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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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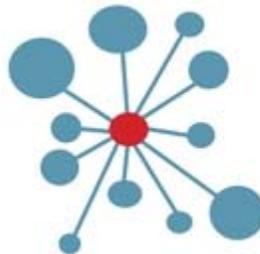
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PROGRAM UPDATE POLICY UPDATE

MEMBER REQUESTS REGIONS 360

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING EVENTS



converge ■ learn ■ share

executive directors' conference
september 21 - september 24, 2014
des moines, ia

Register Today!

EXECUTIVEBRIEF

Dear Colleagues,

Congress has officially recessed. Although they left a number of matters unsettled - including finalizing the FY15 funding packages for most government programs - both chambers did pass legislation to patch the Highway Trust Fund through May 2015. This will ensure that transportation payments to the states and MPOs will continue without pause.

There is good news on the NARC staff front too. Today, I am pleased to announce the promotion of several staff members:

Erich W. Zimmermann

Director of Transportation
Programs

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eRegions, **visit our**
website.

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- Mia Colson is promoted to Grants Manager. Mia will work with NARC management to develop new grant opportunities and in-house research projects, while continuing to manage NARC's existing grants portfolio.
- Anna Rosenbaum is promoted to Public Affairs Manager, expanding her portfolio to include developing opportunities to publicize NARC's work and the successes of our members through new and traditional media.
- Taylor Markwith is now Program Coordinator, and will continue to support our grant work.

Please join me in congratulating the team!

Thanks,
Joanna

PROGRAMUPDATE

The 2015 White House Conference on Aging: The White House recently hosted a roundtable discussion with leaders from across the aging community to discuss the next White House Conference on Aging. The conference will take place in 2015 and coincides with the 50th anniversary of Medicare, Medicaid, and the *Older Americans Act*, as well as the 80th anniversary of Social Security. Later this summer, the White House will launch WhiteHouseConferenceOnAging.gov as the official site for the conference. Click **HERE** for additional information.

Toolkit for Recovering from Disaster: The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and the Economic Development Administration (EDA) recently launched *Leadership in Times of Crisis: A Toolkit for Economic Recovery and Resiliency*, a guide to help economies recover after a disaster. The Toolkit "provides strategies and tactics for community leaders to focus on for economic recovery and preserving jobs, incorporating useful information for convening private and public stakeholders to identify key economic recovery strategies, tips on how to navigate federal resources for response and recovery, and implementation of recovery initiatives." Click **HERE** to download the full report.

White House Releases Report on Economic Costs of Climate Change: Last week, the White House published a report, *The Costs of*

Delaying Action to Stem Climate Change, revealing that the net costs of climate change mitigation will increase by 40 percent “for each decade of delay” to reduce carbon emissions. It examines the economic consequences of delaying policy implementation that reduces the pace and ultimate magnitude of these changes. The findings detail the need for policy action today. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

Managing Vacant and Abandoned Property in the Green Zone of Saginaw, MI: A new report from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Smart Growth Program can help communities facing the challenge of returning vacant and abandoned properties to productive use. The report outlines options for dealing with infrastructure in areas that are largely vacant or abandoned, and highlights opportunities for green infrastructure and long-term economic growth. To learn more about this topic, join EPA’s *Greening Vacant Properties* webinar on August 6. See details in the *Upcoming Events* section. Click [HERE](#) for the report.

SolarOPs Workshop in Roanoke, VA: Last Friday, NARC co-hosted the [SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership’s](#) (SolarOPs) Solar Powering Your Community Workshop in Roanoke, VA, with the [Roanoke Valley- Alleghany Regional Commission](#). The workshop featured dynamic local presentations on Solarize Blacksburg and the Salem VA Medical Center’s Solar Array, the largest solar project in southwest Virginia. Click [HERE](#) to learn how your region can go solar.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is on recess.

HTF Patch Clears Congress: With a vote of 81-13, the U.S. Senate passed a bill to provide a \$10.8 billion funding patch for the nation’s Highway Trust Fund (HTF) late last Thursday – the fifth patch since 2008. The bill will keep the HTF solvent through at least May of 2015, and the transportation program itself is extended through May 31, 2015. Senate action came just a few hours before an August 1 deadline, at which point the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) previously announced that it would begin slowing reimbursement payments to states. The final bill hews to the U.S. House of Representatives proposal, and Senators had no choice but to pass the House version or risk HTF insolvency. The Senate’s previous attempt to amend the House proposal was sunk by a drafting error that left it \$2

billion short of the offsets necessary to pay for it. In addition to running up against the August 1 deadline, both chambers were scrambling to adjourn for the long August recess. There is no guarantee the House would have taken up – for the third time – the HTF patch had the Senate sent it back with additional modifications.

Tom Carper (D-DE), one of the authors of a Senate amendment to shorten the duration of the bill, was the only Senate Democrat to vote against the bill. He hoped that a shorter extension would force Congress to act on a long-term reauthorization bill during the post-election lame duck session. At this point, the current Congress is left without a deadline to trigger action on a long-term bill, making it unlikely they will do so before the end of the year. Click [HERE](#) for the Senate's vote tally.

Secretary Foxx Defends Oil Train Regulations: U.S. DOT recently proposed new regulations for trains that transport crude oil and ethanol. The regulations include enhanced tank car standards, a classification and testing program for mined gases and liquids, and new operational requirements for high-hazard flammable trains (HHFT) that include braking controls and speed restrictions. As part of the regulations, the railroad industry will have two years to phase out or fix the outdated and explosion-prone rail tank cars. U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx defended the proposed regulations. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

The Role of Counties in Building Resilient Communities: Bath County, VA Supervisor Claire A. Collins testified on behalf of the National Association of Counties before the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development on *Building Economically Resilient Communities: Local and Regional Approaches*. Her testimony included discussions on the distinctive role of counties in economic resiliency; how improving transportation systems, housing options, and job opportunities are critical to enhancing local economic development and resiliency; and how strengthening the federal-state-local partnership is critical to local economic resiliency.

REGIONS360

D.C. Metro's Silver Line Officially Up and Running: The Washington D.C. regional Metrorail system's new Silver Line opened July 26th. The Silver Line includes five new stations and more than 11 miles of new

track in Tysons Corner and Reston, VA. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's reported that the new rail line registered 51,000 trips over the opening weekend. U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx attended the opening ceremony, and used the opportunity to urge passage of the Administration's *GROW AMERICA Act*, a proposal for transportation reauthorization. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

MEMBERREQUESTS

Evaluating the Benefits of Transportation Investments: The Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) in Salt Lake City, Utah is working with local partner agencies to evaluate the benefits of local transportation projects. Specifically, WFRC is looking for studies or methodologies used in other regions -- including economic, financial, engineering analyses, and/ or communications materials -- that have evaluated the benefits associated with the development of transportation projects. The studies and other materials can broadly consider new/ improved facilities or maintenance/ preservation/ operations for roads, trails, etc. The benefits include not only traditional transportation metrics such as travel time or infrastructure condition, but also economic development, air quality, and quality of life.

Please forward examples to Anna Rosenbaum, anna@narc.org.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

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

UPCOMINGEVENTS

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

WEBINAR: U.S. DOT's NATIONAL TOWN HALL MEETING: *Moving from Uncertainty to Long-Term Transportation Investment*
August 6, 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Join U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx as he highlights his vision for our nation's transportation system. During this virtual Town Hall meeting, the general public, as well as business leaders, transportation advocates, state and local government officials, concerned with the future of America's transportation infrastructure will have the opportunity to dialogue with the Secretary about the future of

our nation's transportation investments. Click [HERE](#) to RSVP.

WEBINAR: EPA's Greening Vacant Properties

August 6, 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET

A new [report](#) from EPA's *Smart Growth Program* can help communities facing the challenge of returning vacant and abandoned properties to productive use. The report outlines options for dealing with infrastructure in areas that are largely vacant or abandoned, and highlights opportunities for green infrastructure and long-term economic growth. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Reminder! NARC WEBINAR: FHWA/FTA Planning Rule

August 6, 3:00 PM ET

Join this National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) webinar to discuss the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)/ Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Metropolitan and Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Planning Rules. Comments on the proposed rule are due in early September, so we need to hear from you! We want to gather our members concerns, positive feedback, and general questions/comments on the rule. This information will inform NARC's comments, and we hope that our members will include information that they learn in their own comments. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: Creating Successful Partnerships with the Private Sector

August 21, 2:30 PM ET

Join IEDC for a webinar on creating successful relationships with the private sector. As most economic developers know, encouraging 'close cooperation' between the public and private sectors can be harder than it appears – particularly after a major community crisis. Drawing on case studies of recovery from Hurricane Katrina and other recent disasters, this webinar will outline the key actions for developing trusting strategic alliances between the public and private sectors. Learn how to avoid potential pitfalls and to align strategic interests from varying parties. Whether it is a formalized public private partnership or a less formal task force, learn how to maximize funding mechanisms and to implement strategies that grow and diversify the local economic base by leveraging assets and resources of both worlds. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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.

Click [HERE](#) to register today!

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