

Email not displaying correctly? Click [HERE](#) to view it as a PDF.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIV, No. 24, June 30, 2014

eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

President

Hon. Gary Moore

Judge/Executive,
Boone County, KY

Chair Matt Stoll

Executive Directors Council
Executive Director,
Community Planning
Association of Southwest Idaho

NARC STAFF

Joanna Turner

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Nathan Devers

Intern

Marcy Fritter

Office Manager

Taylor Markwith

Program Associate

Lindsey Riley

Deputy of Communications

POLICY UPDATE MEMBER REQUESTS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING EVENTS

Dear Colleagues,

It is with a heavy heart that I send my final *eRegions* this afternoon. I submitted my resignation last week as I've decided to step back from NARC to pursue my next adventure.

Six and a half years ago, I didn't know anything about *regions* – who you all were or what you did. Fred Abousleman, NARC's Executive Director at the time, assured me that NARC's members would teach me everything I needed to know and more. This couldn't have been more true – you've taught me how important regions are in everyday life, showed me the impact that you each make, and opened my eyes to unique projects and programs in your communities that I never imagined possible.

Closer to home, I've been privileged to be part of an amazing staff, and I'm proud of what we've accomplished.

So while my last official day with NARC is this Thursday, I am confident our paths will cross again and that this is not goodbye. Thank you for your enthusiasm, energy, and friendship during my tenure at NARC – it means so much to me.

Anna Rosenbaum

Communications Associate

Erich W. Zimmermann

Director of Transportation
Programs

To access past issues of
eRegions, **visit our website.**

Make NARC your homepage

—

click here to learn how.

NARCMEDIA

Follow us on Twitter:

@NARCRegions

@JoannaNARC

Click **HERE** to follow us on
Facebook.

All the best,
Lindsey

POLICYUPDATE

Senate is in session. House is in district for their work period.

Senate Banking Committee Votes in Favor of HUD Nominee

Julian Castro: Last week, the U.S. Senate Banking Committee voted 16-6 in favor of Julian Castro's nomination as the next U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary. The vote, generally along party lines, clears the way for a final vote in the full Senate.

NARC Sends Letter Urging Action on HTF Fix: In advance of an "Open Executive Session" in the Senate Finance Committee to consider the *Protecting American Taxpayers and Homeowners Act* (PATH) – which will provide a patch until the end of 2014 for the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) – NARC sent a letter to the committee stressing the importance of keeping the HTF solvent, encouraging action on ensuring long-term program stability by increasing the gas tax, and opposing an amendment that would kill the *Transportation Alternatives Program* (TAP). The letter can be found **HERE**. For more details about the Senate Finance Committee proposal, go **HERE**.

Speaker Boehner Pushes for a Longer Highway Bill

Extension: House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) recently stated that the U.S. House of Representatives would most likely only approve a highway bill that lasts for nine to twelve months. He said that such a package would allow highway projects already underway to continue. Republicans had previously proposed cutting Saturday U.S. Postal Service as a way to help pay for transportation funding in the short term, but have since stated they will seek other options.

LA Times Editorial Just One of Many Calling for an Increase in the Gas Tax: A recent *LA Times* editorial in favor of increasing the nation's gas tax to pay for an extended transportation authorization is one of many in recent months, as the HTF approaches insolvency. The *LA Times* editorial acknowledges that

increasing taxes in an election year is a tall order, but encourages Congress to do it just the same. Click [HERE](#) to read the editorial.

Secretary Foxx Pens Another Letter Regarding HTF: Recently, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx sent a letter to state transportation officials regarding the approaching shortfall in the HTF. The letter also served as a second notice of the potential cash management measures that will need to go into effect in the event of a HTF shortfall. Click [HERE](#) to view the Secretary's most recent letter, and [HERE](#) for the earlier letter.

MEMBERREQUESTS

TCC - PPPs for Natural Gas Utilities: Mike Pennington, Executive Director from the Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland (TCC), is looking for examples of public private partnerships (PPPs) that provide or assist in providing natural gas utilities to various businesses in un-served areas. Suggestions and options on how to accomplish this are welcome.

OCWCOG - Business Plan for Lending Programs: Fred Abousleman, Executive Director of Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG), is looking for information from NARC members that administer lending programs. Specifically, OCWCOG would like to know:

- What loan and lending programs does your organization manage?
- Does your loan/lending program have a business plan with loan and performance goals?
- Do you have a financial sustainability plan for your loan/lending program? How do you integrate various loan programs to achieve loan/lending goals and financial stability?
- Do you market your programs? How?
- If available, please share the business and marketing plans.

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

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

WEBINAR: New CMS Data Resources on Chronic Conditions

July 7, 2:00 PM ET

This webinar will introduce publicly available data on chronic conditions among Medicare beneficiaries and feature new interactive Dashboards that display chronic conditions and multiple chronic conditions that can be customized to examine different geographic levels and Medicare populations. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: California's Model for Reaching and Supporting Underserved People with Dementia and their Families

July 10, 3:00 PM ET

This webinar is part of the ACL *Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program (ADSSP)* technical assistance webinar series. The purpose of these calls is to provide helpful, current, and applicable information for professionals who work with people with dementia and/or their caregivers. Click [HERE](#) to register.

SEEKING NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS: U.S. Commerce Department Accepting Applications

Deadline: July 14

The U.S. Department of Commerce is accepting applications for membership on the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NACIE) through July 14. NACIE is "a federal advisory committee that advises the Secretary of Commerce on issues related to accelerating innovation and expanding entrepreneurship, with an added focus on job-driven skills training that creates jobs and spurs innovation." Up to 30 new NACIE members may be appointed for two-year term. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to apply for membership.

WEBINAR: Addressing Blight in Disaster-Impacted Neighborhoods

July 29, 2:00 PM ET

Join IEDC for this free informative webinar on addressing blight after a disaster. The issue of post-disaster blight can pose a series of risks and obstacles to a recovery. If not properly addressed blight can spread into surrounding neighborhoods and bring issues of safety, destabilizing of the tax-base, and make recovery more difficult. A disaster can either accelerate previously established blight or cause blight in what was previously a stable neighborhood. This webinar will explore how economic developers can work with local government and citizens to develop and implement blight eliminating programs. The webinar will also look at how neighborhood commerce can assist in blight elimination and how to address vacancy issues. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: Scenario Planning Applications for Freight Transportation

July 30, 1:00 PM ET

This webinar, led by the FHWA Offices of Planning and Freight Management and Operations, will explore the use of scenario planning as a way to inform freight infrastructure and supply chain management activities and investments. Scenario planning is an analytical process that can help public and private sector transportation professionals plan for the future and better understand what changes might happen in the future. Agencies are increasingly finding value in applying the principles of scenario planning to freight transportation planning and decision-making. Click [HERE](#) to register.

AWARDS: EPA's Clean Air Excellence Awards Now Being Accepted

Deadline: September 12, 2014

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now accepting applications for the 2015 Clean Air Excellence Awards Program. Through this program, EPA recognizes and honors individuals and organizations whose efforts have helped to make progress in achieving cleaner air. The award recipients are selected for developing innovative, replicable, and sustainable programs; serving as pioneers in their fields; and improving air quality either directly or indirectly through reduced emissions of criteria pollutants, hazardous air pollutants, and/or greenhouse gases. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to submit an application.

NARC CONFERENCE: Executive Directors' Conference

September 21 - 24; Des Moines, IA

Join the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and NARC for the 2014 Executive Directors' Conference in Des Moines, IA.

CONFERENCE: TRB's Transportation Systems Performance Measurement and Data Conference

May 31-June 2, 2015

The 5th International Transportation Systems Performance Measurement and Data Conference will examine the state of the practice and will identify priorities for future research in transportation systems performance measurement and the data resources supporting them. It will be a forum for U.S. and international experts from government, industry, and academia to exchange and collaborate on performance measurement information. Click [HERE](#) for additional information. June 4, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced the availability of approximately \$100 million in competitive grant funds through the Federal Transit Administration's new *Ladders of Opportunity Initiative*, available by clicking [HERE](#).

We are sending you this email primarily for your information, to meet your needs, further our valued relationship and because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils. Please forward as appropriate.

[Unsubscribe](#) anna@narc.org from this list.

Our mailing address is:
National Association of Regional Councils
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305
Washington, DC 20002

[Add us to your address book](#)

Copyright (C) 2014 National Association of Regional Councils All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend

[Update your profile](#)