



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS



NARC is moving to a new location!
Effective November 1st,
our new address will be:

660 NORTH CAPITOL ST NW
Suite 470
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress will return in mid-November.

February 15 is NARC's Capitol Hill Day

NARC is already busy planning your visit to Washington, D.C. this February for the National Conference of Regions. Presidential and Congressional elections are around the corner and transition teams for both candidates are already laying the foundation for the next administration. That makes this conference particularly important, as your visit will be perfectly timed to outline your priorities for the new congress and new administration.

As you begin to think about your plans for February, we strongly encourage you to stay for Capitol Hill Day on Wednesday, February 15. We are particularly excited that our new location at the Washington Court Hotel puts us just a few blocks from the Hill, and we plan to take advantage with a Congressional Breakfast to kick off the day and hear from congressional leaders on their plans for the 114th Congress.

OTHER NEWS

NLC's State of the Cities 2016 Report

A recent **report** by the National League of Cities (NLC) reveals that the **fiscal condition of U.S. cities is strengthening**, with an increase of 3.5 percent in 2015 general fund revenues and an expectation of 3.7 percent growth in 2016. The NLC survey indicates that 81 percent of city finance officers reported that their cities have been better able to meet the financial needs of their communities in 2016 than they were in 2015. The report also emphasizes that, despite short-term signs of stability, cities need to pay more attention to longer-term economic cycles that can impact future budgets as well as their supply of affordable housing.

USCM Mayors Infrastructure Agenda

Last week, the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) held a **forum** in New York City to meet with

transition leaders from the two presidential campaigns and lay out their collective vision for a National Infrastructure Agenda for the new administration. USCM notes that the “share” of federal transportation dollars allocated to local areas today is less than when the *Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act* was enacted 25 years ago. The mayors call for greater investment in surface transportation, including: additional resources allocated directly to local governments to improve existing local road and street facilities in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, additional flexible funds for transportation in metropolitan and local areas, and increased commitment to transportation research. For water infrastructure, mayors call for a renewal of the federal-state-city partnership to take a comprehensive approach to water, sewer, and flood issues; additional funding for local priorities including green infrastructure; and full funding or an end to unfunded federal mandates. The mayors' agenda also calls for a more aggressive goods movement within the U.S. to make ports globally competitive.

AT&T Promises Gigabit Broadband to 11 Cities

AT&T is planning to deliver ultra-high-speed broadband to homes, apartment buildings, and businesses. The Dallas-based phone giant **said it plans to bring the newly branded "AT&T Fiber" service to 11 additional metro areas**, which include Gainesville and Panama City, FL; Columbus, GA; Central KY; Lafayette, LA; Biloxi-Gulfport and Northeast MS; Wilmington, NC; Knoxville and Southeastern TN; and Corpus Christi, TX. AT&T's expansion comes as rival Google Fiber, which was the first major brand to push for gigabit speed broadband at affordable prices, is **reportedly scaling back its deployment**.

REGION SPOTLIGHT



Pam O'Connor sends this photo of the opening session of Habitat III.

Pam O'Connor Attends Habitat III in Ecuador

The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, known as Habitat III, kicks off today in Quito, Ecuador with 50,000 representatives from 140 countries gathering to adopt a global vision on cities of the future. The focus will be on adopting a New Urban Agenda for the UN so they can begin to accommodate the surge of urbanites around the world - they estimate that 70 percent of the world's population will live in cities by 2050. NARC Board member and Southern California Council of Governments (SCAG) past president Pam O'Connor is in Quito, representing regional organizations.



Communities all over the MAG region are using purple lights to signify their participation in DV Awareness Month.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Spotlight: MAG

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) in Phoenix, Arizona has made protecting vulnerable populations and improving quality of life in their region one of their top priorities. This includes being a leader in keeping people safe from and ending domestic violence. MAG's efforts have been ramped up this fall during Domestic Violence Awareness Month through press conferences and spreading awareness.

On September 30, MAG held a **press conference** with the City of Phoenix on Tech Safety for Abuse Victims with several speakers from the city and MAG as well as a victim of stalking. The event focused on increasing incidents due to technology and offered a tip sheet for preventing hacking, stalking, and tracking on phones, computers, and other electronic devices. **Tips highlight** the necessity in turning off tracking settings on devices and checking your privacy settings on social media.

In addition to the press conference, MAG is part of the effort to raise awareness through the **purple campaign**. Purple is the color used by advocates to raise awareness and symbolizes peace, courage, survival, and honor for survivors and a dedication to ending one of the most serious issues in communities. In MAG's region, at least 21 cities and towns are participating in the Lighting the Region Purple campaign where lights will remain on throughout the month. Businesses and residents are also encouraged to participate and raise awareness by installing purple light bulbs and wearing purple on October 20.

You can find more information on MAG's multiple efforts to end domestic violence on their **webpage**.

FEATURED JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Department Director of Technical Services

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Lead Manager

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Senior Planner

Yakima Valley Council of Governments, Yakima, WA

Loan Coordinator

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Project Manager

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Business Development Officer

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Loan Specialist

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Data Analyst

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

Executive Director

Iron County Economic Chamber Alliance, Iron River, MI

Contracts and Procurement Analyst

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Division Manager, Community Development

Atlanta Regional Commission, Atlanta, GA

GIS Analyst/Planner

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, Albany, OR

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

White House Announces Over \$80M in New Federal Investment and a Doubling of Participating Communities in the White House Smart Cities Initiative

During Smart Cities Week, the Obama administration expanded the Smart Cities Initiative by adding over \$80 million in new Federal investments and doubling the number of participating cities and communities in the initiative. These new investments and collaborations will help cities of all sizes in the following key areas: climate, transportation, public safety, and city services.

USDA Unveils New Funding to Support Rural Broadband and Economic Development

Earlier this month, the White House Rural Forum convened at Pennsylvania State University where Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced **\$32 million in loans and grants** that will promote economic development and provide access to broadband in more than 80 rural American communities. Vilsack, who is chair of the first-ever White House Rural Council, convened the forum with rural policy, business, and nonprofit leaders to discuss pertinent issues facing rural communities, including opportunities for economic growth and strategies for improving health care and housing.

Significant gains have been made across rural America: Rural household income climbed 3.4 percent in 2015, overall poverty and food insecurity fell dramatically, rural populations have begun to rebound, non-metro areas have added more than 250,000 jobs since 2014, and the share of rural Americans without health insurance is now at an all-time low.

With today's funding, USDA is investing in 86 projects through the **Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program, Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program, Intermediary Relending Program, Rural Business Development Grant Program, and Community Connect program.**

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

EPA's Travel Efficiency Assessment Method: Evaluating the Potential to Reduce Emissions in Three Case Study Areas

October 20, 02:00 - 03:00 PM

EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality invites you to join us for a webinar describing EPA's recent case studies examining the potential for travel efficiency strategies (such as transit, road and parking pricing, land use changes, bike and pedestrian infrastructure) to reduce emissions of criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases. During this webinar, EPA and its partner agencies in these case studies will provide an overview of the TEAM analytical process, the travel efficiency strategies each agency considered, and their potential emission reductions. TEAM is EPA's analytical approach that uses local travel activity information, sketch-planning travel activity analysis, and MOVES emissions modeling to estimate potential emission reductions from combinations of travel efficiency strategies. TEAM can be a cost-effective alternative to more resource-intensive travel demand forecasting models to compare possible scenarios and aid in decision-making. For more information, please contact Mark Simons, simons.mark@epa.gov.

Exploring Community-Wide Interventions That Have Health Impact in 5 Years (HI-5): An In-Depth Look at Safe Routes to School

November 7, 3:00 - 4:00 PM ET

Join John Auerbach from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other national experts to discuss the CDC's new Health Impact in Five Years (HI-5) initiative. The HI-5 (high-five) initiative highlights a list of non-clinical, community-wide approaches with a proven track record. Each intervention listed is associated with improved health within five years and is

reported to be cost-effective or cost-saving over the lifetime of the population or even earlier. Public and private organizations can use this list to quickly assess the scientific evidence for short-term health outcomes and overall cost impacts of community-wide approaches. To learn more about the HI-5 initiative, please visit the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/hi5.

CONTACT US

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