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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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PROGRAM UPDATE POLICY UPDATE

REGIONS 360

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING EVENTS



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

Register Today!

EXECUTIVEBRIEF

Dear Colleagues,

Congress has recessed, giving me a little time to visit with members and partners. Today, I am in Indiana County, PA, speaking about NARC and the future of transportation at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's Transportation Workshop. My remarks emphasize the current status of federal transportation legislation, and how local elected officials and regional council/metropolitan planning organization practitioners can help move the needle in the debate.

Later this month, I will join NARC President Gary Moore in Denver, CO for the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Conference, where we have been asked to speak at NADO's Board

Erich W. Zimmermann

Director of Transportation
Programs

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Meeting. Please let me know if you are planning events and would like NARC to participate!

We continue to plan the 2014 Executive Directors' Conference in Des Moines, IA from September 21-24, in addition to the 2014 Board Retreat from September 25-26. Plan to see a blast with the draft agenda this week. There's still time to make adjustments, so please reach out with conference topics you would like to see. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thanks,
Joanna

PROGRAMUPDATE

FEMA Releases 2014 National Preparedness Report: On August 6, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its partners released the 2014 National Preparedness Report (NPR). The NPR is an annual status report on the Nation's progress toward reaching the 31 **core capabilities** outlined in the **National Preparedness Goal** of a secure and resilient nation. The intent of the NPR is to provide the Nation—not just the federal government—with practical insights on core capabilities that can inform decisions about program priorities, resource allocation, and community actions. Click **HERE** for section overviews and the full report.

Climate Leadership Awards: EPA's Climate Protection Partnerships Division is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) through cost-effective partnerships across the U.S. economy. As part of this commitment, EPA co-sponsors the Climate Leadership Awards, a national awards program that recognizes and incentivizes exemplary corporate, organizational, and individual leadership in response to climate change by reducing carbon pollution and implementing adaptation planning initiatives. Click **HERE** for more information. Requirements have changed.

American Community Survey 2013 Data Release Schedule: Last week, the U.S. Census Bureau announced its 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) release schedule. The ACS is an ongoing survey that provides data every year that gives communities the current information they need to plan investments and services. Information from the survey generates data that help determine how more than

\$400 billion in federal and state funds are distributed each year. Click [HERE](#) for the release schedule and additional information.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is on recess.

Sec. Foxx Addresses Transportation Policy in National Town Hall

Meeting: Last week, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx hosted a virtual town hall meeting entitled *Moving from Uncertainty to Long-Term Transportation Investment*. During the event, which drew state and local government officials, business leaders, transportation advocates, and the general public, Sec. Foxx stressed the importance of a long-term transportation funding bill and answered various questions from participants. He repeatedly urged voters to contact their Senators and Representatives to urge them to pass a long-term bill. He also highlighted portions of the Administration's *Grow America Act*. Sec. Foxx said that if the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) had full funding, his priorities would be to stabilize the Highway Trust Fund (HTF), to build a robust freight program, to speed up projects, and to engage more private capital. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Payment Slowdowns Averted, President Signs HTF Patch: In a letter dated last Tuesday, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx indicated that payment slowdowns, which were set to begin on August 1, would not be necessary in light of Congressional action on the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) patch that passed July 31. President Obama officially signed the HTF stopgap last Friday.

LaHood Slams Highway Bill Patch: Testifying before a joint legislative study committee last Tuesday, former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said that the \$10.9 billion highway bill approved by Congress last week is "totally inadequate for any kind of planning or vision." LaHood also stated that he would like to see Congress raise the gas tax by ten cents. Click [HERE](#) for more information

USDA Partners with States and Tribes to Improve Access on Private Lands: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will partner with nine state agencies and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakima Nation to increase recreational and economic opportunities on private lands. Funding is provided through USDA's *Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program* to help these state programs

build and enhance public access programs. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

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MARC Director of Research Services to Receive Award: Frank Lenk, Director of Research Services at the Mid-America Regional Councils (MARC), will receive a 2014 Hall of Heroes Award from the Community Indicators Consortium for his work in the indicators field. The Community Indicators Consortium is a national network of professionals engaged in the field of indicators development and application. The award will be presented at the consortium's 2014 Impact Summit in Washington, D.C., September 29-30. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

NVRC Recognized for Syrian Refugee Effort: Governor Bob McDonnell recognized the efforts of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) and its members, Paxton Van Lines, and Maersk to raise over 23,000 blankets and \$10,000 USD for Syrian refugees in Turkey. The initiative began following a cultural exchange trip to Turkey after Mayor Lazaro, along with several other Northern Virginian elected leaders, travelled in for a fact-finding trip sponsored by the American Turkish Friendship Association, an educational, cultural and business exchange organization. The blankets were collected at faith-based locations and governmental offices throughout Northern Virginia. The effort was spearheaded by Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chairman Scott York, NVRC Executive Director Mark Gibb, Fairfax Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, and the American Turkish Friendship Association. This is a humanitarian effort that OTHER regional councils could JOIN. Click [HERE](#) to watch a video on the effort.

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: Introduction to the American Community Survey

August 27, 1:00 PM ET

Discover detailed social, economic, and housing statistics that the American Community Survey (ACS) provides for every community every year. This webinar will teach the basics of yearly estimates and datasets produced from the ACS, resources available on their website (census.gov/acs), and how to access their statistical products via American FactFinder. Please email clmso.training@census.gov to indicate your intent to attend the class, which will serve as your registration and reserve your seat. Class size is limited to the first 20 people to register.

TRAINING: FREE Capacity Building/Grant Writing Training Offered by HUD

August 27, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM ET; City Hall Commons - The Atrium, 20 E. Washington St. Syracuse, NY 13202

Learn the art of successful grant writing and capacity building for your organization from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) professional staff. 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!

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