



# Michigan Association of Regions

Preparing for the Future

By NADO Executive Director  
Matthew Chase

July 22, 2009

# Session Overview

- Recap Key Topics and Issues from Training Series
- Highlight National Trends and Observations with Regional Councils
- Offer 10 Discussion Items for MAR

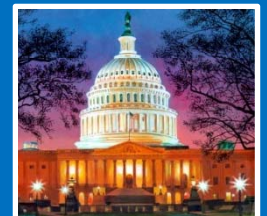
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# Previous Topics

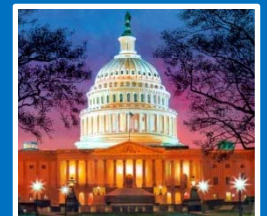
- Global and National Context for America's Economic Competitiveness
- Defining Today's Era of Regionalism
- Seven Significant Issues Facing the Nation's Regional Councils
- State Association Trends and Innovations

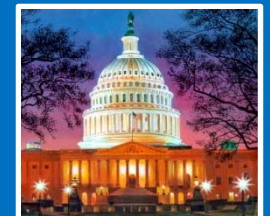
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## ■ Global and National Context for America's Economic Competitiveness

- ❖ **Regions Matter**
- ❖ **Innovation Is Driving Force**
- ❖ **Rapid Population Growth and Demographic Changes, Especially Expansion of Global Workforce**
- ❖ **Global and National Connections, Including Infrastructure & Knowledge**
- ❖ **Global Climate Change & Energy Security Is a Run Away Freight Train**





## ■ Defining Today's Era of Regionalism

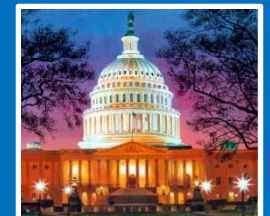
- ❖ **Visioning** for region
- ❖ **Regional benchmarks** and indicators
- ❖ **Leadership development** for regional issues
- ❖ **Networks** for social and professional interaction, knowledge sharing, trust building, & strategy action
- ❖ **Collaboration and conflict resolution** to reduce inter-jurisdictional disputes, including “coop-etition” framework (work together to brand and market region, while also competing on more sub-regional issues)
- ❖ **Regional capacity** to foster regional dialogue, mobilize financial and human resources, and benchmark performance



## ■ Seven Significant Issues Facing the Nation's Regional Councils

❖ “Regional councils are sometimes less bold in structure and authority than a region’s needs might warrant, yet more advanced than area politics comfortably accept.”

-- Jim Ray, Executive Director of the Texas Association of Regional Councils (Early 1970s)



## ■ Seven Significant Issues Facing the Nation's Regional Councils

1. Relevance
2. Convener of the Region
3. Ownership and Governance
4. Relationships with Local Government
5. Relationships with Federal and State Officials
6. Statewide Uniformity and Capacity
7. Public Relations / Image

# Statewide Associations

- ✓ **Monthly meetings** of executive directors, along with working groups of senior program staff and policy officials
- ✓ **Pro-active agendas** with federal and state legislators and agencies (including specific roles and tasks for local policy officials)
- ✓ **Peer accountability**, including quality controls, training and financial monitoring

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## New Resource

- **Self-Assessment Toolkit for Regional Council Executive Directors and Policy Boards**
  - Developed by NADO in partnership with MACOG, SERDI, DDAA and Four-State Midwest Consortium

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# National Trends and Observations

- **Increased collaboration, staff support and/or co-location** of federally-funded entities within regional councils (i.e. MPOs, WIBs, WIRED regions, RPOs, etc)
- Major role in information dissemination and grant writing for **federal stimulus (ARRA) funds**
- **Regional leadership and strategies** for climate change mitigation, energy, water and/or natural resource stewardship

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# National Trends and Observations

- **Increased attention and interest in stronger integration** of regional and local transportation, housing, land use and economic development plans and projects
- **Organizational assistance with entrepreneurship and innovation training, lending/investments, networks and business development planning**

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# National Trends and Observations

- **Opportunities for regional councils to host, administer and/or staff local economic development corporations** – *rather than each city and county hiring and staffing their own during these difficult financial times*
- **Focus on asset-based economic development planning** that builds upon regional strengths and opportunities, including innovation

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# Discussion Items for MAR

- 1. Quality control teams and process for statewide products and services**
- 2. Strategy for addressing geographic and programmatic service gaps within the state**
- 3. Strategy for identifying, evaluating and pursuing new federal, state and local programs and services – *statewide consistency, high quality and delivery!***

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# Discussion Items for MAR

- 4. Pursue pilot programs to demonstrate capacity** and value of MAR network
- 5. Explore options for sharing staff expertise across the state** or within larger sub-regions of the state (i.e. GIS technicians, RLF operators, DOT planners, EDD planners)
- 6. Sponsor statewide forums** on key issues; Be a major convener and thought leader!

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# Discussion Items for MAR

- 7. Commit to rebuilding partnerships, dialogue and credibility with state and local officials**
- 8. Engage new and existing statewide and regional alliances of private sector, community, education and other groups**
- 9. Review regional council governance structures (including MAR) to ensure you have flexibility and leadership to be relevant player across the state and within each region!**

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# Discussion Items for MAR

## 10. Opportunities to assist state and local officials, as well as other partners, in securing and administering federal stimulus funds (plus new & existing programs)

- ❖ Economic development innovation
- ❖ Energy efficiency block grants
- ❖ Health care (i.e many hospitals need help applying for digital record funds)
- ❖ Livable communities
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Workforce development

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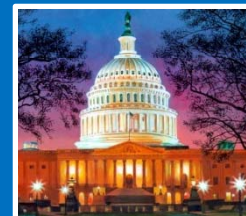
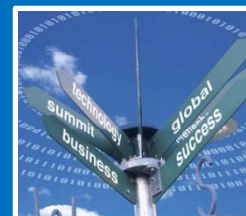


# Feedback?

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