

May 9, 2016 [View this email in your browser](#)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS



EXECUTIVE NOTE

Dear NARC Members,

NARC is pleased to announce our **new partnership with Esri**. We look forward to a productive partnership that will bring a wide range of resources to NARC members. Working with Esri, NARC will be able to develop maps and applications that will allow the organization to visualize and interpret a variety of data and information. Through a suite of training webinars and workshops, we aim to help members learn about GIS and maximize their potential in using it. ESRI is offering two pre-conference workshops on Sunday afternoon before the **50th Annual Conference & Exhibition** in Salt Lake City. Mobile tours and pre-conference workshops are filling up fast, so reserve your spot today!

While the conference offers educational workshops, opportunities for networking, best practices and ideas to implement at home, conferees will also have the opportunity to participate in NARC governance. Policy committee meetings review **NARC's official policies** and offer you an opportunity to weigh in on the development of that policy.

NARC's Board of Directors and Executive Directors Council (EDC) meet during the conference, and

both meetings are open to attendees. Additionally, members have the opportunity to elect NARC Board of Directors - including NARC's President, President-Elect, and Senior Vice President - during the NARC Elections process on Wednesday, June 29th. It's your organization. Participate!

Finally, be sure to stick around for our 2nd annual Awards Gala Dinner on Tuesday evening! Join your colleagues as they receive recognition for their innovative programs and achievements. It's a fun event and we're planning for a little extra panache to commemorate 50 years of regional collaboration.

See you soon!
Leslie

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Senate is in session; House resumes business tomorrow.

Overview

After promising a return to regular order and the adoption of regular spending bills rather than an end of the year omnibus, lawmakers stall again. It has been more than 20 years since Congress passed each individual spending bill funding the federal government. With the heightened political sensitivity of an election year and the shortened legislative session, Congress could be looking at another last minute omnibus agreement at the end of September heading into the 2016 Presidential election.

Senate Tries Again to Pass a Energy-Water Bill

Senate will meet to consider the 2017 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. After two unsuccessful attempts, the Senate will take another pass at voting on the \$37.5 billion funding bill due to controversial amendments.

Brownfields Legislation

On April 25, the Senate passed a brownfields reauthorization bill as part of the Senate Energy bill (S.2012). In the House, two committees have jurisdiction over the program and have held hearings on it, but have not yet introduced legislation. The letter calls on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to address local government liability, a barrier to the redevelopment of contaminated properties in a proposed brownfields reauthorization bill.

NARC joined the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties (NACo), and National League of Cities (NLC) in a **letter** urging two House panels to act on legislation reauthorizing federal brownfields programs. In the past several weeks, Congress began to move on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program, last authorized in 2002. NARC met with House committee staff with the goal of writing and introducing a bill in this session of Congress. We encourage you to let your Members of Congress know what this program means to your community.

OTHER NEWS

New Study Finds that Rural Broadband Holds Economic Benefits for All

A new report from the Hudson Institute entitled, *The Economic Impact of Rural Broadband*, shows that more widespread access to broadband service in smaller, rural communities has significant economic benefits for both rural and urban areas. The study finds that economic benefits are dispersed more heavily towards urban areas, with two-thirds of the \$24.2 billion final economic demand generated by rural telecom companies and 54 percent of the 69,600 jobs going to urban areas. The report also looks at the federal role of broadband expansion and other quality of life benefits from expanding broadband.

May 20th is Bike to Work Day

Approximately 40 percent of all trips in the U.S. are less than two miles, making bicycling a feasible and fun way to get to work. With increased interest in healthy, sustainable, and economic transportation options, it's not surprising that, from 2000 to 2013, the number of bicycle commuters in the U.S. grew by more than 62 percent. Established in 1956, National Bike Month is a chance to showcase the many benefits of bicycling — and encourage more folks to give biking a try. **This year, Bike to Work Week will be May 16-20, with Bike to Work Day on May 20.** For event listings or information on how to run an event in your community, go to <http://bikeleague.org/bikemonth>.

Preparing for Tomorrow's State and Local Government Workforce

For better or worse, it's been a dynamic few years for public sector workforces at the state and local level. The budgetary response to the strained fiscal conditions that came with the Great Recession saw massive layoffs, restructurings, and consolidations within state and local government workforces. In jurisdictions everywhere, personnel managers are thinking of ways to not only deal with the “silver tsunami” of retirements but attract and retain new talent, including millennials, to replace career employees. **This eBook** looks at how state and local governments across the country are using innovative practices to recruit, develop, and support high-quality talent to deliver critical public services.

MEMBER REQUESTS

Please email your responses to anna@narc.org.

SWCCOG: The Southwest Colorado Council of Governments (SWCCOG) was approached by a small regional non-profit focused on weatherization and sustainability to come under the SWCCOG umbrella. The SWCCOG Board is interested but hesitant to move forward too quickly, as they are wary of the challenges of incorporating a non-profit into the COG. We are looking for other regional organizations that have attempted or completed something similar.

Anonymous: A joint COG/MPO in a major metropolitan region seeks feedback. Their region's major city has threatened to pull out of the COG, though by federal law would be required to continue participating in the MPO. The dues paid by the city in question are joint COG/MPO dues, with no separation by function. The COG in question would like to know:

1. Have other organizations faced a similar threat or situation in their region?
2. If you are a COG that also has an MPO, do your members pay separate dues for each?

This would seem to be a unique and possible unprecedented situation, so any perspective other members could offer would be greatly appreciated.

FUNDING

View full list of grants!

Creative Placemaking Grants and 2017 Guidelines Announced

Creative placemaking is increasingly a tool of choice for those working to forge solutions to community development challenges. As one of the leaders in the creative placemaking field, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announces its latest round of funding through its signature creative placemaking program, Our Town. NEA will award \$4.3 million in grants to fund 64 projects in 36 states in cities ranging from Los Angeles, California to Lewiston, Maine. **Guidelines and application materials** for 2017 Our Town funding are posted on NEA's website. **All 2016 Our Town projects** are available in the related content section.

FEATURED JOBS

View full list of jobs!

EVENTS

View full list of events!

FEMA Webinars on Proposed Building Standards When Using Public Assistance Funds

May 10, 3:00 - 4:00 PM ET

May 12, 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET

Join the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for two webinars to discuss proposed policy requiring new minimum building standards in hazard-prone areas. FEMA officials will explain the proposed policy and answer questions from participants. The proposed policy requires that, as a minimum, International Building Code standards be used for construction projects when Public Assistance funding is used. Costs associated with these standards would be eligible. The policy's purpose is to establish minimum standards for Public Assistance projects to promote resiliency and increase achieved risk reduction from future disasters. The draft language is posted to the **Federal Register** and will be available for comment until May 23, 2016.

International Code Council cdpACCESS Training Webinar

May 11, 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET

This webinar will provide a training on the International Code Council cdpACCESS, an online voting tool. Laurie Rich, cdpCMS Business Manager, will provide an overview of the on-line process and also focus on two timely tasks in the development process: (1) how to vote on assembly motions and (2) how to submit public comments.

USDOT's National Virtual Town Hall

May 11, 2:30 PM ET

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx will discuss the integral role that transportation plays in connecting people to opportunity and USDOT's **Every Place Counts Design Challenge**. Please **RSVP**.

Building Broadband Opportunities: How Local Leaders Can Make a Difference

May 16, 1:00 - 2:00 PM ET - Part 1

May 16, 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET - Part 2

The National Telecommunications Information Agency will join with NLC and NACo for a two-part webinar focused on community broadband. Part 1 of the series will provide an overview of the community broadband landscape, offer examples of successful local broadband initiatives and discuss resources available to help cities and counties get connected and get citizens online. Learn why local leaders need to make broadband a priority and what tools and federal programs exist to help them pursue broadband opportunities for their communities.

Part 2 of the series will focus on how to bring your broadband goals to life by planning a successful broadband project. Learn how to create a community broadband roadmap that outlines a strategic broadband vision, assesses a community's unique resources and needs, engages and mobilizes stakeholders and lays out a plan of action to turn vision into reality.

Technological Innovations in Transportation

May 18, 2:00 - 3:35 PM ET

Join NACo in this interactive webinar to learn how local governments are leveraging technological innovations to improve transportation systems and ready them for the future. Transportation and technology experts will discuss national trends and current county projects in connected vehicles and open data sharing, the actual and expected benefits and future plans for innovation. This discussion will give elected officials and staff members an idea of where the field of transportation is heading in the face of rapidly developing technologies and suggest next steps.

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