



## CONFERENCE NOTE

If you are attending the Annual Conference, it's not too late to sign up for our mobile tour! Please send an email to Anna Rosenbaum at [anna@narc.org](mailto:anna@narc.org) if you are interested.

### 17-Mile Drive and Carmel Mobile Tour

*Sunday, June 4, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM*

Widely recognized as one of the most scenic drives in the world, this famous coastal landmark runs from Pacific Grove to Pebble Beach, featuring awe-inspiring vistas and legendary sites perfect for an afternoon of exploration. Marvel at some of nature's treasures, including: the Lone Cypress, Spanish Bay, and Stillwater Cove. Time will be provided to explore downtown Carmel, where you can enjoy a leisurely lunch, do a bit of shopping, or just stroll around to take in the beauty. You'll want to bring a camera, comfortable walking shoes, and a sweater or light jacket. The cost is \$40.

## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

*Congress is on Memorial Day recess.*

Senators and representatives are home this week, enjoying a brief Memorial Day holiday respite. But the benefits of the respite are not likely to be long lived; when they return to Washington they are likely to find that their jobs have gotten much more difficult.

### Health Care

Any hope among senators to pass a health care bill similar to the one adopted by the House disappeared last week when the CBO released its costs. The CBO concluded that the House bill to repeal and replace Obamacare would increase the number of uninsured Americans by 23 million as well as cause health care premiums to rise significantly for sicker and older Americans. The CBO also estimated that women might have to pay upwards of \$1,000 more than men if the bill was signed into law.

### Budget and Appropriations

Any hope of moving quickly to adopt a House and Senate budget and begin the appropriations

process also seems to have dried up since last week. The release of the president's FY 2018 budget created unanticipated problems for congressional attempts to pass a budget and adopt the series of appropriations bills. It quickly became apparent to House members and senators that much of what was proposed would not work out cost-wise and would have far reaching implications that neither party desired.

In response to the proposed budget, NARC expressed strong concern over the devastating cuts which would hurt vulnerable citizens and strain community budgets. Programs designed to support citizens and communities such as infrastructure investment, social services, community and economic development, protect the environment, health and public safety and facing our nation's opioid crisis would be slashed beyond the ability of local governments to fill the gaps.

If adopted, the president's proposal would cut or eliminate funding for many important human services programs while significantly spiking military spending and creating huge tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. The proposed cuts to or elimination of programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and other safety net programs provided congressional Democrats and human services advocates with a strong argument against the president's budget. Republicans were placed in a difficult position: do they reject the budget and face the wrath of the president and conservatives or do they use it as their budgetary framework and face attacks from all sides over the way in which the proposal would hurt low income Americans while making the rich richer?

But other proposals to cut or eliminate funding are equally problematic. For example, the proposed elimination of funding for the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) programs has received substantial criticism. Reductions in funding for a range of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Departments of Labor, Education, Housing, and Health and Human Services programs have also been met with pushback.

Moreover, with just seven weeks left before the August recess, and tax reform also facing a promised deadline, Congress may yet again find itself in the same position it has been in for many years – the end of the fiscal year without a way to pass its appropriations bills before the beginning of the 2018 fiscal year on October 1, 2017.

### **Mayors Testify on Wastewater and Stormwater Costs Request to Congress**

South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg testified on behalf of the US Conference of Mayors and Hattiesburg Mayor Johnny Dupree testified on behalf of the National League of Cities before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment, on the high costs of Clean Water Act (CWA) mandates and the need to create additional tools to assist communities achieve their goals in a cost-effective manner. Both Mayors talked about the costs of combined and sanitary sewer consent decrees and stormwater regulations for their cities as well as how integrated planning and affordability legislation would help their cities achieve better results while making the costs more manageable.

Please [click here](#) for a copy of Mayor Buttigieg's testimony, [click here](#) to download S.692 and [click here](#) to download H.R. 465.

### **Mayors Speak in Support of Community Development Block Grant Funding**

Last week, on behalf of The US Conference of Mayors (USCM), Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson and Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski participated in a Congressional roundtable discussion on the importance of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs, both of which are slated for elimination in the Administration's budget blueprint for FY 2018. Mayors across the country are deeply troubled by the president's proposal and have been consistent in their support of CDBG. USCM released a bipartisan letter to Congressional leaders in both the **House** and **Senate** reiterating its support of the CDBG program. More than 350 mayors representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, signed the CDBG letter and remain committed to fighting this destructive cut.

## Committee Highlights

There are no committee hearings this week while Congress is not in session.

## REGION SPOTLIGHT

### **SEMCOG Invests \$9.2 Million to Improve Walking and Bicycling Safety and Accessibility**

SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, has awarded over \$9.2 million in **Transportation Alternatives Program** (TAP) funding for fiscal year 2018. TAP offers funding opportunities for a number of transportation improvements including pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and safety programs, historic preservation and rehabilitation of transportation facilities, and safe routes to school programs. The **22 awarded projects** span all seven counties in Southeast Michigan and demonstrate the diversity of high-impact projects these funds support.

## 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.

### **New! President's FY18 "A New Foundation for American Greatness" Budget Not Great for Local Governments**

by Neil Bomberg

On Tuesday, May 23, the president introduced his first ever, full budget proposal: *A New Foundation for American Greatness*. If adopted into law, the budget would impose catastrophic cuts to non-defense discretionary programs (those most targeted to local programs), while dramatically increasing spending for defense-related programs.

### **Why Do We Need Infrastructure Week?**

by Neil Bomberg

As we approach Infrastructure Week (May 15 through 19) – a week of education and advocacy designed to draw attention to the importance of infrastructure to our nation's economy, jobs, and communities – we should stop for a moment and ask why? Why must we have an Infrastructure Week? Shouldn't the wealthiest nation on the planet have the best infrastructure in the world? We should, but sadly, we don't.

### **At Long Last... A FY 2017 Omnibus Appropriations Bill**

by Neil Bomberg

After weeks of negotiations that at times seemed as if they would breakdown, the House and Senate early Monday morning reached an agreement on an appropriations bill that would increase military spending by \$15 billion, maintain non-defense discretionary funding, and increase border security funding by \$1.5 billion, but would prohibit any border security funds from being used to build the proposed border wall. The compromise bill seems more in keeping with Obama-era priorities than Trump-era priorities.

## FEATURED JOBS

*View full list of jobs!*

### **Principal Transportation Planner**

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

### **RLI No. 17-07: State Advocacy Services**

Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fort Lauderdale, FL

### **RFP No. 17-06: 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan**

Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fort Lauderdale, FL

### **RFP No. 17-05: 2045 Regional Transportation Plan**

Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fort Lauderdale, FL

### **Public Safety Clerk**

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

## **Procurement Coordinator**

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

## **Senior Planner/Demographer**

Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, Cincinnati, OH

# **FUNDING**

***View full list of grants!***

## **Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment Initiative**

Applications Due: June 12

Awardees will develop model deployment sites for large scale installation and operation of advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, efficiency, system performance, and infrastructure return on investment. These model deployments are expected to provide benefits in the form of: reduced traffic-related fatalities and injuries; reduced traffic congestion and improved travel time reliability; reduced transportation-related emissions; optimized multimodal system performance; improved access to transportation alternatives, including for underserved populations; public access to real time integrated traffic, transit, and multimodal transportation information to make informed travel decisions; cost savings to transportation agencies, businesses, and the traveling public; or other benefits to transportation users and the general public. This competitive advanced transportation and congestion management technologies deployment grant program will promote the use of innovative transportation solutions. The deployment of these technologies will provide Congress and the U.S. Department of Transportation with valuable real life data and feedback to inform future decision making.

## **EDA NOFA: \$17 Million Available to Spur Regional Innovation**

Applications Due: June 23

EDA published the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for its 2017 Regional Innovations Strategies (RIS) program. The \$17 million being made available through the RIS NOFA will help to spur innovation capacity-building activities in regions across the nation. Under this competition, EDA is **seeking applications** for two separate funding opportunities: the i6 Challenge and the Seed Fund Support (SFS) Grant competition.

- i6 Challenge (\$13M): Across the country, regions and communities are helping entrepreneurs overcome challenging barriers to help build new companies and create jobs through the efforts of universities, National Labs, state and local governments, incubators, and various other organizations. The i6 Challenge helps drive these efforts by supporting the creation and expansion of programs that increase the rate at which innovations, ideas, intellectual property, and research are translated into products, services, viable companies, and, ultimately, jobs.
- Seed Fund Support (SFS) Grant Competition (\$4M): The availability of funding for early-stage companies is an essential element of a healthy innovation-based regional ecosystem. Taking an idea or innovation from conception to market often requires capital, but in many regions across the country, innovators and entrepreneurs struggle to find that capital. SFS grants provide funding for technical assistance and operational costs that support the planning, formation, launch, or scale of cluster-based seed funds that will invest their capital in innovation-based startups with a potential for high growth.

Funding for both programs is available to all communities regardless of level of distress.

## **NEA Seeks Creative Placemaking Proposals for Our Town Grant Program**

Applications Due: September 25

The **National Endowment for the Arts** has published **guidelines and the application** for the next funding round of Our Town, the agency's primary creative placemaking grants program. The Our Town grant program supports creative placemaking projects that help to transform communities into lively, beautiful, and resilient places with the arts at their core.

The program offers support for projects in two areas:

1. Arts Engagement, Cultural Planning, and Design Projects: Projects in this category should represent the distinct character and quality of their communities. They also must involve a

- partnership between a nonprofit organization and a local government entity, with one of the partners being a cultural organization. Matching grants will range from \$25,000 to \$200,000.
2. Projects that Build Knowledge (about creative placemaking): Grants in this category are available to arts and design service organizations and industry or university organizations that provide technical assistance to those doing place-based work. Matching grants will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

## EVENTS

*[View full list of events!](#)*

### **Value of Water Campaign Webinar: The Economic Opportunity of Investing in Water Infrastructure**

May 31, 12:00-1:00 PM ET

In March, the **Value of Water Campaign** released a new report on Capitol Hill evaluating the economic benefits of investing in water infrastructure. Communities across the U.S. rely on an aging system of water pipes and over 156,000 public water systems that each serve at least 25 people per day. It's estimated that a water main breaks every two minutes across the nation--wreaking havoc for homes and businesses. Manufacturing revenues alone are found to decline by an average of 20 percent due to a disruption in water service. The **report** finds that if we close the investment gap for water infrastructure, there is a ripple effect of sustained job creation and GDP growth, resulting in over \$220 billion in total annual economic activity to the country. A one-day disruption in water service represents a loss of \$43.5 billion in sales and \$22.5 billion in GDP. Join this webinar to dive into the benefits of investing in water infrastructure, from job creation to sparking economic activity.

### **NARC's 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, which focuses on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education.

### **A Digital Event: Responding to Modern Emergencies**

June 20, 2:30 - 3:30 PM ET

The challenges our first responders face in an emergency are daunting--and the landscape is rapidly changing. Decades of increased urban density, mobility, and technology are all fundamentally changing disaster response. Join Route Fifty for a digital event, and explore the people, policies, tools, and technology that are fundamentally changing how our nation responds to disasters--and what they see happening next.

## CONTACT US

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