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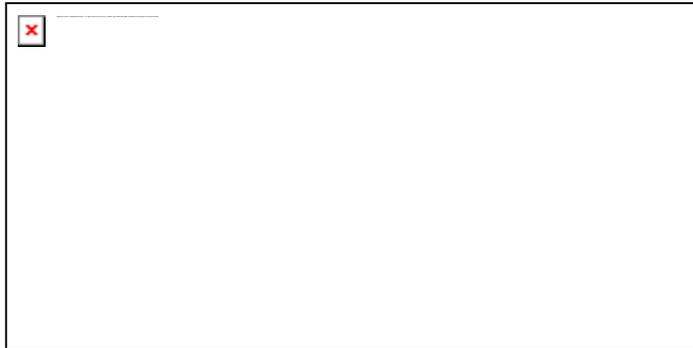
EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Dear Colleagues,

Breaking news in Washington. Today, EPA released a proposal to reduce carbon dioxide emission standards for existing power plants to 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. EPA will be accepting comments on the proposal from the public for the next 120 days. See the *Program Update* section for more information.

A win for us here in DC last week, when NARC and our members helped ensure a successful defeat of an amendment on the House floor to the Fiscal Year 2015 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill that would have zeroed out funding for EDA. Please email me if you are not on our list to receive these types of alerts, but would

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)
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[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



eRegions will be on hiatus next week for NARC's Annual Conference. Expect the next issue of *eRegions* on June 16.

PROGRAM UPDATE

EPA Releases Power Plant Plan: Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the "Clean Power Plan," a proposal to cut carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. The Plan will be implemented through a state-federal partnership under which states identify electricity production and pollution control policies to meet state-specific targets to reduce carbon pollution. States can develop individual plans or to work together with other states to develop multi-state plans. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to see details on the Plan, and to see details on the public period and upcoming field hearings. EPA will be accepting comments on the proposal from the public for the next 120 days. Additional Resources:

like to be included.

See you in Louisville!

Joanna

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Make NARC your

- **Proposed Rule**
- **EPA Fact Sheet: Overall Rule**
- **EPA Fact Sheet: State Goals**
- **Regulatory Impact Analysis**

Solar Panels in Right-of-Way Case Study: NARC recently released a case study detailing how the Town of Carver, MA installed solar panels along Route 44 to power their North Carver Water project. This case study highlights how regions can use public-private partnerships to advance their solar energy goals, and provides tips for replication in other regions. Click **HERE** to read the case study. Interested in learning more about public-private partnerships in solar transportation projects? Check out NARC's latest blog **HERE**.

POLICYUPDATE

Senate is in session; House is in recess for district work week.

Appropriations Update: Last week the House passed its FY15 Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) appropriations bill (vote 321 to 87), which funds the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) at \$247.5 million. NARC, among many other associations and groups, successfully defeated an amendment offered by Rep. Pompeo (R-KS) that would have zeroed out EDA's entire fiscal year (FY) 2015 budget; click **HERE** for more information. The Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittee is scheduled to consider their version on Tuesday, June 3, with full Senate vote scheduled for Thursday, June 5. The Senate has the same schedule for the FY15 Transportation-HUD (T-HUD) spending bill. In May, the House Appropriations Committee approved their FY15 T-HUD bill (HR 4745), providing \$52 billion in discretionary spending for U.S. Departments of Transportation (U.S. DOT) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a \$1.2 billion increase over FY14; click **HERE** to see the Committee report. It is expected the House will vote on the bill the week of June 9. Click **HERE** for a FY15 appropriations status chart.

Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization: Late last month, congressional leaders reached agreement on the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) (HR 803), the new *Workforce Investment Act* (WIA) reauthorization bill. The bill is a compromise from previously introduced legislation (the *SKILLS Act* and S 1356).

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The Senate is expected to unanimously adopt (potentially this week), and the House will consider in the coming week. Click [HERE](#) for a detailed legislative side-by-side and background information; click [HERE](#) for a one-page summary. NARC will be sending additional information to the Hill and to members in the coming days.

Subcommittee Approves the *Promoting New Manufacturing Act*:

By a vote of 14 to 8, the Subcommittee on Energy and Power, chaired by Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-KY), approved a discussion draft of the *Promoting New Manufacturing Act* last week. The purpose of the legislation is to improve the permitting process for new U.S. factories and expansions by increasing transparency, requiring EPA to provide timely guidance on new standards affecting the permitting process, and directing the EPA to provide an annual report to Congress. Click [HERE](#) for the Subcommittee's full press release. Click [HERE](#) for additional information including the hearing.

Orphan Earmarks Act Introduced: Rep. James Lankford (R-OK) recently introduced legislation that would void earmarked funds in U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) accounts with 90 percent or more of the original dollar amount left unobligated after ten years. Approximately \$120 million worth of earmarks were appropriated more than ten years ago and are dedicated to projects that were either never started or are substantially incomplete. The bill would also require U.S. DOT to submit a report each year on which projects received earmarked funding. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

Can Postal Reform Deliver a HTF Fix? With the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) poised to go insolvent by late July, Congress needs to provide a fix before its August recess or risk being in-district when transportation projects are slowed or stopped altogether. The challenge remains how to pay for the patch that will get the program through the fiscal year (to say nothing of paying for a long-term authorization). The newest proposal is to end Saturday mail delivery and use the savings to keep the HTF solvent through September. Given the political and practical challenges with this approach, it can probably be added to the list of "maybe, but probably not" ideas that have been tossed around the Capitol recently. We'll see. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Release of Planning NPRM and Transit Guidance Mark Busy Week: In today's Federal Register, the long-awaited transportation planning proposed rule was released, laying out how metropolitan

planning organizations (MPOs) will be expected to approach performance management under MAP-21, among other changes related to rural transportation planning organizations (RTPOs) and the use of scenario planning. The proposed rule has a 90-day comment period. NARC will be holding an initial webinar in the next few weeks to begin discussion of what is in the rule and to gather member reactions to the rule. The proposed rule can be found [HERE](#). In addition, The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are holding a joint webinar to discuss the proposed rule. Register ASAP for this, as spots are limited. You can register [HERE](#).

Today also marks the release of final policy guidance on the MAP-21 (*Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act*) requirement regarding the inclusion of transit representation on the board of transportation management areas (TMAs). The final guidance does not appear to differ much from the draft, save for a couple of clarifications. We are still going through the new guidance, but you can read the details for yourself [HERE](#).

U.S. DOT Criticized for Failure to Document TIGER Decisions: A recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report focuses on the failure of the U.S. DOT to document key decisions made in evaluating grant applications and selecting projects for the fifth round of the *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery* (TIGER) discretionary grant program. The report finds that established procedures and internal control practices were not adhered to, including documenting why the agency accepted applications after the published deadline and advancing projects with lower technical ratings. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to read the full report.

REGIONS360

COMPASS Pioneers Development of TAP for Idaho: FHWA has recently released a case study highlighting the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS), the MPO for the Boise TMA. COMPASS has developed its own *Transportation Alternatives Program* (TAP) which funds transportation projects in the Boise area. They made this decision because TMA receives dedicated funding. Some of the programs and projects TAP provides funding for include: on- and off-road facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, infrastructure

projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, recreational trail projects, safe routes to school, and projects for planning. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the case study, and [HERE](#) for information on TAP.

MEMBERREQUEST

SJCOG – Separate ADA Compliance Requirements for MPOs:

Caltrans, for the first time ever, is requiring an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) certification by way of the Exhibit 9-C, available by clicking [HERE](#). The San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) was recently asked to submit Exhibit 9-C to proceed with federal-aid projects. Specifically, does any other state DOT, as the cognizant agency, require separate and additional certification requirements for ADA compliance by the metropolitan planning organization? If so, what are they? Are they similar to the Exhibit 9-C as required by Caltrans?

MWCOG – Comprehensive Infrastructure Document:

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) is seeking information from its peers on the development of comprehensive infrastructure documents. MWCOG plans to create an all-encompassing document that includes infrastructure plans for roads and bridges, transit, water, energy, etc., and would like to see if any other regional planning organizations have done something similar. Specifically, has your COG or Agency developed a comprehensive document that details your entire portfolio of regional infrastructure?

Please forward any feedback to Anna Rosenbaum, anna@narc.org, including which member assistance request to which you are responding.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

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

DOJ - Funding for Community Policing

Deadline: June 23

The Department of Justice (DOJ) is offering funds to nonprofit and public agencies to advance the practice of community policing in law

enforcement agencies through training and technical assistance, the development of innovative community policing strategies, applied research, guidebooks, and best practices that are national in scope. Click [HERE](#) for funding guidelines.

CDFI - Funding Open for FY 2014

Deadline for Qualified Issuer Applications: June 23

Deadline for Guarantee Applications: June 30

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund has opened the fiscal year (FY) 2014 application period for the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program. The NOGA makes up to \$750 million in bond guarantee authority available to eligible CDFIs in FY 2014. All applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. EDT on the date of the deadline. Application materials are available on the CDFI Fund's website [HERE](#).

USDA - Rural Cooperative Development Grants

Deadline: June 24

USDA is offering Rural Cooperative Development grants to nonprofits and institutions of higher learning to improve the economic condition of rural areas by assisting individuals or entities in the startup, expansion, or operational improvement of rural cooperatives and other business entities. Click [HERE](#) for an application package.

ACL Funding Opportunity Supported Decision Making

Deadline: July 2, 2014

The purpose of this project is to create a training and technical assistance/resource center on supported decision making. The Center will collect and disseminate materials on supported decision-making, including the experiences of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in making informed decisions with the use of supports. The project will also include a proposal to develop measures to compare outcomes for people with I/DD and older Americans who use supported decision-making methods and practices to exert control and choice in their own lives compared with outcomes for individuals under substituted decision-making arrangements. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and the application package.

USDA - Rural Energy for America Program Funding

Deadline: July 7

USDA has announced funding for the Rural Energy for America

Program which offers grants and loan guarantees for rural renewable energy projects. Click [HERE](#) for program guidelines and a grant application.

USDA - Rural Broadband and Internet Access Grants

Deadline: July 7

USDA is offering grants to provide broadband and Internet access to underserved rural areas, including Native American lands. Click [HERE](#) for information on these grants.

USDA - Technology Funding for Education, Training, and Health Care Resources for Rural America

Deadline: July 7

USDA is offering grants to provide increased access to technology to foster education, training, and health care resources for people living in rural areas of America. Click [HERE](#) for funding guidelines.

HHS - Business Development Funding for Low-Income Individuals

Deadline: July 21

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is offering funding for projects aimed at business development opportunities and creating employment for low-income individuals located in geographic areas with a demonstrated need. Click [HERE](#) for an application package.

HHS - Offering Grants to Develop Programs to Address Food Deserts

Deadline: July 21

The U.S. HHS is offering grants to develop programs that address food deserts. Click [HERE](#) for funding guidelines and an application.

Nonprofit Coalition Grants to Improve Community Health through Partnerships

Letter of Intent Deadline: June 5

Full Application Deadline: July 22

The National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion is offering grants for nonprofit coalitions to improve community health through strategic partnerships. Grants are offered to healthcare organizations and government units to maintain a functioning multi-sectored community coalition. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and to apply.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

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

WEBINAR: Projects of National and Regional Significance

June 3, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

The U.S. DOT will hold a webinar to announce the opening of the MAP-21 Section 1120 Projects of National and Regional Significance (PNRS) survey and provide more information for survey respondents.

For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

WEBINAR: Promising Practices and Technologies for Communicating with Persons with Access and Functional Needs during Emergencies

June 4, 1:00 PM ET

The First Responders Group Capacity Building Webinar Series features webinar-based training events that offer innovative practices and emerging national models on how our nation's emergency management and responder agencies can effectively share incident-critical information, improve emergency communications, and implement solutions that are cost-effective, interoperable, and proven.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: Preferences for Care and Lifestyle as Expressed by Persons with Dementia

June 12, 3:00 PM ET

The purpose of this series, *ACL Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program (ADSSP) Technical Assistance*, is to provide helpful, current, and applicable information for professionals who work with people with dementia and/or their caregivers. Participants will:

Learn about the persistence of self in persons with Alzheimer's disease and dementia, be able to identify how care values of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and dementia differ from caregivers' perceptions, and be able to identify activity preferences as reported by individuals with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Click

[HERE](#) to register.

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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