



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS



EXECUTIVE NOTE

Colleagues,

With less than two weeks until we meet in Salt Lake City for NARC's 50th Annual Conference, I wanted to highlight some of the exciting speakers we expect. We are thrilled to have HUD Assistant Secretary Gustavo Velasquez; U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development and Chief Operating Officer for the EDA Matt Erskine; Sarah Steinberg, VP for Global Philanthropy at JPMorgan Chase; Envision Utah CEO Robert Grow; Tyler Norris, VP of Total Health Partnerships at Kaiser Permanente; the National Park Service; and other great speakers. We'll celebrate NARC's 50 years with a look back at highlights from the past and a discussion of what challenges and opportunities lie ahead for regions.

NARC will hold our annual elections for the NARC Board of Directors and Executive Directors Council, including the 2016 President, President-Elect, Senior Vice President, Chair, 1st Vice Chair, and 2nd Vice Chair.

We hope that you have already secured your seat on one of the many mobile tours offered by the Wasatch Front Regional Council to see what's new and innovative in the region. Our social events include an opening reception on Sunday evening at the beautiful Capitol Theater, easily accessible by foot or Salt Lake City' famed light rail system, which is just steps from the hotel. Tuesday evening we present awards to our colleagues at the Gala Awards Dinner. And on Wednesday, NARC will review policy priorities that guide NARC's advocacy work for the year at the policy

committee meetings and the open Board meeting on Wednesday. Be sure to review the **current NARC policies** and come prepared to discuss them in Salt Lake.

It's not too late to join us. We can't wait to see you there!

Best,
Leslie

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress is in session.

Overview

The House convenes today to consider several bills and will take up the fiscal year 2017 defense spending bill later this week.

The Senate will meet today to resume its deliberation of the 2017 defense authorization bill. Later in the week, the Senate is expected to limit debate and begin discussion on the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill (**HR 2578**) including funding for the Economic Development Administration and the Census Bureau.

Former Senator George Voinovich Dies

Senator George Voinovich served as Mayor of Cleveland and Governor of Ohio before being elected to the Senate. He was a strong promoter of bipartisan solutions and encouraged state and local governments to work together more closely on key issues, including infrastructure programs. He served on the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee where he was a tireless advocate for stronger transportation programs.

House Votes to Delay Implementation of EPA Ozone Rules

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to delay implementation of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Ambient Air Quality Standards from 2017 to 2025, calling for longer periods between EPA's regular review of rules. In a 234-137 vote, the *Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2016* (**HR 4775**) would overrule last year's proposal to increase ozone standards and require EPA to consider economic impacts when developing future standards. NARC Past President **Judge Gary Moore testified** in opposition to the proposed standards before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works last year. The White House has threatened to veto the bill for undermining Clean Air protections.

Water Resources Bill Passes House Committee

Legislation to authorize 28 flood protection, navigation, and ecosystem restoration projects passed the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and sent it to the full House for consideration. Last month, the Senate EPW Committee passed their companion bill (**S 2848**) making the *Water Infrastructure Finance and Investment Act* (WIFIA) permanent. WIFIA provides Clean Water and Drinking State Revolving Fund programs and the replacement of public/private lead service lines, codifies EPA's *Integrated Planning Framework* that provides communities that develop integrated plans with more flexible compliance schedules, and provides funding for drinking water improvements for small or disadvantaged communities as well funding to accelerate the development and use of innovative technologies that address water quality concerns.

FEMA Reopens Public Comment Period for Draft Language on Required Minimum Standards for Public Assistance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reposted draft replacement language for the Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide on *Public Assistance Program Minimum Standards*. The comment period is open through July 8 and can be found on the **Federal Register**. Learn more information about what to do before, during, and after severe weather at **www.Ready.gov**.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Walking & Rolling Kept 3.5 Tons of Pollutants from Spewing Into San Antonio's Air

The Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) in San Antonio hosted its 11th Annual Walk & Roll Challenge in May. The aims of the challenge were to raise awareness of the connection

between transportation and air quality, to promote new means of transportation, and to recognize employers and individuals committed to cleaner air and healthy living in the region. Using **NuRide.com** to view participants' records of walks, bike rides, bus rides, carpools, and trips saved, AACOG recorded that over 94,000 trips were taken or saved through alternative means, leading to a reduction in vehicle emissions of 1.2 million road miles and the prevention of 3.5 tons of ozone-forming pollutants from going into the air.

SEMCOG Announces Results of Commuter Challenge 2016

During the month of May, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) held a **Commuter Challenge**, encouraging employees across the region to find alternative methods of traveling to work instead of driving alone, and reminding them of the benefits **alternative transportation** offers. Overall, the Commuter Challenge reduced carbon dioxide emissions by over 166,000 pounds, surpassing the 130,000 pound goal. 500 participants **recorded** 6,200 green commute trips and traveled 270,000 miles in May. Quicken had the largest impact on air quality with a 35,133 pound reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

HUD Announced the Availability of Approx. \$58 M for the Community Compass Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Program

Application Deadline: July 19

The U.S. Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) integrated technical assistance and capacity building program, Community Compass, is designed to help HUD's customers navigate housing and community development challenges with the knowledge, skills, tools, capacity, and systems to implement HUD programs and policies successfully. Local and state governments, tribal governments, nonprofits, for-profit organizations, and regional planning entities are eligible applicants. This year, HUD made explicit clarification that regional planning entities such as MPOs and COGs are eligible to apply to be providers of HUD technical assistance and training. Please see their **website** for more information on the **NOFA** (see page 12-13 for eligible applicants) and the application process.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Alamo Service Connection Veteran Mobility Specialist

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Assistant/Associate Planner – Water Resources

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Assistant/Associate Planner – ON TO 2050 Plan

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

County Administrator

Hamilton County, Cincinnati, OH

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

Save the Date! NARC's 2016 Executive Directors Conference and Board Retreat

September 18-21 – South Bend, IN

Please join NARC and the Michiana Area Council of Governments this September in South Bend, IN for the annual Executive Directors Conference that is designed by and for Executive Directors of Councils of Governments and Metropolitan Planning Organizations. This intimate conference brings executives together to discuss topics ranging from human resources and succession planning to what's new on the technological horizon. The conference also provides a great opportunity for networking and sharing of information on best practices. This year's conference will start with a reception on Sunday night and end with the Board of Directors Retreat on Wednesday. The Board Dinner will be Tuesday evening, time and location TBD. **Note:** Please plan

to arrive on Sunday, September 18 as we will not have hotel rooms available on Saturday night.

CONTACT US

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