sessions will highlight innovations in transportation, digital technology, street design, the impact of changing demographics, economic development tools for regions, collaborating to reduce waste, economic transformation in the region, workforce, green infrastructure, and water resources.

CONTACT US

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