NARC Executive Directors Conference

October 27 - 29, 2019
The Saguaro Hotel
Scottsdale, Arizona
#regionslead
Sunday, October 27

Registration
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  Anchusa Foyer

Mobile Tour: Native Nations Tour – Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  Mobile tour will leave from the hotel. Meet in hotel lobby.

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) is a sovereign nation located in the metropolitan Phoenix area, bounded by the cities of Scottsdale, Tempe, Mesa, Fountain Hills, and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. The community encompasses 52,600 acres, with 19,000 held as a natural preserve. SRPMIC enabled robust economic development in the area through their decision to allow the Loop 101, a critical regional freeway, to cross their lands. This mobile tour will explore the ways the Native nations work with the region, showcasing tourism and commercial development projects. The tour will also include a visit of Salt River Fields at Talking Stick which serves as the spring training home to the Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies.

Welcome To Scottsdale Opening Reception
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  Scottsdale’s Museum of the West - 3830 N. Marshall Way Scottsdale, AZ 85251*

Gather with friends at Scottsdale’s Museum of the West for an evening reception, kicking off two days of peer sharing and networking. The museum, located in the heart of Old Town, Scottsdale, boasts award-winning architecture and landscape design, showcasing the beauty and history of the American West.

*Please note that this is a ten-minute walk from the hotel.
Monday, October 28

Breakfast
8:00 a.m. Anchusa Foyer

Welcome to the Region
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Anchusa

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) welcomes you to the region.

Speakers: Kathleen Lomako, Executive Director, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments; Chair, NARC Executive Directors Council
Eric Anderson, Executive Director, Maricopa Association of Governments
The Honorable Mark Mitchell, Mayor of the City of Tempe, AZ; Chair, Maricopa Association of Governments

Break
9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Rapid-Fire Innovations Session
9:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Anchusa

Share with your colleagues (in two minutes or less) a new project, study, revenue enhancement, or other innovation your regional council is pursuing. Handouts and other materials are welcomed but not required.

Moderator: Ty Warner, Executive Director, Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

Lunch and Presentation
11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Anchusa

Building the World’s Most Experienced Driver

Dezbah Hatathli, Local Policy and Community Manager for Waymo, will provide an overview of Waymo’s self-driving technology, including its intersection with the cities and agencies in the Greater Phoenix Region

Speaker: Dezbah Hatathli, Local Policy and Community Manager, Waymo
Break
12:30 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Planning for the Future in the Greater Phoenix Area
12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.  Anchusa

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) is the Phoenix region’s MPO and COG. It provides a forum for research, discussion, and study of regional issues. MAG’s goal is to strengthen regional coordination and utilize applied research to support the greater Phoenix area. Eric Anderson, MAG Executive Director, will provide an overview of the organization, its engagement strategies with regional decision-makers, and its opportunities and challenges.

Speaker:  Eric Anderson, Executive Director, Maricopa Association of Governments

21st Century Regional Council
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.  Anchusa

As regional councils, how might we evolve to accelerate the positive and inclusive impacts we know are needed in the 21st century? This discussion will help us collectively identify change that matters, assess implications, and develop adaptive, proactive responses needed for the path ahead.

Facilitators:  Doug Hooker, Executive Director, Atlanta Regional Commission
              William Murdock, Executive Director, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Break
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Transportation, Land Use, and Housing
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  Anchusa

Regional councils are uniquely positioned to understand the interplay between transportation priorities, land use decisions, and housing policy. Hear about the experience of three regions and how they are bringing these issues together through the planning and prioritization process and program development.

Speakers:  Andrew Gruber, Executive Director, Wasatch Front Regional Council
           Kevin Muhs, Executive Director, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
           Kristina Egan, Executive Director, Greater Portland Council of Governments
Hiring, On-Boarding, and Retaining: Regional Councils and Human Resources  
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  Anchusa

How are you responding to a tightening and changing labor market? Are you finding it increasingly difficult to match workers and jobs? How are you reorganizing your human resource efforts to ensure that you find and retain the best employees for every job in your regional council? These and many other questions will be the focus of this session in which executive directors will be invited to share with one another their human resources experiences and concerns.

Facilitator:  Betty Voights, Executive Director, Capital Area Council of Governments

Unconference Session  
4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.  Anchusa and Agave

You set the agenda for this session! Earlier in the day, attendees will be prompted to suggest discussion topics. Attendees will vote on their favorite topics, which will be used for several roundtable discussions. Each roundtable will be led by the person who suggested that table’s topic. Participants will be free to attend whichever sessions interest them and can move between groups if they would like.

Facilitator:  Sean O’Day, Executive Director, Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments

Coordinated Off-Site Group Dinner  
Time and location to be announced.

21st Century Regional Council (Continued)

Opportunity to continue the earlier 21st Century Regional Council conversation with your colleagues.

Facilitators:  Doug Hooker, Executive Director, Atlanta Regional Commission  
William Murdock, Executive Director, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Tuesday, October 29

**Breakfast**
7:30 a.m.  *Anchusa Foyer*

**Fiscal Officers Working Group Meeting**
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 .m.  *Agave*

**Transportation Research Board (TRB) - NCHRP Focus Group**
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  *Anchusa*

It’s been nearly 50 years since the first metropolitan planning organizations arrived on the scene. Technologies, financing, demographics, environmental concerns, and multimodal roles have changed dramatically in that time.

The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) has launched NCHRP 08-122 to look at how 21st century challenges are affecting MPO processes and identify ways that MPOs and their partners can address them going forward. We want to understand the challenges you face in these changing times.

**Facilitator:**  Scott Lane, *Metro Analytics*

**Working with Your Federal Neighbors**
9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.  *Anchusa*

Federal facilities in our regions can provide jobs and economic opportunities. However, planning around and collaborating with federal interests can be difficult. Learn about one region’s success in working with military installations and share your experiences working with federal entities.

**Speaker:**  Diane Rath, *Alamo Area Council of Governments*

**Break**
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Promoting Regional Resilience  
10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  Anchusa

This year’s floods, storms, and fires have reminded us that no region is free from the risk of natural disasters. Regional councils are playing an increasingly important role in developing community resilience and reducing the negative impacts that these disasters have on communities. Several of our member organizations will share how they have developed plans, partnerships, and tools to promote resilience in their regions.

**Speakers:**  
Kathleen Lomako, Executive Director, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments; Chair, NARC Executive Directors Council  
Lee Worsley, Executive Director, Triangle J Council of Governments  
Becky Bradley, Executive Director, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

What I Know Now That I Wish I Knew Then (Rapid-Fire Format)  
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.  Anchusa

During this interactive session, attendees are encouraged to share the lessons they have learned over the years. Share advice and past experiences to help your peers avoid costly setbacks, expect the unexpected, and prepare for times of transition.

**Facilitator:**  Barry Seymour, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Lunch / Conference Adjourns  
12:15 p.m.  Anchusa Foyer  
Lunch will be provided for all attendees

NARC Executive Directors Council Meeting  
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  Agave

Mobile Tour: Valley Metro Rail Operations & Maintenance Center (Joint tour with board members)  
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  Mobile tour will leave from the hotel. Meet in hotel lobby.

The Rail Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC), built in 2006 for the original 20-mile light rail line, provides office space and facilities to store, maintain, and operate trains. The rail system now covers 28 miles and connects three cities, with more development planned that will require the expansion of the OMC. Presently, the rail fleet includes 50 vehicles and provides service to over 45,000 passengers on an average weekday.
Thank You to Our Sponsors!

As the host, MAG would like to thank the local organizations sponsoring NARC’s 2019 Executive Directors Conference.

Platinum Level

Gold Level

Silver Level
Save These Dates!
Upcoming NARC Conferences

2020 National Conference of Regions
February 9-12, 2020
Washington Court Hotel
Washington, DC

54th Annual Conference and Exhibition
June 7-10, 2020
Detroit, MI
Hosted by Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

2020 Executive Directors Conference
October 4-7, 2020
Kansas City, MO
Hosted by Mid-America Regional Council