



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF REGIONAL COUNCILS**

60th Annual Conference

Tulsa, Oklahoma

June 7-10, 2026



Hosted by



Indian Nations Council of Governments



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Welcome!

On behalf of the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG), welcome to the 60th Annual Conference of the National Association of Regional Councils.

We are proud and excited to welcome you to Tulsa as our state and city celebrate the 100th anniversary of Route 66. Tulsa is the official “Capital of Route 66” and we are excited to show you how it has shaped our city.

The Tulsa region is a dynamic blend of rich history, cultural vibrancy, and economic innovation. As the region’s central city, Tulsa has evolved into a hub for both community and economic development, making it an ideal location for forward-thinking professionals.

We hope that this conference is full of networking opportunities and that you glean valuable insights that you can take back to build even stronger regions at home.

Welcome to the Tulsa region!



Stan Sallee
Tulsa County
Commissioner
INCOG Board Chair



Sunday, June 7

8:00 AM — 12:00 PM

AI for Regional Leaders: Strategy, Governance, and Practical Implications

St. Francis Conference Room, Williams Tower 1 - Plaza Level

Artificial intelligence is reshaping how regional councils and local governments analyze data, manage compliance, draft reports, engage stakeholders, and design services. Adoption, however, remains uneven, with high awareness but limited proficiency and governance. This executive workshop offers a practical roadmap for responsible AI aligned to mission priorities, compliance, and fiscal stewardship. Participants examine national trends, readiness gaps, and operational uses, identify low-risk pilots, and move from experimentation to structured deployment.

Facilitator: Robert Hiatt, Executive Director,
Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments

Pre-registration is required. Light breakfast will be served.

A staircase near registration takes you to a courtyard that connects directly with Williams Tower.

1:00 PM — 5:00 PM

Registration Desk Open | Promenade A Foyer

Exhibitor Check-In and Setup | Promenade Foyer

Sunday, June 7

1:45 PM — 5:00 PM | MOBILE WORKSHOP

Route 66 Bus Tour

Hyatt Lower Level Foyer

Welcome to Tulsa! Celebrate the 100th birthday of and get your kicks along the iconic Route 66 on a tour of America's Mother Road as it traverses the original route in the city of Tulsa. Experience a scenic stretch of this legendary road, enriched with stories of its vibrant past and exciting plans for the future.

Pre-registration required. Bus will depart the hotel at 2:00 PM sharp!



Sunday, June 7

1:45 PM — 5:00 PM | MOBILE WORKSHOP **Museum Tours of Greenwood Rising, Bob Dylan Center, and Woody Guthrie Center** Hyatt Lobby (2nd Floor)

Walk just a few blocks to enjoy a self-guided experience across three inspiring museums. At Greenwood Rising, immerse yourself in powerful storytelling about Tulsa's Historic Greenwood District and the 1921 Race Massacre through dynamic projection and holographic media. At the Bob Dylan Center, explore the life and genius of one of America's most influential songwriters, including displays of his original creative drafts. At the Woody Guthrie Center, find exhibits honoring the legendary folk musician whose work continues to spark conversations about justice, equality, and social change.

Pre-registration required.

Tickets provided at registration table; meet in Hyatt Lobby to walk as a group to the museums at 2:00 PM or make your way over on your own at any time.

6:00 PM — 7:30 PM **Welcome Reception | Tulsa Foyer (Lower Lobby)**

Kick off NARC's 60th Annual Conference. Enjoy small bites and beverages with current colleagues and new acquaintances in the Tulsa Foyer in the lower lobby of the Hyatt Regency.



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Monday, June 8

7:30 AM — 4:00 PM

Registration Desk Open | Promenade A Foyer

Exhibitor Check-In and Setup | Promenade Foyer

7:30 AM

Breakfast Opens & Working Group Networking

Promenade CD

Find your fellow affinity group colleagues for a chat over breakfast. Look for signs on designated tables for the following:

- Housing Working Group
- Communications and Government Affairs Working Group
- Fiscal Officers Working Group
- Senior Management Working Group
- New Executive Directors Forum

Otherwise, network with colleagues at the unmarked table of your choice.

8:00 AM — 8:30 AM

Welcome to Tulsa and the Tulsa Region

Promenade CD

The Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) welcome you to Tulsa and the Tulsa region for NARC's 60th Annual Conference and Exhibition.

Moderator: The Honorable Justin Kiel, County Councilman, LaPorte County, Indiana; Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission; NARC President

Speakers:

The Honorable Stan Sallee, Commissioner, Tulsa County, Oklahoma; INCOG Board Chair

The Honorable Monroe Nichols IV, Mayor of Tulsa; INCOG Executive Committee

Meet Our Speakers

Scan the QR Code to see a directory of speakers and moderators who are participating in the 2026 Annual Conference.



Monday, June 8

8:30 AM — 9:15 AM

Data Centers: Regional Lessons | Promenade CD

Data centers are a significant emerging challenge on the political and planning landscapes. Hear from experts with experience in the siting of these facilities: challenges they have faced, lessons learned, and their future outlook.

Moderator: The Honorable Joseph Chiarelli, County Board Chairman, Winnebago County, Illinois; Region 1 Planning Council; NARC Board of Directors

Speakers:

The Honorable Stan Sallee, Commissioner, Tulsa County, Oklahoma

Michael Dunn, Executive Director, Region 1 Planning Council

Celena Green, Economic Recovery Corps Fellow, Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

Greg Stuart, Executive Director, Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization

9:15 AM — 9:25 AM

Solution Provider: REMI | Promenade CD

Economic impact analysis is critical for the long-term health of regions. In this presentation, REMI representatives discuss why it is important and how regions can conduct this analysis confidently.

Speakers:

Peter Treyz, Senior Business Analyst, REMI

Alejandro Madrigal, Senior Associate, REMI



9:25 AM — 9:45 AM

Regional Achievement Award Winners

Promenade CD

The Regional Achievement Awards recognize the very best in regional planning and project delivery. Hear from some of this year's award winners. Learn what made these projects special from the organizations that made them happen.

Moderator: The Honorable Justin Kiel, County Councilman, LaPorte County, Indiana; Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission; NARC President

Speakers:

Michael Dunn, Executive Director & **Jason Holcomb**, Director of Community Impact, Region 1 Planning Council, "Data Advisory Council and Health Atlas"

Lyn Erickson, Plan Development and Coordination Program Director, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, "Talent Capital"

Emily Rabbe, Executive Director, Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission, "Prioritized Site Inventory for Affordable Housing Development: Property Profiles"

9:45 AM — 10:15 AM

Break with Exhibitors | Promenade Foyer

Enjoy a mid-morning coffee break and spend time with this year's amazing exhibitors.

Monday, June 8

10:15 AM — 10:50 AM

Studying Regional Climate Impacts

Promenade CD

Climate impacts will continue to create challenges for regions. The Lincoln Institute for Land Policy (LILP) is actively studying how climate-driven risks — extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire — are disrupting livelihoods and changing population distribution within and across regions. They are exploring what factors affect who moves, where people move to, and how places anticipating a population influx can proactively create welcoming communities while addressing their own climate threats and supporting their current population. Recognizing the trends that follow when part of a region experiences extreme population loss, LILP is also exploring how to mitigate those impacts as they relate to coordination between communities on housing, transportation, and economic development.

This session will be in two parts. During this plenary session, learn about LILP's ongoing research and how they are using exploratory scenario planning to consider these impacts. After lunch, the Lincoln team will lead an interactive workshop to allow participants to experience how this work may apply in the real world.

Moderator: The Honorable Chris Barnett; Supervisor, Orion Township, Michigan; Southeast Michigan Council of Governments; NARC President-Elect

Speakers: Amy Cotter, Director of Urban Sustainability, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Daniela Faria, Policy Analyst, Planning Practice & Scenario Planning, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

10:50 AM — 11:25 AM

Transition Is More Than Jobs: The Behavioral Economics of Community Industry Transition Promenade CD

Many U.S. communities face the decline of legacy industries like coal, steel, and manufacturing. Technological changes from AI and other pressures will compound workforce uncertainty. Economic development strategies often emphasize retraining, business attraction, and infrastructure to replace lost jobs, but often overlook the human dynamics that shape how communities respond to change. This session examines how behavioral economics helps leaders navigate industry transition. Drawing on experience in Northwest Colorado coal communities, it shows how behavioral insights improve development strategies. Participants learn how identity influences decisions, how tools align with local values, and how approaches such as risk reduction, trust building, entrepreneurship support, and behavioral nudges strengthen diversification, collaboration, and resilience locally.

Moderator: The Honorable Chris Barnett; Supervisor, Orion Township, Michigan; Southeast Michigan Council of Governments; NARC President-Elect

Speaker: Kirstie McPherson, Community and Economic Development Manager, Colorado Office of Just Transition

Monday, June 8

11:25 AM — 11:45 AM

Regional Achievement Award Winners

Promenade CD

The Regional Achievement Awards recognize the very best in regional planning and project delivery. Hear from some of this year's award winners. Learn what made these projects special from the organizations that made them happen.

Moderator: The Honorable Chris Barnett; Supervisor, Orion Township, Michigan; Southeast Michigan Council of Governments; NARC President-Elect

Speakers:

Marissa Bechstein, AICP, Program Manager, Regional Development, Lake Erie West Regional Council, "Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Summit"

Grace Gallucci, Executive Director, Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, "Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Extension Engineering & Feasibility Study"

Robert Phillips, Executive Director & **Leonardo Ghio**, Project Director, Rural Health & Human Services, Northwest Hills Council of Governments, "Rural Health & Human Services Initiative"

Greg Stuart, Executive Director, Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, "Broward Safety Action Plan"

11:45 AM

Lunch Opens | Promenade CD

EcoInteractive

by SOVRA



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Monday, June 8

12:00 PM — 12:15 PM

State of the Association | Promenade CD

Hear from the organization's executive director about what NARC has accomplished in the past year and what you can expect in the future.

Moderator: The Honorable Trevor Chadwick, Mayor, Star, Idaho;
Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho;
NARC Board of Directors

Speaker: Erich Zimmermann, Executive Director, National
Association of Regional Councils

12:15 PM — 1:15 PM

Route 66: The Mother Road | Promenade CD

It has been said, "Reading a Michael Wallis book is like dancing to a romantic ballad. He offers his hand and gently guides you across the floor, swaying to the song of the American West."

Michael Wallis is an American journalist, popular historian, author, and speaker. He has written seventeen books, including *Route 66: The Mother Road*, about the historic highway U.S. Route 66. His work has also been published extensively in magazines and newspapers, including *Time*, *Life*, *People*, *Smithsonian*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*. Wallis is also the voice of Sheriff in the Disney/Pixar franchise *Cars*. Wallis has received the John Steinbeck Award, the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Center for the Book, the Will Rogers Spirit Award, and the Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy Hall & Western Heritage

Monday, June 8

Museum. He has been inducted into the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame, Writers Hall of Fame of America, and the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame, and was the first inductee into the Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame.

Michael is co-founder of the Route 66 Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of the Mother Road. In 2023, President Joe Biden appointed Michael to the Congressional Route 66 Centennial Commission.

Moderator: The Honorable Trevor Chadwick, Mayor, Star, Idaho; Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho; NARC Board of Directors

Speaker: Michael Wallis, Best-Selling Author and Award-Winning Reporter and Speaker

1:15 PM — 1:45 PM

Break with Exhibitors | Promenade Foyer

Monday, June 8

1:45 PM — 2:40 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION

Regional Climate Impacts: Interactive Exploratory Scenario Planning Workshop | Promenade B

Climate-driven population shifts present a complex challenge for regions: How do you coordinate housing, transportation, and economic development when some communities are losing residents while others face rapid growth? This interactive workshop puts exploratory scenario planning (XSP) into practice. You will take on roles within a multi-jurisdictional region and work together to design strategies that balance competing needs across communities. Using a realistic scenario, you will explore the tradeoffs involved in allocating resources fairly when different parts of your region face very different climate futures.

Leave with hands-on experience using XSP to address real regional challenges and practical frameworks you can apply to your own jurisdiction's planning efforts.

Facilitators:

Amy Cotter, Director of Urban Sustainability, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Daniela Faria, Policy Analyst, Planning Practice & Scenario Planning
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Layla Sastry, Program Coordinator, Urban Sustainability, Lincoln
Institute of Land Policy

1:45 PM — 2:40 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION

Funding Regional Planning: Local Strategies That Work | Promenade CD

Regional planning organizations help local governments coordinate transportation investments, secure federal funding, and address shared economic and community challenges. Sustaining this work depends on local financial support amid growing fiscal and administrative pressures and uncertainty. This session presents findings from national research on how metropolitan and regional planning agencies generate and manage local funding. Drawing on surveys and practitioner insights, it explores contribution structures, value communication, and context-specific funding strategies. Panelists share practical examples such as funding exchanges, TIP administrative fees, and approaches used in resource constrained regions. Participants will gain practical ideas to strengthen financial sustainability, build regional capacity, and maintain partnerships.

Moderator: The Honorable Dawn Ramsey, Mayor, South Jordan, Utah; Wasatch Front Regional Council; NARC Board of Directors

Speakers:

Bill Austin, Executive Director, Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization

Christie Gotti, Senior Program Manager for Transportation Funding, North Central Texas Council of Governments

Jeff Kramer, Program Director of Transportation Planning, Policy, and Processes, The Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida

Carlos Morales, Transportation and Data Manager, Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency

Monday, June 8

1:45 PM — 2:40 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION

From Veto to Victory: How Connecticut COGs Helped Shape State Housing Policy | Promenade A

In June 2025, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont vetoed housing legislation after cities and towns raised concerns. In partnership with the state's municipal associations, Connecticut COGs helped develop a new housing framework centered on municipal and regional housing growth plans and incentives for affordable and attainable housing, resulting in adoption of Public Act 25-1 in November 2025. The law includes regional housing growth plans, a state housing growth fund, and added resources for COGs. This session will share lessons learned and implementation plans. *This session was developed in coordination with the Housing Working Group.*

Moderator: The Honorable Jason Bowsza, First Selectman, East Windsor, Connecticut; Capitol Region Council of Governments; NARC Board of Directors

Speakers:

Matt Fulda, Executive Director, Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments

Matt Hart, Executive Director, Capitol Region Council of Governments

Caitlin Palmer, Director of Regional Planning & Development, Capitol Region Council of Governments

2:40 PM — 3:05 PM

Break with Exhibitors | Promenade Foyer

Enjoy an afternoon snack while you mingle with conference exhibitors.

3:05 PM — 4:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION

Scaling Housing Solutions Through Regional Collaboration and Policy Implementation

Promenade A

Regional planning councils — as trusted intermediaries between state and local governments — are uniquely positioned to drive housing systems change. This session compares two approaches: bottom-up regional collaboration and top-down policy implementation. The Mid-America Regional Council (Kansas City, MO/KS) advances housing systems change through the Greater Kansas City Regional Housing Partnership, a collective impact initiative supporting data sharing, capacity building, and cross-sector collaboration. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (Boston, MA) demonstrates large-scale implementation by helping Massachusetts municipalities adopt ADU zoning following statewide legalization. Together, these case studies offer practical lessons on policy advocacy, regional convening, and local implementation to address the housing crisis.

This session was developed in coordination with the Housing Working Group.

Moderator: Adam Ploetz, Manager of Housing and Neighborhood Development, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Speakers:

Gwendolyn Hellen-Sands, Regional Housing and Land Use Planner II, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Hannah Mitchell, Regional Housing Program Manager, Mid-America Regional Council

Monday, June 8

3:05 PM — 4:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION

Revitalization by Design: Regional Brownfields Programs for Municipalities | Promenade B

Communities nationwide face stalled redevelopment from vacant and contaminated industrial sites that hinder economic growth and pose environmental risks. Regional brownfields programs offer a coordinated solution by pooling technical expertise, oversight, and funding to help municipalities reclaim properties without overburdening local resources. By reducing liability and streamlining redevelopment, these programs attract investment, create jobs, and return sites to productive use. This interactive panel will highlight best practices, funding tools, and traditional and innovative approaches for building effective, sustainable brownfields programs.

Moderator: Inez Ortiz, Brownfield Planner II, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Speakers:

Rick Dunne, Executive Director, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments; President, Connecticut Brownfield Land Bank, Inc.

Ricardo Rodriguez, Brownfields Program Director, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Panelists:

Michelle Barnett, Program Manager, Senior Vice President of Economic & Workforce Development, Partner Tulsa

Michael Dunn, Executive Director, Region 1 Planning Council

3:05 PM — 4:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION

NARC Transportation Committee | Promenade CD

Join NARC's Transportation Committee to discuss recent developments regarding federal transportation reauthorization and discuss progress and future work supporting H.R. 7437, the BASICS Act endorsed by NARC and the Local Officials in Transportation Coalition.

Co-Chairs:

The Honorable Bob Stevenson, Commissioner, Davis County, Utah;
Wasatch Front Regional Council; NARC Board of Directors

Greg Stuart, Executive Director, Broward Metropolitan
Planning Organization

Monday, June 8

4:30 PM — 7:00 PM

Executive Directors Council Elections & Meeting

Tulsa Central and North

Everyone is welcome to attend; all NARC member Executive Directors are eligible to vote in the election; only EDC members are eligible to vote once the EDC meeting begins.

4:30 PM — 6:30 PM | WORKING GROUP

Communications and Government Affairs

Promenade A

Join an interactive meeting of the Communications and Government Affairs Working Group.

Who this is for: regional council communications and government affairs staff and others who are interested in these functions in the regional context.

Chairs:

Miguel Segura, Director of Communications, Houston-Galveston Area Council

Jennie Vana, Deputy of Communications & Engagement, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

All are welcome to attend the working group meetings.

4:30 PM — 6:30 PM | WORKING GROUP **Regional Housing Support Strategy Session:** **Building a Shared Path Forward | Promenade B**

Housing challenges are complex—but solving them becomes far more achievable when we bring our collective knowledge to the table. Join NARC’s Housing Working Group for this engaging session where participants will map how their organizations plug into the regional housing ecosystem, swap real-world lessons and strategies, and explore creative funding and partnership models. Expect lively discussion, interactive exercises, and a collaborative atmosphere aimed at strengthening relationships and sparking new ideas. Join us to help shape the working group’s next chapter in housing support and coordination.

Who this is for: regional council staff who work on housing and related issues and others who are interested in issues around housing .

Chairs:

Kristin Allin, Principal Planner, Atlanta Regional Commission

Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management, Puget Sound Regional Council

Jessica Kuenzli, Chief Regional Planning Officer & Senior Director of Planning, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

All are welcome to attend the working group meetings.

Monday, June 8

4:30 PM — 6:30 PM | WORKING GROUP

Senior Management | Directors Row III

Join senior leaders from regional councils and MPOs for a dynamic, peer-driven conversation focused on the realities of executive leadership. Through guided discussion, participants will share perspectives on defining roles and responsibilities within the executive team, navigating the balance between strategic priorities and day-to-day operations, and preparing for the USDOT recertification process. Grounded in real-world experience, this working group offers an opportunity to exchange ideas, surface common challenges, and gain practical insights from colleagues facing similar leadership demands.

Who this is for: deputy executive directors and those in other senior leadership positions at their regional council.

Chairs:

Susan Badtke, Senior Planner & Deputy Director, West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Erik Johnson, Deputy Executive Director of Operations, Sacramento Area Council of Governments

Michelle Lacewell, Deputy Director and Chief Communications Officer, Greater Nashville Regional Council

All are welcome to attend the working group meetings.

7:00 PM — 9:00 PM

Tulsa Dining | Hyatt Lobby (2nd Floor)

Experience Tulsa's premier urban cuisine, connect with fellow attendees, and coordinate your own transportation to one or more of Tulsa's hidden culinary gems, curated by the Indian Nations Council of Governments.

Meet in the hotel lobby at 7:00 PM to find a group for dinner. INCOG staff has curated options in several different parts of town. Maps and information will be provided to help you find the perfect spot!

7:00 PM — 9:00 PM

Major Metros Discussion and Dinner

St. Francis Conference Room, Williams Tower I - Plaza Level
A staircase near registration takes you to a courtyard that connects directly with Williams Tower.

Major metro (over 1 million population) directors are invited to join this lively discussion on topics specific to larger regions.

7:00 PM — 9:00 PM

SMART Social Dinner | Avery Kitchen & Bar

Join a social gathering of your colleagues from the Small, Medium, and Rural Regions Together (SMART) Forum. This is in advance of the SMART session tomorrow afternoon.

Dinner is coordinated but on your own. Meet at Avery Kitchen & Bar inside the Hyatt at 7:00 PM. Pre-registration is required.



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Join us for an informative discussion on the **Fire Truck Price-Fixing Antitrust** Litigation and ongoing PFAS litigation matters.

Learn about the **upcoming deadline for the PFAS Cost Recovery Program** and how eligible entities may claim their share of the multi-billion-dollar settlement funds.

We will also cover additional cost recovery and revenue generating programs.



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7:00 AM — 7:30 AM

Conference Warm-Up: Early Morning Walk or Run Hyatt Lobby (2nd Floor)

Kick off the day with a 3.3-mile run past Downtown Tulsa's striking Art Deco landmarks or enjoy a 1.3-mile stroll through the Tulsa Arts District. If you'd like, start with coffee from Topeca Coffee—one of the world's first farm-to-coffee roasters—in the hotel lobby or venture out to spots like Chimera Cafe, Antoinette Bakery & Cafe, and Coracle Coffee.

Groups will depart at 7:00 AM from Topeca Coffee.

7:30 AM — 2:30 PM

Exhibits Open | Promenade Foyer

7:30 AM — 4:00 PM

Registration Desk Open | Promenade A Foyer

7:30 AM

Breakfast Opens | Promenade CD

Tuesday, June 9

8:00 AM — 8:30 AM

Tulsa's Success with Innovative Project Funding Promenade CD

Major transportation infrastructure projects now often require multiple sources of funds. Local and state officials from Oklahoma will discuss their success in constructing the Gilcrease Expressway, a major new expressway route in Tulsa County including a bridge across the Arkansas River, using a combination of innovative financing tools.

Moderator: The Honorable Karen Keith, former Tulsa County Commissioner; former INCOG Board Chair; NARC Board Member

Speakers:

Tim Gatz, Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation

Joe Echelle, Director, Oklahoma Turnpike Authority

Rich Brierre, Executive Director, Indian Nations Council of Governments



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- Community Development
- Economic Development
- Transportation Planning
- Aging Services
- Environmental Sustainability
- Community Planning
- Public Safety
- Mapping and GIS Services

Tuesday, June 9

8:30 AM — 8:45 AM

Charging Smart Program: Regional Designation

Promenade CD

Learn about the Charging Smart program under the Department of Energy and the new regional designation that is available.

Moderator: The Honorable Phillips Armstrong, former County Executive, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania; Lehigh Valley Planning Commission; NARC Sr. Vice President

Speaker: Ed Gilliland, Senior Director, Interstate Renewable Energy Council

8:45 AM — 9:30 AM

Planes, Trains & Economic Gains: When Transportation Meets Economic Development Promenade CD

Regions thrive when transportation planning and economic development strategies are aligned. Yet in many places, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Economic Development Districts (EDDs) operate as separate organizations with differing mandates and governance structures. This session brings together three diverse regional perspectives to explore how MPOs and EDDs can collaborate effectively.

Moderator: Lauren Palmer, COO, EverStrive Solutions

Speakers:

The Honorable Phillips Armstrong, former County Executive, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania; Lehigh Valley Planning Commission; NARC Sr. Vice President

The Honorable Barry Hyde, County Judge, Pulaski County, Arkansas; Metroplan Little Rock; NARC Board of Directors

Becky Bradley, Executive Director, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

Casey Covington, Executive Director, Metroplan Little Rock

9:30 AM — 10:00 AM

Break with Exhibitors | Promenade Foyer

Tuesday, June 9

10:00 AM — 10:55 AM | BREAKOUT SESSION **Regional Approaches to Sustainability and Resilience | Promenade A**

Hear from two regional organizations about specific actions they are taking at home to increase the sustainability and resiliency of the communities they represent. Learn about the Social Resilience Project, initiated by Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission, in response to severe coastal storms in Midcoast Maine recently; and the Regional Sustainability Agenda and Sustainable2050 program developed by Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission in the Columbus, Ohio region to develop adaptable frameworks for their communities to develop healthier, more sustainable places.

Moderator: The Honorable Ike Stage, Mayor, Grove City, Ohio; Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission; NARC Board of Directors

Speakers:

“Hazard Planning for People, Not Just Place”

Emily Rabbe, Executive Director, Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission

“Future-Proofing the Region: Collaborative Tools for Sustainable Growth”

Brandi Whetstone, Sustainability Director, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

10:00 AM — 10:55 AM | BREAKOUT SESSION **NARC Economic and Community** **Development Committee | Promenade B**

Join NARC's Economic and Community Development Committee to hear about the community benefits of having a regional economic development district (EDD), and how EDDs can leverage their designation to receive additional federal dollars for economic development initiatives.

Co-chairs:

The Honorable Mary Dennis, Mayor, Live Oak, Texas; Alamo Area Council of Governments; NARC Board of Directors

Sandy Spang, Executive Director, Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments

Tuesday, June 9

10:00 AM — 10:55 AM | BREAKOUT SESSION **Innovations in Regional Long Range Transportation Planning | Promenade CD**

Sponsored by EcoInteractive by SOVRA

Hear from a variety of perspectives – a fast-growing southern region, a large east coast region, and a statewide association - on innovations and approaches to long-range transportation planning.

Moderator: The Honorable Chris Barnett; Supervisor, Orion Township, Michigan; Southeast Michigan Council of Governments; NARC President-Elect

Speakers:

“Forward 2050: Regional Transportation Plan for Northwest Arkansas”

Tim Reavis, Senior Multimodal Transportation Planner, Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission

“Understanding Where We Stand: Working for a Better Transportation Future”

Lyn Erickson, Plan Development and Coordination Program Director and **Cristina Finch**, Transportation Planning Manager, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

“Coordinating Multiple MPOs: Strategies and Lessons from Florida’s Statewide Model”

The Honorable Mayra Uribe, Commissioner, Orange County Florida; Florida MPOAC Governing Board Chair; **Amanda Carpenter**, Executive Director, Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC)

EcoInteractive
by **SOVRA**

Tuesday, June 9

10:55 AM — 11:05 AM | MOVEMENT BREAK

11:00 AM — 4:00 PM | OFFICE HOURS

U.S. Department of Transportation

Directors Row IV

Representatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation are available to meet to address any of your questions and concerns.

This is not a presentation session. Stop in whenever it is convenient for you to meet or schedule a specific time if you prefer.

Representatives:

Paten Kidd, Special Advisor for Intergovernmental Affairs; **Sabrina McNeal**, Congressional Affairs Specialist; **Melissa Newton**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Intergovernmental Affairs

The graphic is a vibrant promotional poster for visiting Tulsa, Oklahoma, centered around Route 66. At the top left, a large, stylized 'TULSA' sign is shown. Below it, a large '66' is prominently displayed. To the right, a circular inset shows the 'TULSA MARKET DISTRICT' sign. Further right, another circular inset shows a building at night. The background is a dark blue sky with stars and a yellow arc. The text 'VISIT THE CAPITAL OF ROUTE 66' is written in large, bold, white letters. Below this, a red banner says 'A CAN'T-MISS ON THE MOTHER ROAD.' At the bottom, there are five circular icons representing different attractions: a diner, a car, a person, a building, and a building at night. Each icon is accompanied by a URL and a QR code.

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OUTDOORS**

**VISITTULSA.COM/
NIGHT**

Tuesday, June 9

11:05 AM — 12:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION

Cost Recovery Programs as Revenue Streams

Promenade A

Sponsored by Napoli Shkolnik

Cost recovery programs are important revenue streams for local governments. Hear a practical overview of several current cost recovery opportunities available to public entities. The discussion will address current PFAS litigation, including case developments, settlement funds that remain available to eligible municipalities, counties, water districts, and other public entities, and key considerations for evaluating potential claims.

Additionally, learn about the fire truck price-fixing litigation, which alleges anticompetitive conduct that may have inflated the cost of fire apparatus purchased by local governments nationwide.

Attendees will gain insight into how these matters may affect public budgets, what recovery pathways may be available, and the steps your member counties can take to assess eligibility, preserve claims, and pursue reimbursement for costs already incurred or expected in the future.

Moderator: The Honorable Joe Fauth, County Judge, Grimes County, Texas; Brazos Valley Council of Governments; NARC Board of Directors

Speaker: Hank Naughton, Partner, Napoli Shkolnik



11:05 AM — 12:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION **Integrating Digital Innovation with Ground-Level Engagement | Promenade B**

Public outreach and engagement are key components in the development of regional plans. Hear from two organizations about their innovations in this important area.

The Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) used a technology-based engagement approach to ensure their 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan authentically represents the values, priorities, and mobility needs of their communities by integrating emerging technologies into its public engagement strategy, enabling new ways for the community to interact with the planning process and contribute ideas.

The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), with the Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) at Rutgers University, developed Engage!, a research-backed toolkit of best practices for public engagement that combines innovative strategies from planning organizations, transit agencies, departments of transportation, and local governments from across the country with recommendations developed from cutting-edge research conducted for the NJTPA by VTC over the past decade.

This session was developed in coordination with the Communications and Government Relations Working Group.

Tuesday, June 9

Moderator: Miguel Segura, Communications Director, Houston-Galveston Area Regional Council

Speakers:

“Let’s Talk: Public Engagement Best Practices”

Melissa Hayes, Senior Director, Communications & External Affairs, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority

Miriam Salerno, Managing Director, Placemaking, Outreach and Engagement Team, Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center, Rutgers University

“Leveraging enhancements in technology to optimize public outreach”

Francesca Taylor, Program Development Manager, Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization

11:05 AM — 12:00 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION **NARC Energy and Environment Committee** Promenade CD

Join NARC's Energy and Environment Committee to engage with other regional councils on key issues impacting energy and environmental policy. This committee meeting is a forum to share updates, discuss priorities, and exchange ideas on energy and sustainability while shaping future initiatives.

Co-chairs:

The Honorable Lee Constantine, Commissioner, Seminole County, Florida; MetroPlan Orlando; NARC Board of Directors

Kristina Egan, Executive Director, Greater Portland Council of Governments

Tuesday, June 9

12:00 PM

Lunch Opens | Promenade CD

12:20 PM — 12:30 PM

Up Next: Miami, Florida | Promenade CD

Hear from the 2027 Annual Conference and Exhibition host organization, the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization. This conference will take place June 6-9, 2027 at Eden Roc Hotel in beautiful Miami Beach.

Speaker: Aileen Bouclé, Executive Director, Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization

12:30 PM — 1:30 PM | LUNCH KEYNOTE

Greenwood: Building the Future Without Erasing the Past | Promenade CD

Hear from a local economic development expert about the historic Greenwood District in Tulsa and ongoing efforts to return prosperity and opportunity to the area.

Moderator: The Honorable Karen Keith, former Tulsa County Commissioner; former INCOG Board Chair; NARC Board Member

Speaker: Rose Washington-Jones, Chief Executive Officer, Tulsa Economic Development Corporation

1:30 PM — 1:45 PM

Break with Exhibitors | Promenade Foyer

1:45 PM — 2:45 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION

NARC Public Safety and Emergency Management Committee | Promenade B

Join the Public Safety and Emergency Management Committee for a collaborative discussion on current priorities, emerging issues, and future initiatives. This session will provide an opportunity for members to share insights, exchange ideas, and help shape the committee's direction moving forward.

Co-Chairs:

The Honorable Byron Ryder, County Judge, Leon County, Texas;
Brazos Valley Council of Governments; NARC Past President

Lee Worsley, Executive Director, Central Pines Regional Council

Tuesday, June 9

1:45 PM — 2:45 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION **Small, Medium, and Rural Regions Together** **(SMARRT) Forum Meeting | Promenade CD**

Join this in-person meeting of the SMARRT Forum to discuss challenges unique to smaller and rural regions (under 1 million in population).

Chairs:

Bill Fashing, Executive Director, Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments

James Turnwald, Executive Director, Michiana Area Council of Governments



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1:45 PM — 2:45 PM | BREAKOUT SESSION

How Regional Organizations Support Major Events Promenade A

For large metropolitan regions, sports teams and global events are powerful economic engines, requiring coordinated transportation planning and regional collaboration. Hear from three regional councils on their roles.

The Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization highlights strategies to ensure safe, efficient travel for residents and visitors while advancing regional resilience, livability, and economic competitiveness. In Cleveland, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency demonstrates how regional leadership can assess complex projects like stadium relocation through robust analysis and inclusive public engagement. And the Southern California Association of Governments and EMBARK will share how agencies in Southern California and Oklahoma City are preparing for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, highlighting efforts focused on demand management, regional connectivity, and cross-jurisdictional coordination.

Speakers will offer practical insights on how large-scale events can strengthen partnerships, enhance mobility options, and support vibrant, sustainable communities nationwide.

Moderator: The Honorable Damien Boley, Mayor, Smithville, Missouri; Mid-America Regional Council; NARC Board of Directors

Tuesday, June 9

Speakers:

“Miami in Motion: Tools and Strategies to Improve Event Driven Mobility”

Aileen Bouclé, Executive Director, Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization

“Preparing for the Global Stage: Regional Planning for Mega-Events”

Courtney Aguirre, Manager of Mobility Planning and Goods Movement, Southern California Association of Governments

Jesse Rush, Director, EMBARK

“Game Day to Every Day: Regional Transportation Planning for a Major Sports Infrastructure Investment”

Grace Gallucci, Executive Director, Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

Danielle Render, Director of Public Affairs, Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

2:45 PM — 4:00 PM

Complete your Exhibitor Passport

This is your final chance to visit with exhibitors. Return your completed Exhibitor Passport to the registration desk before the 4:00 PM deadline. Winners will be drawn at tonight’s Awards Gala. You do not have to be present to win.

2:45 PM — 3:00 PM

Break for Mobile Workshops

3:00 PM — 5:00 PM | MOBILE WORKSHOP **Gradient Innovation Hub**

Tour the beautifully restored OTASCO warehouse which now houses Gradient, one of the largest innovation hubs in America. Located in Gradient, the Tulsa Higher Education Consortium is a collaborative of nine higher education institutions and seven philanthropic partners working together to support student success. Learn about the Youth Housing Program funded by the Tulsa City County Continuum of Care which helps homeless youth attend Tulsa-based colleges. Representatives from Tulsa Innovation Lab (TIL) will discuss the role of TIL in economic development and workforce development in Tulsa.

Pre-registration required. Gather in the hotel lobby on the second floor.

3:00 PM — 5:00 PM | MOBILE WORKSHOP **Downtown Tulsa Art Deco Tour**

Hosted by the Tulsa Foundation for Architecture, walk the Oil Capital District to explore classic Art Deco architecture from 1925-1949. See stunning examples of architectural elegance, learn success stories from this golden era, and meet the historic characters from the heart of Tulsa's distinctive Art Deco legacy.

Pre-registration required. Gather in the hotel lobby on the second floor.

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6:30 PM — 9:00 PM

Awards Gala and Dinner | Promenade CD

Celebrate the achievements of NARC member organizations as well as leaders from across the nation.

Separate registration or payment is not required; cost is included in price of conference registration for all attendees.

Emcees



NARC President

Justin Kiel

County Councilmember
LaPorte County, Indiana

*Northwestern Indiana
Regional Planning
Commission*

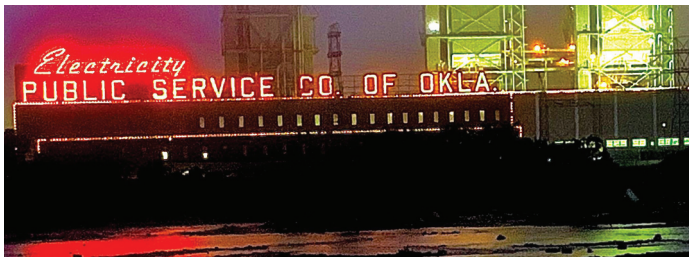


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Chris Barnett

Township Supervisor
Orion Township, Michigan

*Southeast Michigan
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Wednesday, June 10

8:00 AM — 9:00 AM

NARC Board of Directors Breakfast

Promenade CD

9:00 AM — 10:00 AM

**NARC General Membership Meeting
and Board Elections | Promenade CD**

Every NARC member in good standing is invited to send a delegate to vote during the General Membership Meeting.

Everyone may attend; only NARC members are eligible to vote.

10:00 AM

NARC 60th Annual Conference Adjourns

10:00 AM — 12:00 PM

NARC Board of Directors Business Meeting

Tulsa Central & North

The Board Meeting will immediately follow the completion of elections and may begin earlier than 10:00 AM.

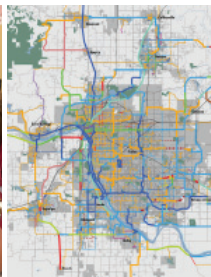
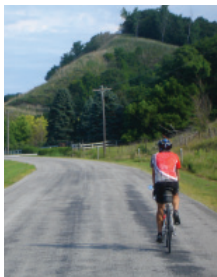
Everyone may attend.



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NOTES





NARC

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

Upcoming Conferences

Executive Directors Conference and Board Forum

October 18-21, 2026

The Cliffs Hotel and Spa
Pismo Beach, CA



National Conference of Regions

February 7-10, 2027

Royal Sonesta Capitol Hill
Washington, DC



61st Annual Conference

June 6-9, 2027

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