



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS

EXECUTIVE NOTE

Dear NARC Members,

Early Bird Registration - and the discounted room rate at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown - end this Friday so register today for the NARC/NADO training conference for Executive Directors (and E.D.s to be), August 9-11, in Austin, Texas! At this exciting event, you will network with other Regional Council executives, share best practices unique to our field, and sharpen the professional, managerial, and business skills you need to be the best Executive Director you can be. Register today to reserve your space!

- ***Becoming Your Best: Professional Development Training*** (August 9-11) - for executive directors, deputies, and senior level staff.
- ***2015 Board Retreat*** (August 11-12) - for NARC Board Members. The retreat includes a full day of sessions and a Board Dinner.

Thanks,
Joanna L. Turner

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

House & Senate resume session next week

This Week

The House will focus on a California drought bill (**HR 2898**), while the Senate will focus on education (**S 1177**) and potentially highway funding, which expires at the end of this month. Meanwhile, House leaders have postponed floor consideration of the Financial Services spending bill. This likely signals that talks on funding packages have come to a halt, as the Senate is already gridlocked on its spending bills.

Senate Finance Releases Bipartisan Reports on Comprehensive Tax Reform

Last Thursday, the Senate Finance Committee released reports from five working groups, each tasked with examining a specific area of tax reform. These working groups were conceived to develop materials for the Finance Committee to consider as it works toward reforming the nation's tax system. Only one of the five working groups, the Community Development and Infrastructure group, offered any specific recommendations. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) & Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO), the Co-Chairs of this group, suggested that Congress use a new tax on unrepatriated foreign income of US-based multinationals to finance the Highway Trust Fund (at least temporarily). In the long-run, the Co-Chairs suggested adopting a tax on vehicle miles traveled. However, this is not a consensus-based recommendations from the group, as the report makes clear the Co-Chairs were speaking only for themselves, and not their group's other members.

White House Conference on Aging

Today, the White House convened the decennial White House Conference on Aging. Held every ten years since 1961, the event brings together advocates, practitioners, and government officials to help identify key issues for the emerging wave of seniors. A **new website** will bring together federal, state, and local programs available to address four policy issues: healthy aging, long term services, elder justice, and retirement security. President Obama spoke at the event, noting that 10,000 Americans turn 65 each day and that a nation is judged by how it treats its seniors.

Administration to Protect Communities Vulnerable to Climate Change

The Administration released a **new set of actions** that will help build resiliency in communities that are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change. One action, a new pilot program called Resilience AmeriCorps, will assist communities that do not have the capacity to address climate change issues. Through this program, AmeriCorps members will be recruited and trained to increase civic engagement and community resiliency in low-income areas. In another action, the U.S. Department of Interior stated that nearly \$12 million will go to Tribal Climate Preparedness Grants. The White House will also be collaborating with the Federal Emergency Management Administration and other federal agencies to conduct a seminar series that will provide critical knowledge for helping communities adapt to the local impacts of climate change. Additionally, the U.S. Global Change Research Program will focus research on regionally-specific threats from sea-level rise. This information will help decision makers better understand their vulnerabilities and develop appropriate mitigation strategies.

HUD Releases Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Final Rule

Last Wednesday, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the **Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Final Rule**. This rule aims to equip local communities, States, and Insular Areas with clearer guidelines, new tools, and data to meet fair housing obligations established in law. HUD plans to collaborate with communities to provide tools and technical assistance to incorporate fair housing into housing and community development planning at the local, regional, and state levels. Click **HERE** for more information.

Army Announces Planned Reductions of Active Duty Personnel

Army officials announced plans to reduce personnel by 40,000 active duty soldiers and 17,000 civilian employees over the next two fiscal years. Army officials point to budget constraints as the reason for reductions and also raise concerns that maintaining sequestration spending caps, scheduled to return October 1, would require further reductions by the end of FY2019.

Senate Commerce Releases Highway Safety; Rail Titles

The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee last week released a draft highway safety and rail title for inclusion in a comprehensive surface transportation reauthorization package. The *Comprehensive Transportation and Consumer Protection Act of 2015 (S 1732)* echoes the national freight strategic plan proposed by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in the DRIVE Act (**S 1647**). The Commerce Committee's title also includes the bipartisan *Railroad Reform and Enhancement Efficiency Act (S 1626)* which reauthorizes Amtrak and was approved last month by voice vote. A markup is scheduled for July 15. The Senate Banking Committee, which has jurisdiction over the transit title, and the Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over the funding titles, have not yet released legislative proposals.

OTHER NEWS

IEA Energy Technology Perspective 2015

In preparation for the UN Climate Change Conference in December (**COP21**), the **International Energy Agency** (IEA) public policy division seeks ways to influence decision makers to invest in innovative energy technologies that IEA believes will secure long-term economic growth. Additionally, the IEA seeks to propose sustainable energy efficiency strategies that make deep cuts to GHG emissions, boost energy security around the world, and bring modern energy to the billions who currently lack it. With COP21's primary focus centered on energy, IEA seeks to form

comprehensive agreements with policymakers to ensure that energy technology development is economically viable.

Better Plans for Better Places

The Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) released a new report, *Better Plans for Better Places*, on achievements made under the **HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative**. As the coordinator of the **Sustainable Communities Learning Network**, ISC drew on its first-hand experience with grantees to write this report. The report claims that the \$250 million federal investment will make significant impact on the 145 million people living in grantee communities. Under the initiative, communities are able to define their own visions for the future, be a part of the decision-making process, facilitate cross-jurisdictional solutions, and collect and analyze data to inform local decisions. The *Next City* post details how this program is improving lives in a Seattle neighborhood.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CMAP Helps Fund Green Public Vehicles

There are approximately 6,300 taxis in the City of Chicago. **The Drive Clean Taxi** initiative is focused on reducing the taxi fleet's carbon footprint by offering vouchers to public passenger vendors to replace their taxis with new electric or compressed natural gas vehicles. The vouchers are available on a first-come, first-serve basis and allow vendors to purchase or lease clean vehicles at a reduced price. This program has been partially funded through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program**. Since 2010, the Drive Clean program has helped replace 400 vehicles with cleaner alternatives and added 220 alternative fuel stations throughout the area.

MEMBER REQUESTS

Email responses to anna@narc.org

Chuck Bean, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), is interested in learning how other NARC members use labor market data. MWCOG's Board of Directors identified regional economic competitiveness as its focus for the year, and is interested in developing a deeper understanding of the Washington region's industry and occupation outlook. Specifically, MWCOG would like to know:

1. How are you using labor market data? What projects are you applying it to?
2. What data sources do you use? Which do you find most useful and why?
3. Do you have experience or have you considered producing industry and occupational outlooks as part of your regional forecasting process? If so, what resources and tools are you using?
4. Aside from regional forecasting, have you developed any other labor market data products? If so, what products have been the most effective at engaging your Board of Directors as well as Economic Development Community?

Do you have experience using labor market data to support partnerships with employers or workforce investment boards around workforce development needs?

FEATURED JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Associate Contracts Engineer

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Non Waiver Services Coordinator

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Senior Transportation Advisor

Appalachian Regional Commission, Washington, DC

Executive Director

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Pinellas Park, FL

Contracts and Procurement Analysts

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Planner I / Planner II

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Peoria, IL

Finance Officer

Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Raleigh, NC

Executive Director

Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency, Tallahassee, FL

Executive Assistant

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

FUNDING

View full list of grants!

Partners for Places

Applications Due: July 27

Partners for Places is a matching grant program that creates opportunities for North American cities to improve communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability offices and place-based foundations. The grant program will provide partnership investments between \$25,000 and \$75,000 for one-year projects, or \$50,000 and \$150,000 for two-year projects, with a 1:1 match required by one or more local foundations. RFP details available [HERE](#).

NEA's 2016 Our Town Grant Program

Applications Due: September 21

The National Endowment for the Arts' (NEA) primary creative placemaking program, **Our Town**, provides funding that supports local efforts to enhance quality of life and opportunity for residents, increase creative activity, and create a distinct sense of place. 2016 Grants will be available for projects in arts engagement, design and planning, and knowledge building. Participate in [informational webinars](#) to learn more.

EVENTS

View full list of events!

HUD Technical and Topical Climate Resilience Webinars

Multiple Dates

Over the next few months, HUD will host webinars to advance the goals of the National Disaster Resilience Competition. NOFA-specific webinars are for NDRC Eligible Phase 2 Applicants and will address Phase 2 NOFA requirements. Topical webinars are intended for a broad audience of states and communities, as well as Phase 2 applicants, and will showcase best practices and innovative tools that further investments in climate resilience.

CEC's Free Public Forum on Stormwater Effects Webcast

Multiple sessions, July 14 - July 15

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) is hosting a free public forum. Sessions will focus on how green infrastructure and land-use planning have been used throughout North America to manage the effects of changing stormwater patterns in urban and rural settings. Presenters will address the co-benefits of their proposed approaches for human health, particularly related to sewage treatment, restoration of water quality, access to clean water, and heat island reduction, as well as for biodiversity conservation and greenhouse gas reduction.

Fighting Housing-Related Hate in Your Community

July 28, 2:00 Pm - 3:30 PM ET

The federal *Fair Housing Act* prohibits discrimination in housing-related transactions because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or familial status. One form of housing discrimination is housing-related hate activity, which can include harassment, threats, vandalism, and assault. This webinar will introduce participants to the legal framework which prohibits housing-related activities, key housing-related hate crime cases, available legal remedies, and how to build a rapid response network to combat hate activity in local communities.

NARC Conference! Becoming Your Best: Professional Development Training for Executive Directors

August 9-11, Austin, TX

Join the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the 2015 Professional Development Training for Executive Directors conference in Austin, TX. At the first ever Professional Development Training for Executive Directors conference put on by NARC and NADO, you will have the opportunity to network, share best practices, and explore opportunities for strengthening professional capacity and development. You won't want to miss it!

CONTACT US

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