



**NARCMEDIA**

Follow us on Twitter:

@NARCregions

@JoannaNARC

Click [HERE](#) to follow us on Facebook.

**NARC LEADERSHIP**

**President**

**Hon. Gary Moore**

Judge/Executive,  
Boone County, KY

**Chair Matt Stoll**

Executive Directors Council  
Executive Director,  
Community Planning  
Association of Southwest Idaho

**NARC STAFF**

**Joanna Turner**

Executive Director

**Leslie Wollack**

Deputy Executive Director

**Mia Colson**

Grants Manager

**Jenny Doolin**

Intern

**Marcy Fritter**

Office Manager

**Cameron Herbolsheim**

Intern

**Skylar Hurwitz**

Program Assistant

**Taylor Markwith**

Program Coordinator

**Anna Rosenbaum**

Public Affairs Manager

**Erich W. Zimmermann**

Director of Transportation  
Programs

**PROGRAM UPDATE POLICY UPDATE**

**MEMBER REQUESTS**

**GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING EVENTS**

---

## EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

“No one talks cities, counties, or states; They talk about metro areas – regions - because that’s what matters now.”

- *Lieutenant Governor Jerry Abramson during his remarks at NARC’s 2014 Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky*

Those of you who attended the NARC Annual Conference this year know that Lieutenant Governor Abramson has a unique perspective on the power of regions – he served for three terms as Mayor of Louisville, and then for two terms as the mayor of the consolidated city/county of Louisville Metro, in addition to his service at the state level. During the NARC conference, his remarks emphasized the need for communities in the same region to realize that they are not competing against each other; instead they are competing against other regions, even other countries, and the best way to pull ahead is to work together as a *region*. No one could have said it better!

Now there is exciting news from the White House... **Mr. Abramson will** resign as Lieutenant Governor (effective November 13) to **take the position of Deputy Assistant to President Barack Obama and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs!**

We cannot imagine a better appointment to that position, which is critical to the work that NARC does here in Washington. A huge congratulations to Mr. Abramson and to the White House, which is lucky to have him.

Thanks,  
Joanna

P.S. NARC staff has already reached out to Lieutenant Governor Abramson's office to invite him to our National Conference of Regions in February. Stay tuned!

To access past issues of eRegions, [visit our website](#).

Make NARC your homepage

—  
[click here to learn how](#).

---

## PROGRAMUPDATE

### Initial Findings and Recommendations on EPA's *Clean Water Act*

**Act:** Last Spring, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy asked the members of the EPA Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) to provide recommendations on how the EPA and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Waters of the United States proposal intersects with the important issues facing local officials. Last week, LGAC concluded its six-month review of the clean water proposal. Their report presents more than 50 recommendations to the Agency ranging from rule language, clarity of definitions, permitting innovation, and implementation. Click [HERE](#) for the report.

---

## POLICYUPDATE

*Both the Senate and House will reconvene on Wednesday, November 12 at 2 PM.*

We will have more to share about the lame duck session and the election during our webinar on Thursday, November 13 at 2:00 PM ET, but a few quick transportation-related items are worth noting now.

**Lame Duck:** The U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives return to lame duck session this week. Several must do issues are on the agenda, including determining how to fund the government through the end of the current fiscal year. The stopgap spending measure ([PL 113-164](#)) Congress passed in September gives the House and Senate until December 11 to consider whether they can pass standalone appropriations bills or default to another continuing resolution for a portion or all of the remaining nine months left in the fiscal year. Congress will also need to consider whether to provide funding increases to combat Ebola in the U.S. and ISIL. Other potential lame duck issues include the extension of several expired tax provisions, including the deductibility of state and local sales taxes and terrorism risk insurance.

**This Week in Congress:** On Wednesday, the Senate is expected to engage in a series of cloture votes for Administration appointments to the U.S. District Courts. The House will consider ten bills under suspension of the rules, including the *Government Reports Elimination Act* (H.R. 4194), which would eliminate 48 federal government reports and modify requirements for five others.

On Thursday, both parties in the Senate are expected to hold leadership elections for the next Congress. House Republicans are

expected to hold elections on Thursday to select their leadership for the next Congress.

**2014 Midterm Elections Mean Changes for Transportation:**

Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) lost his election, which leaves a spot for a new Ranking Member on the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) has expressed his intention to run for the seat; however, there may be some competition for the position. Last week, Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) announced his intention to vie for the seat as well. Democrats typically stick to fairly strict standards of seniority, and Garamendi has only been on the panel since 2009. DeFazio joined in 1987.

Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) is expected to become Chair of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, a position he held from 2003-2007. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), the current Chair, is expected to remain on the committee as the Ranking Member. Inhofe was Ranking and Boxer was Chair during passage of the most recent authorization legislation, MAP-21.

**USACE Water Resources Development Projects:** The *Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014* requires that the USACE publish a notice in the Federal Register to request proposals from non-federal interests for feasibility studies and modifications to authorized USACE water resources development projects or feasibility studies. Proposals are due December 3. Click [HERE](#) for the notice requesting proposals for inclusion in the *Annual Report*.

---

## MEMBERREQUESTS

Please send all responses to Anna Rosenbaum, [anna@narc.org](mailto:anna@narc.org).

**Use of HUD's Location Affordability Portal:** Does your COG or MPO regularly use the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) [Location Affordability Portal](#) for scenario or other planning purposes? If so, please let us know how and when you use the tool. HUD is interested in this information.

**PVPC - Communications Plan:** The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) in Springfield, Massachusetts is updating their communications plan, and is seeking advice and information from other regional councils regarding their communications plans. They are looking for a blueprint for developing a plan in-house with input from staff and commissioners. Specifically, do you have a communications plan that you can share? PVPC would appreciate any information or suggestions you can offer.

**Classification and Compensation Plan:** Has your organization recently completed a Classification and Compensation Plan for your staff? If your organization has done such a plan, can you provide the following information:

- Who conducted the research?
- How much did it cost?
- Can you share the scope of services provided?

---

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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

### **TD Green Streets: Urban Forestry Grants**

*Application Deadline: December 1*

Members looking to implement urban forestry initiatives in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods are encouraged to apply for the recently announced *TD Green Streets Grant*. Communities can qualify for up to \$20,000 in funding to support the purchase of trees, planting assistance, maintenance, and education activities.

To be eligible, your municipality must be a current [Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA-designated community](#). Click [HERE](#) for eligibility information.

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### **WEBCAST: Strengthening Communities with Neighborhood Data**

*November 12, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET*

Efforts to address the problems of distressed urban neighborhoods stretch back to the 1800s, but until relatively recently, data played little role in forming policy solutions. Published by the Urban Institute with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the new book *Strengthening Communities with Neighborhood Data* documents how government and nonprofit institutions have used information about neighborhood conditions to change the way we think about community and local governance in America. Click [HERE](#) to register.

### **Reminder! NARC WEBINAR: What the Midterms Mean For You**

*November 13, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET*

Join NARC for a webinar designed to help you navigate the new Congressional landscape. We will review what the results of the 2014 elections will mean for regional and local governments.

Topics will include potential Committee leadership and the issues we expect to top the agenda in each Chamber next year. We will also look ahead to the upcoming lame duck session to discuss what may happen during the final session of the 113th Congress. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**WEBCAST: Advancing Resiliency: Competing for Innovative Investments**

*November 14, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM*

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) is hosting a briefing session detailing programs and partnerships to develop innovative approaches that maximize economic and social resiliency when investing public funds in local recovery and development. Speakers for this forum are: Harriet Tregoning, Director, Office of Economic Resilience, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Sam Carter, Associate Director for Resilience, Rockefeller Foundation; and Matthew Dalbey, Director, Office of Sustainable Communities, EPA. Click [HERE](#) for more information, and [HERE](#) to stream the webcast.

**INPUT NEEDED: Connected Vehicles**

*November 14, 2014*

The U.S. Department of Transportation wants input on the proposed Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) *2015 Guidance for Connected Vehicles* and the formation of a V2I Deployment Coalition. With the plan to produce deployment guidance in 2015 on connected vehicles for transportation infrastructure owners and operators, the FHWA welcomes input and feedback from state and local departments of transportation, transit operators, and infrastructure owners who are starting to plan for the deployment and use of connected vehicles technologies. Click [HERE](#) to provide comments.

**NARC CONFERENCE: NARC's 2015 National Conference of Regions**

*February 8-10, 2015 – 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 soon.