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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 31, August 13, 2012

# eRegions

### EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

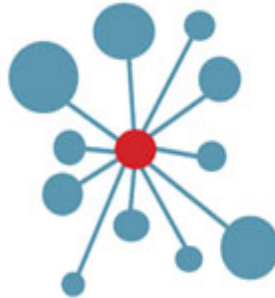
I'm off to Kentucky this week to address attendees at the Governors' Local Issues Conference. I'm excited to be in front of local elected officials from throughout the state and so many of our members, Board of Directors and Executive Directors Council.

However, I will be delivering somber news, as I have been asked to comment on what's going on in Washington. The budget and fiscal impasse continues; Congress left town for August recess promising to come back and fix the Sequestration

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*converge ■ learn ■ share*

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

**REGISTER TODAY**

## PROGRAM UPDATE

**USLIMITS2 Helps Practitioners Set Appropriate Speed Limits:** As part of the Federal Highway Administration's efforts to assist States and locals to reduce speeding related crashes, it recently released USLIMITS2, a web based tool designed to help practitioners set credible and consistent speed limits for specific segments of roads. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to access this tool.

problem; and today the President signed a law requiring him to report to Congress his proposed cuts by September 6. This report will detail cuts by individual agency. We will continue to brief you on this issue and will include this discussion in our upcoming 2012 Executive Directors' Conference.

Finally, we are saddened about the recent shootings in Texas and Wisconsin. Our thoughts are with friends and family of those stricken by these tragedies.

Best,  
Fred

#### **NARC LEADERSHIP**

**President David F. Shafer,**  
Clerk/Treasurer,  
Town of Munster, IN  
**Chair Sean Dey,**  
Executive Directors  
Council  
Executive Director, West  
Michigan Shoreline  
Regional Development  
Commission

#### **NARC STAFF**

**Fred Abousleman**  
Executive Director  
**Shannon Baxevanis**  
Deputy Director

**Call for Posters on Transportation Programming:** The Transportation Research Board Programming Poster Session will highlight best practices, build awareness and skills, and advance the state of the art in transportation programming. Entries are encouraged from State Departments of Transportation and Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Posters selected will be presented at the 2013 TRB Annual Meeting. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

**New Solar Resources Now Available:** The Solar Foundation released a report on the current state of the solar industry and a web-based training on the challenges and opportunities for solar in small communities: [The State of the Solar Industry](#). Additionally, the Foundation released a web-based training, [Solar in Small Communities: Challenges and Opportunities](#), which covers strategies, cases and resources to help small local governments support a strong solar market.

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## **POLICY UPDATE**

*The House and Senate are on recess from August 6 - September 7.*

**Sequestration Update:** The Obama administration is preparing a [report for release](#) in early September that details anticipated implementation of the upcoming mandatory sequestration (spending cuts). It will specify what kinds of reductions at the "program, project and activity level" would result from the cuts. Click [HERE](#) for the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities' report on the budget cuts. Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's sequestration PowerPoint presentation that outlines all of the facts related to the issue.

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## **REGIONS 360**

**MAG Aging Project Recognized at White House Event:** The Maricopa Association of Governments' Municipal Aging Services Project was invited by the White House Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation, in coordination with the Office of Urban Affairs and Economic Mobility and the Office of Public Engagement, to an Urban Innovators event to be held August 27th. The goal of the event is to showcase new partnerships or technologies that are solving old

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problems and leveraging human and financial capital to improve families' lives and economic prospects. Additional information about MAG's program is available **HERE.**

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Teams - Technical Assistance**

*Application Due: October 12, 2012*

The American Institute of Architects' (AIA) 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. For more information, visit the **AIA SDAT page.**

### **NOAA Climate Program Office FY13 Grant Application Information**

*November 6, 2012*

Individual programs within CPO will now be accepting letters of intent and project applications. The full announcement of opportunity is available on the **CPO Funding Opportunities** page and on the **Grants.Gov website.**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ***REMI: Medicaid Expansion - Are you in or are you out?***

**Tuesday, August 14, 2012, 2:00 pm ET**

**Thursday, August 16, 2012, 2:00 pm ET**

As signed into law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) expanded Medicaid to cover nearly 17 of the 32 million who stood to gain coverage. On June 28th, the Supreme Court ruled that states are no longer required to expand Medicaid coverage, allowing a state to opt-out of the expansion without a penalty. In this webinar, REMI will present a framework for how states can begin to develop substantive information to support a decision that is in their best interest. Click **HERE** to register for the 14th; and **HERE** for the 16th.

### ***Essential Smart Growth Fixes: Ideas for Rural Communities***

**Thursday, August 16, 2012, 2:00pm-3:00pm ET**

This webinar will focus on tools and strategies that can help rural communities spur economic growth while maintaining their rural character. Presenters will highlight zoning strategies from EPA's recent publication, "Essential Smart Growth Fixes for Rural Planning, Zoning and Development Codes," and provide tips for implementation. No pre-registration is required. To join the webinar, click [HERE](#).

***Installing Solar on Municipal Facilities***

**August 28, 2012, 1:00pm ET**

Join the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) for a free webinar where you will hear from solar industry experts about the benefits of going solar, solar technologies and their applications, and tools for financing solar projects. On this webinar: hear from solar industry experts; learn about different solar technologies and their applications; learn about solar leasing and power purchase agreements; and discuss key considerations when installing solar on your municipal facilities. Click [HERE](#) to register.

***Solar Powering Your Community Workshop***

**September 7, 2012, 8:30am-12:30pm, Kansas City, MO**

Join the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership and the Mid-America Regional Council for a free half-day workshop to answer your questions about the relevance and affordability of photo voltaic solar for the heartland region. This workshop will present illustrative best practices, practical implementation information and case study examples to specifically demonstrate the opportunities that solar offers. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

***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 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**

Topics covered will include ecological restoration, ecological engineering, global change, wetland management, corporate involvement and sustainable economies. For information, click [HERE](#).

***2012 Executive Directors' Conference***

**September 24-26, 2012, Boise, ID**

Register Today! Join Executive Directors and senior staff of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations at this premier regional training event. Registration information and an agenda are available [HERE](#).

***EPA to hold Water Quality Standards Virtual Academy***

**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! Click [HERE](#) to register.

***ICMA 2012 Annual Conference***

**October 7-10, 2012, Phoenix, AZ**

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](http://icma.org/conference2012).

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