



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS
eREGIONS

NARC Webinar! Discussion on FHWA and FTA's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: *Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform* this Wednesday, July 13, 3:00 - 4:30 PM ET. Find details in the Events section below.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress is in session.

Overview

With party conventions and a seven-week summer recess looming, Congress has a busy agenda of appropriations spending bills and possible action to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) this week.

The House is expected to consider a 14-month FAA extension (**HR 636**). In related aviation action, FAA issued rules last week recognizing the local role in regulating drones in their community. A provision to override local decision making was included in an earlier version of the FAA authorization bill. The House will consider funding under the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill (**HR 5538**). Controversial amendments are anticipated.

The Senate will resume debate on Defense Appropriations (**HR 5293**). Lawmakers could take up the FAA authorization bill and legislation to fight opioid addiction, which passed the House last week. Senators may also vote for a conference committee to reconcile House and Senate versions of a comprehensive energy reform bill, the first in a decade. The Senate passed a comprehensive energy bill (**S 2012**) in the spring that included building and weatherization programs, while the House passed a more limited bill. Senate proponents have been reluctant to agree to a conference with the House. An agreement to begin discussions would allow them to continue work during the lengthy summer recess.

MEMBER REQUESTS

Please email responses to anna@narc.org.

Eastgate Regional Council of Governments Request for Information

At Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, a common issue for our members is blight and the lack of resources for addressing blight outside of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) brownfield grants and loans and the U.S. Department of Treasury Hardest Hit Fund. Now that the Hardest Hit Fund is winding down and the demand for EPA's resources is greater than ever, how are other regional councils addressing blight? Eastgate is researching options, there are federal programs, state programs, and county land banks, but regional councils do not seem to be a large part of this mix. The Northeast-Midwest Institute recently released a report that further highlights the lack of federal resources. Please share any funding resources or information your COG has found to address blight.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Alamo Local Authority Crisis Intervention Assessor

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Associate Planner

Stanislaus Council of Governments, Modesto, CA

Associate/Senior Planner, Transit

Stanislaus Council of Governments, Modesto, CA

Senior Planner

Stanislaus Council of Governments, Modesto, CA

Senior Development Specialist

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Outreach Associate

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

FY 2017 Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grant Guidelines

Proposal Submission Deadline: August 10

The EPA brownfields program announces the FY 2017 Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grant Guidelines for eligible entries wishing to develop an area-wide plan for Brownfields assessment, cleanup and subsequent reuse. This funding is for research and/or technical assistance activities directed to one or more Brownfields site(s) located in a specific area (such as a neighborhood, downtown or business district, local commercial corridor, community waterfront or city blocks). Each project funded under this grant must result in an area-wide plan which includes specific plan implementation strategies for assessing, cleaning up, and reusing the Brownfields site(s) as well as related Brownfields and project area revitalization strategies. EPA anticipates awarding approximately 20 projects in total, funded at up to \$200,000 each.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

NTIA Community Connectivity Webinar Series

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is kicking off a nine-part series of monthly webinars to gather input on development of the BroadbandUSA Communication Connectivity Initiative. The initiative will provide communities with a comprehensive self-assessment tool and report to understand how current programs and policies support broadband connectivity in their community and allow them to compare with other communities. *NTIA seeks stakeholder input through the webinar series beginning July 14 on the second Thursday of each month from 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET. Pre-registration is recommended.* Participants can register for one or more webinars in the series at **Community Connectivity Webinars Registration**. The agenda of each webinar will address the development of each of the Initiative's three resources for local communities: (1) a Community Connectivity framework; (2) an online self-assessment tool; and (3) a report and recommendations customized for each participating community.

SCOTUS Redistricting Cases

July 12, 12:00 PM ET

The State and Local Legal Center is hosting three free webinars to discuss current trends in the Supreme Court that matter to local governments. In this webinar, Rick Hasen, University of California Irvine School of Law, will provide a brief overview of redistricting law as it relates to the cases. Bruce Adelson, Federal Compliance Consulting, and Mark Packman, Gilbert LLP, will discuss the cases and how they will affect redistricting.

NARC Webinar! Proposed Rule on MPO Coordination

July 13, 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET

Please join NARC for a member webinar outlining the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), *Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform*, from FHWA and FTA. The NPRM will drastically affect MPOs across the nation. NARC is developing an analysis and response strategy and seeks your input.

Supreme Court Review for State and Local Governments

July 19, 1:00 PM ET

The State and Local Legal Center is hosting three free webinars to discuss current trends in the Supreme Court that matter to local governments. In this webinar, Discuss where the Court landed on the big issues and what state and local government's need to do next with **Erin Murphy, Bancroft, Quin Sorenson, Sidley Austin, and Brent Kendall, Wall Street Journal**.

RESCHEDULED NARC Webinar! Learn About New Census Business Builder Tools

July 21, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Join NARC and the Census Bureau for a webinar demonstration on how to access and use the Census Business Builder. This new suite of tools is geared towards helping Regional Councils understand and visualize their unique region and provide access to the data that is most useful for them. The Census Business Builder: Regional Analyst Edition is a new set of economic and demographic data tools that allow for quick analysis of a region's economy and demographic profile. The tool allows users to build a region by aggregating counties in an easy to use map interface. Over 80 Census demographic and economic data variables are available, and the results can be viewed in the map or in report form. The Census Business Builder: Small Business Edition provides a window into businesses in your community, and allows users to pick from over 50 business types and view economic and demographic data valuable to understanding the current mix of businesses.

The National Emergency Management Executive Academy

Application Deadline: August 5

This academy, created by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) in collaboration with prominent higher education institutions, will teach emergency management senior executives in state, local, tribal, and territorial non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and private sector entities particular skills to assist them with making decisions and crafting new policies concerning emergency management. Skills emphasized in the academy include integrating engineering, technology, science, and data analysis into meta-leadership, critical thinking, visionary strategic planning, and negotiation and conflict resolution. Up to 40 emergency management executives will be selected by the EMI per year to engage in the Academy. Visit **FEMA's EMI website** for contact information, target audience description, dates, and locations.

Signs and Speech One Year After Reed

September 14, 1:00 PM ET

The State and Local Legal Center is hosting three free webinars to discuss current trends in the Supreme Court that matter to local governments. In this webinar, John M. Baker, Greene Espel, will discuss how local governments have been modifying their sign codes to come into compliance with last year's decision on *Reed v. Town of Gilbert, Arizona*.

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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