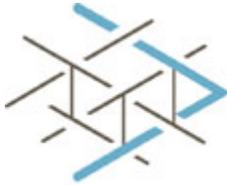


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 29, July 30, 2012

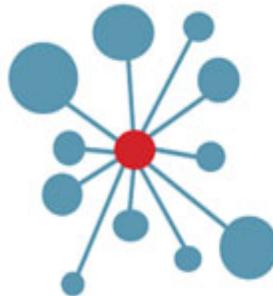
eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

This week I'm on the road in Oregon; however, you still get my message on the importance of attending the 2012 Executive Directors' Conference in Boise. I look forward to this event every year - to the discussion and camaraderie - and hope you do as well. It's important for our Executive Directors to continue to build the regional agenda, learn and share with one other. Please make your reservations early - hotel rooms are going fast. I also know COMPASS will do their best to show everyone a great time.

Explore Sequestration's Effects: Significant cuts to federal programs critical to local governments and regions are set to begin on January 2, 2013 unless Congressional action is taken. Click [HERE](#) to access a NARC-prepared presentation that details the basics of sequestration and some of the anticipated effects on the economy and jobs. Feel free to distribute this PowerPoint and use it with Board members, staff, stakeholders and citizens. Contact Shannon Baxevanis at Shannon@narc.org with any questions or for more information. NARC will continue to provide timely and user-friendly materials to guide members through this complex process.



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**executive directors' conference
september 23-25, 2012
boise, id**

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[PARTNERUPDATE](#) [REGIONS360](#)
[GRANTOPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMINGEVENTS](#)**

In the meantime, we will continue feeding you information on MAP-21 implementation, sequestration, Farm Bill passage, and much more.

See you soon,
Fred

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Deputy of
Communications
Erika Young
Transportation Director

To access past issues
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PROGRAM UPDATE

NAPA Releases Report on DHS Grant Performance Measures: The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) released the report, "Improving the National Preparedness System: Developing More Meaningful Grant Performance Measures," which exhorts the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assess its collaborations with states, regions, and local governments and to develop a system to score the effectiveness of these collaborations. NAPA's aim is to improve regional cooperation in the future. Click [HERE](#) to read the full report.

Properly Resourced Emergency Calling: The Public's First Access to Response Webinar: On August 9, 2012 at 3:00pm ET, NARC will co-host this webinar, which will provide participants with a brief overview of the Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT) and, most importantly, key information about the services and resource needs of emergency calling and communications nationwide. Leaders from iCERT will cover the basics of 9-1-1 support and funding in America, and discuss efforts underway to ensure that this indispensable long-standing public service is properly resourced for the future. Click [HERE](#) to register for this free webinar.

POLICY UPDATE

The House and Senate are in session. Congress is scheduled to be in recess August 6 through September 7.

Federal Budget Update: The House and Senate are working on agreement to extend current government spending levels beyond the end of the fiscal year (September 30) until after the elections. Discussions are under way as to the length and content of the extension and an agreement may be reached as early as this week.

Water Legislation Update: On July 25, House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Chair Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-OH) announced that he is ready to proceed with a revised bill to create a Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Authority (WIFIA). Modeled after a

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successful transportation financing program (TIFIA), WIFIA will complement existing water State Revolving Funds (SRF) and will provide low-interest loans for large (\$20M+) water infrastructure projects or for groups of projects assembled by SRFs. The bill still needs to identify cuts to offset the program's costs per House rules. Last week, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Republican leadership rejected a request led by Congressman Bishop (D-NY) to mark up H.R. 3145, which would reauthorize the clean water SRF with \$13.8B in new funding, establish a clean water trust fund, reauthorize grants for wet weather projects, and authorize a direct loan program similar to the WIFIA proposal. Committee Chairman Mica (R-FL) cited the need to reduce federal spending and said that the bill failed to identify cuts to other programs to offset the new spending. Click [HERE](#) to access the legislation consideration letter and click [HERE](#) to access the rejection letter.

House Passes Moratorium on Rules Costing \$50 Million-plus: On July 26, the House passed the Red Tape Reduction and Small Business Job Creation Act (H.R. 4078), suspending all pending federal rules that would cost \$50M-plus annually, as well as barring presidents from issuing "midnight regulations" in the final months of their terms in office. The bill would affect over 100 major rulemakings. The White House has threatened a veto, and the bill is expected to have a difficult run in the Senate. Click [HERE](#) for more information and [HERE](#) to access the bill text.

Senate Committee to Hold Hearing on Climate Change: The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a hearing on August 1 at 10amET to discuss an *Update on the Latest Climate Change Science and Local Adaptation Measures*. Click [HERE](#) for more information. Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's Climate Adaptation work.

House to Consider Farm Bill Extension: This week the House Rules Committee will meet to consider a one-year extension of current agriculture and nutrition programs in the 2008 Farm Bill. Approval of the extension would essentially table the 2012 Farm Bill (H.R. 6083) approved by the House Agriculture Committee. Click [HERE](#) to read the text of the proposed extension. The Senate Agriculture Committee also passed its version of the 2012 Farm Bill; click [HERE](#) to access it.

PARTNERUPDATE

Message from iCERT: The Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT) and NARC will be partnering on future communications, information and outreach regarding 9-1-1 communications. Executive Director George Rice published this article (available by clicking [HERE](#)) highlighting the importance of the emergency response community. Click [HERE](#) to visit iCERT's website for additional information and [HERE](#) to register for their upcoming free webinar, hosted by NARC.

Submit Ideas for the National Brownfields Conference: Among the topics that will be included in the program are community engagement, environmental cleanup, sustainable solutions, environmental justice and green technology. Session Ideas can be submitted by the public [HERE](#) until August 3, 2012. Brownfields 2013 will take place on May 15-17, 2013 in Atlanta, GA. For more information please contact Grant Sparks at gsparks@icma.org or 202-962-3657.

REGIONS360

Request For Proposals (RFP) from Broward MPO: Deadline 5:00 PM, August 9, 2012; The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMPO), through partnership with 2-1-1 Broward is requesting proposals from qualified firms to expand the 2-1-1 Broward Telephone and Website Software System. Utilizing a grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and a multi-agency partnership, this project will provide residents of Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties with centralized access to transportation information. A tri-county One Call One Click transportation service will be created utilizing the 2-1-1 phone number and existing call center infrastructures. Deadline for submitting a proposal is 5:00 PM, August 9, 2012. To download the Request For Proposals go to the "Doing Business" page of the Broward MPO website: <http://www.browardmpo.org/doing-business>.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

ACL: Improving Coordinated Transportation Systems for People with Disabilities and Older Adults

Application Deadline: August 14, 2012

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the FTA have announced a funding opportunity for a five-year project that will identify successful methods and models that facilitate the needs of people with disabilities and the elderly in transportation systems nationwide and empower them to participate in the system's designs to better fit their needs. Any national organization with a demonstrated ability to improve coordinated transportation systems for people with disabilities and the elderly is encouraged to apply. Applicants will be required to submit a Project Narrative, Work Plan, and Budget Narrative. Only one award will be available through this grant. Click [HERE](#) for the grant announcement or click [HERE](#) for more information.

AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Teams - Technical Assistance

Application Due: Two review cycles; upcoming due date is October 12, 2012

Eligible Entities: Committees with a cross-section of residents, local government agencies, businesses, institutions, and community groups. A letter of support from the local AIA chapter is required. The Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) program focuses on the importance of developing sustainable communities through design. The American Institute of Architects' Center for Communities by Design is seeking potential partner communities that can demonstrate the capacity to convene a diverse set of community leaders and stakeholders for an intensive, collaborative planning process focused on long-term sustainability. The Center is particularly focused on identifying communities that have the ability to leverage local resources and build strong partnerships for implementation of an SDAT process. Awarded communities will receive pro bono services from a multidisciplinary team through the program, and the AIA commits to funding up to \$15,000 for each project to cover team expenses. For more information, visit the [AIA SDAT page](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

EDA Disaster Relief Funding Webinar

August 2, 2012, 3:00pm-4:00pm ET

Representatives from the U.S. EDA will speak about the Disaster Relief Funding application process, including how to apply, who qualifies to apply and what projects are eligible to be funded. Past grant recipients will also offer their perspective. Further details to come. Click [HERE](#) to register now!

Beating the Heat: Effective Approaches to Heat Island Reduction Webinar

August 8, 2012, 2:00pm-4:00pm EDT

The heat island effect can increase summertime energy use, air conditioning costs, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, heat-related illness and mortality, and reduce water quality. In this webcast: Learn about the benefits of taking local action to reduce heat islands; Hear from local governments and organizations about heat island reduction strategies, monitoring and evaluation; and Listen in as cities share lessons learned on how to design and implement effective programs and policies, including cool pavements, shade trees, and cool roofs. [Reserve your webcast seat now.](#)

Properly Resourced Emergency Calling: The Public's First Access to Response Webinar

August 9, 2012, 3:00-4:00pm ET

This webinar will provide participants with a brief overview of the Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT) and, most importantly, key information about the services and resource needs of emergency calling and communications nationwide. Leaders from iCERT will cover the basics of 9-1-1 support and funding in America, and discuss efforts underway to ensure that this indispensable long-standing public service is properly resourced for the future. Click [HERE](#) to register for this free webinar.

13th National Tools of the Trade Conference

September 12 - 14, 2012, Big Sky, MT

Join transportation professionals from around the country to network, share ideas, and learn about the latest developments and opportunities for transportation planning in small and medium sized communities. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

2012 Ohio Conference on Freight

September 13-14, 2012, Sandusky, OH

The Ohio Conference on Freight will take place Thursday and Friday, September 13-14 at the Kalahari Convention Center in Sandusky, Ohio. The conference will feature discussions on topics such as highway, rail, infrastructure planning, aviation, energy, maritime, policy, and economics. The 2012 conference will focus on building professional capacity in all aspects of freight transport, strengthening relationships between public and private sectors, and examining state and federal

policies that support freight related economic development. To register or receive more information, click [HERE](#).

EcoSummit - Ecological Sustainability: Restoring the Planet's Ecosystem Services

September 20-October 5, 2012, Columbus, OH

The 4th International EcoSummit will be held this year in Columbus, Ohio between September 30 and October 5. The Summit will feature Pulitzer Prize winners among other distinguished guests, and it will be the first conference ever linking the Ecological Society of America, The International Association for Ecology and the Society for Ecological Restoration International. Among the topics covered will be ecological restoration, ecological engineering, global change, wetland management, corporate involvement, and sustainable economies. EcoSummit will also host a film festival, which is accepting submissions of short films until August 1st. For more information on the film festival, click [HERE](#), and for more information on EcoSummit click [HERE](#).

2012 Executive Directors' Conference

September 24-26, 2012, Boise, ID

Save the Date! Join Executive Directors and senior staff of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations at this premier regional training event. Registration information and an agenda will be available in mid 2012.

200Columbus Presents idUS

September 28, 2012 – October 8, 2012:

200Columbus, an initiative announced to celebrate the bicentennial of Columbus, OH, announced a series of events and presentations entitled idUS. idUS will host many speakers and workshops with a central theme of green technology and innovation. This event also coincides with EcoSummit, which will take place between September 30th and October 5th in the same area. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

EPA to hold Water Quality Standards Virtual Academy Webinar

October 4, 2012, 1:00-4:00pm ET

EPA will launch its Water Quality Standards Virtual Academy webinar with Water Quality Standards 101. Learn how you can use Water Quality Standards (WQS) to protect water resources! This webinar is aimed at a broad audience, including states, territories, tribes, environmental groups, industrial groups, municipalities, the academic community, federal agencies, watershed groups and any other interested

parties. Click [HERE](#) to register.

ICMA 2012 Annual Conference

October 7-10, 2012, Phoenix, AZ

ICMA's 2012 Annual Conference, October 7-10, Phoenix/Maricopa County, Arizona, will convene thousands of local government managers and their staffs from around the world. Over three days, members and guests will learn about key local government management issues and leading practices, exchange ideas, and network. Visit the ICMA Conference online at icma.org/conference2012.

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