



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS

## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

*The Senate reconvened today; the House resumes session tomorrow, October 20.*

### **This week**

The Senate meets today to resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consider legislation on “sanctuary cities” (**S 2146**), which aims to cut funding to cities that defy federal immigration laws. The House returns tomorrow and is expected to consider its budget reconciliation package, which would repeal pieces of the 2010 health care law and defund Planned Parenthood for one year. Focus in that chamber will continue to remain on the race for House Speaker, for which there is currently no vote scheduled.

### **Next up for Congress: Debt Ceiling**

On October 15, the U.S. Treasury Department sent a **letter** to Congress notifying lawmakers that November 3 is the date when its "extraordinary measures" to preserve borrowing capacity will be exhausted and a **debt limit** increase will be needed. Congress has only 10 session days to put a plan in place to address the issue or face the consequences of defaulting on the nation's debt payments.

### **House Transportation Bill Released; Markup Scheduled for Thursday**

On Friday, the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee released its proposal to reauthorize the nation's surface transportation program, in advance of a scheduled committee markup on Thursday, October 22. The ***Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act*** (STRR) is a three-year bill with an additional three years possible if certain congressional requirements for funding are met. In total, the bill would provide \$325 million in contract authority over the entire six-year life of the bill. See **NARC's initial summary of STRR** on the specific legislative items NARC has been following most closely. A more detailed analysis will be forthcoming.

### **USDOT Releases Freight Plan**

Over the weekend, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) released its draft ***National Freight Strategic Plan***, as required by the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (MAP-21). Described by USDOT as a “first-of-its-kind document,” the plan identifies trends and challenges in U.S. freight transportation and suggests strategies to address them. These strategies include: ensuring dedicated freight funding; identifying major trade gateways and multimodal national freight networks/corridors; facilitating multijurisdictional, multimodal collaboration and solutions; and ensuring the availability of better data and models, among others. To submit comments on the draft plan, visit [www.transportation.gov/freight](http://www.transportation.gov/freight).

## OTHER NEWS

**iCERT Releases Report on the History of 911; Lessons for Future Emergency Communications**

This month, the Industry Council for Emergency Response Technologies (iCERT), an industry group of commercial enterprises in critical communications, along with its foundation, the 911 Education Foundation (9EF), developed a new **report** that provides an overview of the history of 911 in America. Their aim in developing the report is to provide insight from this history as state, local, and federal lawmakers develop technological and regulatory direction for NextGen 911.

### ***The Next Big Things: The Next 20 Years in Local Government***

The **Alliance for Innovation**, a network of 350 city and county governments, released a new **report** that highlights 44 trends in four categories — resources, technology, demographics, and governance — that they believe will have deep impact on how local government operates for the next generation.

## **FEATURED JOBS**

***View full list of jobs!***

### **Planning Manager – Transportation**

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

### **Transportation Planner**

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, Dayton, OH

## **FUNDING**

***View full list of grants!***

## **EVENTS**

***View full list of events!***

### **The State of Play: A Legislative Update on Congress and County Priorities**

October 20, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

Join the National Association of Counties to hear how county priorities have fared in the first session of the 114th Congress and the recent developments that could impact what counties can expect going into 2016. With the end of the year quickly approaching, there are several serious issues that Congress must address including how to finalize the fiscal year 2016 appropriations process, how to proceed on a long-term surface transportation bill when the short term extension expires in October, and whether or not to raise the federal debt ceiling. The work that Congress must complete is further complicated by the recent dynamics in the House and ongoing leadership uncertainty.

### **2016 National Conference of Regions**

February 7-9, 2016\* – Washington, DC

The National Conference of Regions is NARC's forum to determine key policy issues and a legislative agenda for the year ahead, targeting topics central to our members' missions and their local elected officials' focus. Additional information will be available later this year. *\*Note: Capitol Hill Day is February 10. Please make room in your travel plans to meet with your representatives.*

### **Host NARC's Annual Conference in 2017!**

NARC seeks regions to host our Annual Conference in 2017, 2018, 2019, and beyond. Host regions are asked to partner with NARC staff on agenda development, mobile workshops, and fundraising for the conference. This is an excellent opportunity to highlight your regional successes before a national audience! Please fill out our **Host Region Worksheet** and submit it to Leslie Wollack ([leslie@narc.org](mailto:leslie@narc.org)) for further consideration. Help us fill our calendar and celebrate your region!

**CONTACT US**

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