



# U.S. MAYOR

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## Conference of Mayors Calls on President Obama and Congress to Support Flint

By Judy Sheahan



Flint Mayor Karen Weaver (at podium) addresses reporters at a March 10 press conference. Weaver is joined by, from left, USCM staff Rich Anderson and Judy Sheahan, former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, and USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran.

Earlier this month, The U.S. Conference of Mayors sent its second delegation to both work with Mayor Karen Weaver and release a bipartisan letter supporting her efforts to secure federal funding. As Weaver moved forward on her recovery plans, U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran and Former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin stood in solidarity with her at a press conference in the lobby of City Hall. A copy of the letter, which has over 170 signatures can be found in this issue of U.S. Mayor on page 5. Any mayors

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## First USCM Engagement at SXSW Interactive

By David W. Burns

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Austin Mayor Steve Adler and USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran welcome mayors and guests to Austin City Hall for an evening reception.



From right, USCM President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake discusses income inequality with Brookings Institution Fellow Elizabeth Kneebone, and LBJ Presidential Library Director Mark Updegrave during their SXSW Interactive panel.





## Flint Michigan - Mayor Karen Weaver

Our U.S. Conference of Mayors team went to Flint last week to continue our support of Mayor Karen Weaver as she makes progress to protect her citizens from lead poisoning in the water.

Former Atlanta Mary Shirley Franklin led our private discussions with Mayor Weaver and her team concerning a plan that would establish a system for overall management.

Dr. Richard Anderson presented the technical issues that we are raising concerning equipment, pipes and safety measures.

Assistant Executive Director Judy Sheahan briefed all on the federal legislation and EPA current involvement.

My assistant Paul Leroux has done a great job in coordinating to keep our mission moving and up to date as we remember what we've heard and done as we push hard with our mission goal to fulfill what Conference President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake called for: to support Mayor Karen Weaver, to get Flint back up and running, to put the full force of our organization, including our Water Council, to remove and protect Flint from lead poisoning and finally to support health needs for those who have been poisoned by people who were paid to protect them from water with high lead levels.

Our team is more encouraged by Mayor Weaver's progress in getting staff on board. We learned that powers given to the mayor to hire have been affected by the rules established by the emergency power laws of Michigan. We also learned that a delay in hiring has been due to actions by the City Council. We are pleased to report that these challenges and ob-

stacles have been reduced and that Mayor Karen Weaver will soon have a fully staffed front office.

While Flint will take years to recover, our organization, The U.S. Conference of Mayors will be there to monitor, amplify and to support Mayor Weaver and Flint as she leads her city to a Flint recovery.

As U.S.MAYOR goes to press, we have just had a most contentious hearing where Michigan Governor Snyder and EPA Commissioner McCarthy defended their actions involved in the poisoning of Flint citizens. Heated exchanges developed with Commissioner McCarthy when she refused to admit any wrongdoing even though the Region 5 EPA Administrator resigned. As to Governor Snyder, his public apology was there but many Members of Congress did not accept it and called for his resignation. Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) and Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-Maryland) are both outraged over what happened in Flint and they are united on this issue.

As we focus on Flint, our membership and business partners are calling us to also look at the nation. Water infrastructure has been a top priority for USCM since the 2008 presidential campaign. No doubt, as we move toward swearing in a new President of the United States the nation's mayors and our business partners will be pushing for the modernization of the nation's water infrastructure as a priority for our new President and his or her term.



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# First USCM Engagement at SXSW Interactive

By David W. Burns

With technology and innovation increasingly a focus among mayors across the United States, Austin Mayor Steve Adler and The United States Conference of Mayors hosted nearly 20 mayors at South By Southwest (SXSW) for the first-ever USCM Track at South by Southwest Interactive, the conference and festival focused around technology, design, and creativity.

The Conference of Mayors track featured eight official SXSW Interactive panels, each of which were comprised of mayors and experts in a variety of topics from using data to performance measurement to transportation and housing to fostering an innovation ecosystem in your city. In addition, there was special programming for Conference of Mayors participants, including special discussions and presentations on innovations in housing and autonomous vehicles.

Participating cities also had their chance to sample SXSW as a whole with mayors taking time during the day to explore the over 900 panels taking place during the weekend.



From left, Dr. Jeff Willson, a.k.a. Professor Dumpster, San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, Mesa Mayor John Giles, and Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza discuss Kasita.



USCM President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake hops into one of Google's Self Driving Cars.

Mayors also had the opportunity to attend President Barack Obama's SXSW Interactive Keynote on Friday, March 11 where he sat for an interview with Evan Smith, Editor in Chief of The Texas Tribune where the two discussed technology and innovation with a focus on engagement in elections and government.

The track kicked off on Friday morning with a breakfast at Darrell K. Royal Texas Memorial Coliseum for a breakfast with international delegates to SXSW, followed by a tutorial and Internet of Things discussion with Amazon Web Services at Austin City Hall. Later that afternoon, participants explored the Google Fiber space in downtown Austin and had a chance to talk with tech and policy leaders tackling various challenges.

On Saturday morning of the SXSW Interactive Mayors Track, mayors had the opportunity to ride in a Google Self Driving Car

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## SXSW

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alongside engineers from X, the the research and development lab inside Google's parent company, Alphabet. Participants gathered at a parking lot of a strip mall about 10 minutes north of downtown and proceeded to ride in a retrofitted Lexus RX450h on Austin streets, through a neighborhood and back to the parking lot. They also had an opportunity to view the new in-house design of a self-driving car which features no steering wheel or controls.

Following the self driving car demo, mayors toured two innovative housing concepts. The first, Reaction Inc.'s Exo is an 80 square foot structure, that is targeted for disaster response. The units are stackable and can be assembled quickly, each weighing less than 700 lbs. They can be configured to shelter as many as four people and can be secured through a cloud application that manages access to the pods.

The second housing concept was by Kasita, a minimalist housing unit that is 270 square feet and features a living room, kitchen and bathroom. Dr. Jeff Wilson, affectionately known as "Professor Dumpster", started the project as a way to combat the affordable housing crisis that is gripping cities across the United States. Mayors toured the prototype home, which is slightly smaller than the final product and lacks some features such as electronic dimming windows. The Kasita housing unit was later recognized by SXSW Interactive as their 2016 SXSW Interactive Innovation Awards winner in the smart cities category.

The mayors track also featured a civic tech pitch session, sponsored by Amazon Web Services and Code for America during the Conference of Mayors breakfast on Sunday morning. Over 60 civic tech startups applied to pitch their ideas, with nine finalists invited to pitch their product to a panel of mayors and experts who then judged their idea and awarded winning ideas a cash prize that had to be spent implementing the idea in a city. With just five minutes to pitch and two-

minutes of question time; Paylt, Edovo, and SmartProcure were declared the winners of the competition by the panel of judges which included Austin Mayor Steve Adler, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer, Kansas City Mayor Sly James, Code for America COO Maryann Kongovi, and Amazon Web Services' Frank DiGiammarino.

Each evening, participants were also invited to take part in sampling the cultural aspects of South by Southwest featuring local musicians and even a film premiere on Sunday evening.

South by Southwest, now in its 30th year since the founding of the music festival, has proven to be an important festival and conference attended by creatives and thought leaders from all walks of life. The Interactive festival notably made national headlines in the mid-2000s when it popularized the social networking platform Twitter in 2007, followed by Foursquare a year later in 2008. With increasing variety of different tracks, such as government and policy, the Conference of Mayors intends to bring back the mayors track in 2017.

## FLINT

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interested in signing on to the letter can do so by going to [usmayors.org/MayorsStand-WithFlint/](http://usmayors.org/MayorsStand-WithFlint/)

The letter outlined the need for federal action to assist Flint's recovery and called for the following:

- Immediate funding to replace the lead service lines throughout its water system;
- Resources and technical support to build a model public health system capable of assessing, monitoring, and addressing the short term and long term impact of lead exposure particularly with regard the children including long-term wrap-around support services in the areas of nutrition/food access, early education and behavioral services as well as medical/health services to mitigate the potential long-term impact of this toxic exposure;
- Federal economic development funding for the city and its residents to meet their full potential; and



Flint Mayor Karen Weaver discusses Flint's Recovery Plan with former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran.

- Federal funds must go directly to the City of Flint.

On their second visit to Flint, Cochran, Franklin, and a team of experts provided support to Mayor Weaver as she begins to implement her plan to recover Flint's infrastructure, public health, and economy. The Mayor is assembling her team including a new city administrator, chief of staff, and public information officer. The U.S. Surgeon General,

Vivek Murtha, has also appointed one of his top staff to work with Mayor Weaver and the public health community to coordinate efforts and identify any gaps that need to be addressed.

Mayor Weaver has also started replacing the hookup pipes to some of the identified homes but they have not yet received any di-

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(Updated 03/18/16)

Dear President Obama, Members of the Senate, and Members of the House of Representatives:

In recognition of the role of America's cities in providing basic services, The United States Conference of Mayors has made developing healthy, safe, affordable, and modern water and wastewater systems an integral part of its 2016 agenda. In late 2015 and early 2016, one of our own was confronted with an unprecedented challenge when toxic drinking water was discovered in the City of Flint. While the exact progression of events is still under investigation, it is clear that switching to the Flint River water and subsequent lack of proper treatment of that water led to the corrosion of lead pipes and potential exposure to the deadly bacteria *Legionella* in the city's water system.

As this crisis has unfolded, the leadership of The United States Conference of Mayors has worked closely with Flint Mayor Karen Weaver to determine what her city needs to emerge stronger and healthier. Mayor Weaver was elected in November 2015 on the platform of acknowledging and fixing the water crisis, and she is one of the only government officials who still holds the trust of the people of Flint. Mayor Weaver was with us during our Winter Meeting in January and at our Leadership Meeting in February. In early February, we dispatched a fact-finding mission of leadership and experts to Flint. And we stood with Mayor Weaver when she appeared before a House hearing on February 10.

As mayors, we believe that federal action is critical to Flint's recovery from this man-made disaster:

- America's drinking water is the cleanest and safest in the world, but the people of Flint have lost confidence in their water due to the corrosion of lead service lines by improperly treated water. To alleviate this situation, the City of Flint needs immediate funding to replace the lead service lines throughout its water system.
- Because of the toxic water the citizens of Flint have consumed over the past two years, the city will need significant assistance in the form of resources and technical support to build a model public health system capable of assessing, monitoring, and addressing the short term and long term impact of lead exposure particularly with regard the children. The children of Flint will need long-term wrap-around support services in the areas of nutrition/food access, early education and behavioral services as well as medical/health services to mitigate the potential long-term impact of this toxic exposure.
- In that Flint was already economically disadvantaged and this crisis has caused many more businesses and residents to leave town, we believe that federal economic development funding is necessary for the city and its residents to meet their full potential.
- While all levels of government must be involved in creating the solution to this problem, for the solution to have the trust of the people of Flint and for it to fully economically benefit those people, federal funds must be directed to the City of Flint.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. As mayors, we wholeheartedly support our colleague Karen Weaver, and appreciate your efforts to work with her to recover from this disaster and move Flint forward. If you have any questions or would like to do additional follow-up, please contact the Conference of Mayors CEO & Executive Director Tom Cochran (202-293-7330 / [tcochran@usmayors.org](mailto:tcochran@usmayors.org)) or his Water Council team, Assistant Executive Director Judy Sheahan (202-861-6775 / [jsheahan@usmayors.org](mailto:jsheahan@usmayors.org)) and Dr. Richard Anderson (202-861-6795 / [randerson@usmayors.org](mailto:randerson@usmayors.org)).

Sincerely,

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Mayor of Baltimore

Mick Cornett  
Vice President  
Mayor of Oklahoma City

Mitchell J. Landrieu  
Second Vice President  
Mayor of New Orleans

Tom Cochran  
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Gina Belforte, Mayor of Rohnert Park, CA  
William Bell, Mayor of Durham, NC

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 Shane Bemis, Mayor of Gresham, OR  
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 Muriel Bowser, Mayor of Washington, DC  
 C. Kim Bracey, Mayor of York, PA  
 James Brainard, Mayor of Carmel, IN  
 Noam Bramson, Mayor of New Rochelle, NY  
 Ardell Brede, Mayor of Rochester, MN  
 Thomas Broderick Jr., Mayor of Anderson, IN  
 Dennis D. Browning, Mayor of Saginaw, MI  
 Pete Buttigieg, Mayor of South Bend, IN  
 Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor of West Sacramento, CA  
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 John Cook, Mayor of Tigard, OR  
 Joy Cooper, Mayor of Hallandale Beach, FL  
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 Paulne Cutter, Mayor of San Leandro, CA  
 Hardie Davis, Mayor of Augusta, GA  
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 Carlo DeMaria, Mayor of Everett, MA  
 John Dickert, Mayor of Racine, WI  
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 Mark Fitzgerald, Mayor of Loveland, OH  
 George Flaggs, Mayor of Vicksburg, MS  
 James Fouts, Mayor of Warren, MI  
 Karen Freeman-Wilson, Mayor of Gary, IN  
 Patrick Furey, Mayor of Torrance, CA  
 Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, CA  
 Edwin Garcia, Mayor of Camuy, PR  
 Robert Garcia, Mayor of Long Beach, CA  
 Stephen Gawron, Mayor of Muskegon, MI  
 John Giles, Mayor of Mesa, AZ  
 Andrew Gillum, Mayor of Tallahassee, FL  
 Javier Gonzales, Mayor of Santa Fe, NM  
 Carolyn Goodman, Mayor of Las Vegas, NV  
 Jim Gray, Mayor of Lexington, KY  
 Kent Guinn, Mayor of Ocala, FL  
 Avina Gutierrez, Mayor of Yakima, WA  
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 Michael B. Hancock, Mayor of City and County of Denver, CO  
 Bill Harrison, Mayor of Fremont, CA  
 Toni Harp, Mayor of New Haven, CT

Pam Hemminger, Mayor of Chapel Hill, NC  
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 Lindsey Horvath, Mayor of West Hollywood, CA  
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 Sylvester "Sly" James Jr., Mayor of Kansas City, MO  
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 William Peduto, Mayor of Pittsburgh, PA  
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 McKinley Price, Mayor of Newport News, VA

Christian Price, Mayor of Maricopa, AZ  
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 Christopher Roberts, Mayor of Shoreline, WA  
 Leon Rockingham, Mayor of North Chicago, IL  
 Madeline Rogero, Mayor of Knoxville, TN  
 Riley H. Rogers, Mayor of Dolton, IL  
 Ron Rordam, Mayor of Blacksburg, VA  
 Jonathan Rothschild, Mayor of Tucson, AZ  
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# Mayors Call For Action On Supreme Court Vacancy

By Laura DeKoven Waxman and Ed Somers

On March 14, The United States Conference of Mayors Executive Committee adopted an emergency policy resolution, as authorized under the USCM Constitution, regarding the vacancy on the Supreme Court left by the sudden death of Justice Antonin Scalia.

The resolution, "urges the President to nominate an individual to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court of the United States, and the Senate to fulfill its constitutional duty to consider that nomination."

The resolution was sent to President Obama and the entire United States Senate the day it passed.

Commenting on this action, USCM President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said, "Because the nation's cities and city residents will be directly affected by the outcome of cases before the Supreme Court, both current and anticipated, mayors have grown increasingly concerned about the process that will produce a replacement for the late Justice

Antonin Scalia – specifically, whether that process, as described in the U.S. Constitution, will be followed in a timely manner. Our resolution expresses our concern and appeals for action."

On March 16, President Obama nominated federal appeals court judge Merrick Garland to fill the Supreme Court vacancy.

The Resolution, which was sponsored by USCM Trustee Columbia, SC Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin, is below.



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**Adopted March 14, 2016**

### **Filling the Vacancy on the Supreme Court**

1. **WHEREAS**, the sudden death of Justice Antonin Scalia on February 13, 2016 created a vacancy on the Supreme Court; and
2. **WHEREAS**, Justice Scalia made immeasurable contributions to our legal system and our nation; and
3. **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Constitution states that the President "shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint...judges of the Supreme Court...;" and
4. **WHEREAS**, mayors know that it is critical that government at all levels be fully functioning and that this is especially true of the Supreme Court, which has a full docket and several major cases pending this term,
5. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the President to nominate an individual to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court of the United States, and the Senate to fulfill its constitutional duty to consider that nomination.



# Mayor de Blasio To Congress: Proposed Homeland Security Cuts Would Threaten Safety of New York, Nation

by Laura DeKoven Waxman

"We are here today in Washington to make very clear that the federal government cutting back our security funding by 50 percent would fundamentally undermine the safety of New Yorkers, and would be counterproductive for our whole country," New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio told the Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communication Subcommittee of the House Homeland Security Committee during a March 15 Capital Hill Hearing. The hearing was called to discuss the impact of the significant cuts in homeland security grant programs proposed in the President's FY 2017 budget.

That budget proposed to cut the entire suite of homeland security grant programs by 44 percent below FY 2016 levels. The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Program would be cut by 45 percent, from \$600 million this year to \$330 million next year. The State Homeland Security Grant Program would be cut by 57 percent, from \$467 million this year to \$200 million next year. Public Transportation Security Assistance would be cut by 15 percent to \$85,000 next year, Port Security grants by 7 percent to \$93 million next year.

"New York City is the number one terror target in the country," Mayor de Blasio told the Subcommittee. "We work hard every day to stop terror attacks. In fact, the NYPD in over 15 years has thwarted 20 different terrorist plots. We need to continue that work. We need to do even more to prevent terror and what's become a more complicated threat environment. And God forbid there ever was a terror attempt on us, we'd have to contain it instantly – that's why we depend on federal funding for the latest in technology, and training, and equipment."

Mayor de Blasio focused on what the City has accomplished through the UASI program. Its funding, he said, sustains a new 500-officer Critical Response Command, specially-trained police officers assigned full-time to counter-terrorism. He said the same funds pay for the specially designed



New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio at March 15 homeland security hearing on Capital Hill.

Photo Credit: Michael Appleton, Mayoral Photography Office.

NYPD escape masks issued to all police officers to protect them in the event of a chemical attack. "And UASI funds support active-shooter tactical training for 3,500 street cops who may have to confront gunmen such as those who stormed the Bataclan Theater in Paris, or the office party in San Bernardino," the Mayor stated. "Our goal is to extend this important training to 20,000 officers."

Referring to the proposed cuts, Mayor de Blasio said, "Until now, we have been able to rely on the federal government to be a true and strong partner. Today, we need that partnership to continue. As elected officials, our primary and most sacred obligation is to ensure the safety of those we serve."

Opening the hearing, Subcommittee Chair Dan Donovan, whose district covers Staten Island and South Brooklyn, said that "law enforcement, including the NYPD and Joint Terrorism Task Forces, deserve our thanks for keeping Americans safe." So far there have been 81 ISIS linked arrests in the United States, a number that will only grow as the organization continues to spread viral terrorism over the Internet," he continued. "Proposing cuts to the programs that keep the homeland safe would be foolish in any case, but they are particularly outrageous at a time when our threat level is the highest it's been since 9/11."

At the conclusion of his opening statement, Donovan entered into the record the February 22 letter from 17 national groups representing local elected officials, emergency managers, port operators, transit operators, police chiefs, sheriffs, and the major fire service organizations to register our strong concern with the severe cuts to four key homeland security grant programs proposed in the President's FY (Fiscal Year) 2017 budget. The U.S. Conference of Mayors prepared that letter and secured the sign-off by the other organizations.

Among the other witnesses testifying at the hearing were Atlanta Police Chief George Turner, representing the Major Cities Chiefs Association, and Austin Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr, representing the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Kerr told the Subcommittee "this suite of grants plays an important role in building and sustaining the national preparedness system. The changes proposed in the FY 2017 budget proposal would hurt the ability of the nation's local fire and emergency service to protect their communities."

"As the law enforcement witness in this hearing, I appeal to Congress not to abandon the officers who put their lives on the line every

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# 118 Cities Counties, USCM, NLC File Supreme Court Amicus Brief in Support of Immigration Executive Action

by Laura DeKoven Waxman

A broad coalition of cities and counties filed a friend-of-the-court amicus brief March 8 with the U.S. Supreme Court in *United States v. Texas*, urging the Court to overturn a lower court's decision and allow President Obama's executive action on immigration to move forward. The brief, signed by 118 cities and counties representing 35 states, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities argues that the nationwide injunction blocking implementation of the President's executive action on immigration was erroneously entered and should be reversed because it places millions of families in our cities and counties at economic and personal risk.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, Birmingham Mayor William Bell, and Austin Mayor Steve Adler led the effort. The New York City Law Department prepared the brief.

This is the fourth amicus brief to be filed by cities and counties since the President's executive actions were challenged in the courts, and the momentum of support has grown with each step in litigation. At the district court, over 30 signatories, at the 5th Circuit court of appeals, over 70 signatories, at the petition stage to the Supreme Court, over 80 signatories, and this latest brief represents 118 mayors and county leaders.

"The Conference of Mayors is proud to stand with the nearly 120 cities and counties that have signed onto an amicus brief that urges the Supreme Court to overturn a lower court ruling that halted implementation of portions of President Obama's executive actions on immigration reform," commented Conference President and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake on the day the brief was filed.

"Implementing the President's executive actions will ensure that millions of undocumented immigrants, who want to play by the rules and pay taxes, are protected from

deportation and made eligible to work," she continued. "These actions will not only stabilize families and communities, they will strengthen the American economy and our national security."

Rawlings-Blake explained that while "Conference policy has long called for repairs to our nation's broken immigration system. While that policy has generally envisioned Congressional action, it has also called for executive action when Congress failed to act."

## Comments from the Brief's Lead Mayors

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio: "Immigrants are part of the economic and social fabric of our cities and nation. They work in and own businesses, shop in our stores, and send their children to our schools. But the long-delayed implementation of the President's executive action is tearing those families and our communities apart. I urge the Supreme Court to overturn this injustice to give millions of undocumented immigrants the relief they deserve, and our cities the strong foundation they need to thrive."

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti: "We are faced with a choice at this pivotal moment in history: to turn away from our founding principles or reaffirm America as a place of opportunity for people who only want a better life. I urge the Supreme Court to rule in favor of President Obama's executive action on immigration, and uphold the ideals that have made this nation so great. This City was built by immigrants and thrives because of its diversity. It is the most global city in the world. We are ready to reach out to eligible immigrants through our Step Forward LA initiative, so they can step out of the shadows and carry on their pursuit of the American Dream."

Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed: "The City of Atlanta continues to support the President's decision to take action on immigration. I remain confident that after hearing the lawsuit brought by the State of Texas in opposition

to President Obama's executive actions on immigration, the Supreme Court will vote to lift the nationwide injunction and come down on the right side of history by allowing this imperative step toward fixing our broken immigration system."

Birmingham Mayor William Bell: "Birmingham is proud to continue to support President Obama's executive actions on immigration. Along with the cities and counties filing today's brief, we are eager for the Supreme Court to consider our perspectives, as we understand the many vital contributions that immigrants bring to our country. We can no longer make the millions of immigrants who qualify the President's reforms wait. Welcoming them is what's right for our country, our cities and our economy."

Austin Mayor Steve Adler: "Austin and Travis County would benefit from helping immigrant families stay together. Almost half of our undocumented population is eligible for programs that would do that, and these parents and young folks are assets to our city. If implemented, these programs would increase the Texas economy by \$38 billion and create 4,800 jobs a year over the next decade. Keeping families together just makes good sense for Austin."

The cities and counties that signed onto the brief are:

Alameda County, CA  
Alamogordo, NM  
Albany, NY  
Alexandria, VA  
Allentown, PA  
Arcata, CA  
Arlington County, VA  
Atlanta, GA  
Austin, TX  
Baltimore, MD  
Bell, CA  
Birmingham, AL  
Bloomington, IN  
Boise, ID

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# SUPREME COURT

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Boston, MA  
Bridgeport, CT  
Brownsville, TX  
Buffalo, NY  
Cambridge, MA  
Carrboro, NC  
Central Falls, RI  
Chelsea, MA  
Chicago, IL  
Coconino County, AZ  
Columbus, OH  
Cook County, IL  
Crete, NE  
Dallas County, TX  
Davis, CA  
Dayton, OH  
Denver, CO  
Dolton, IL  
Durham, NC  
East Lansing, MI  
Edinburg, TX  
El Paso County, TX  
Emeryville, CA  
Evanston, IL  
Falcon Heights, MN  
Gary, IN  
Haledon, NJ  
Hartford, CT  
Hempstead, NY  
Highland Park, IL  
Hoboken, NJ  
Holyoke, MA

Houston, TX  
Huntington, WV  
Ithaca, NY  
Jackson, MS  
Jersey City, NJ  
Kansas City, MO  
Knoxville, TN  
Livingston, CA  
Long Beach, CA  
Los Angeles County, CA  
Los Angeles, CA  
Lucas County, OH  
Madison, WI  
Marin County, CA  
Middletown, CT  
Milwaukee, WI  
Minneapolis, MN  
Montgomery County, MD  
New Haven, CT  
New London, CT  
New Orleans, LA  
New Rochelle, NY  
New York, NY  
Newark, NJ  
Newton, MA  
Niagara Falls, NY  
Oakland, CA  
Paterson, NJ  
Pembroke Pines, FL  
Philadelphia, PA  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Plainfield, NJ  
Portland, OR  
Prince George's County, MD  
Princeton, NJ  
Providence, RI

Richmond, CA  
Rochester, NY  
Roselle, NJ  
Sacramento, CA  
Salt Lake City, UT  
San Fernando, CA  
San Francisco, CA  
San Jose, CA  
San Mateo County, CA  
Santa Ana, CA  
Santa Clara County, CA  
Santa Cruz County, AZ  
Santa Fe, NM  
Santa Monica, CA  
Schenectady, NY  
Seattle, WA  
Somerville, MA  
Sonoma County, CA  
South Bend, IN  
St. Louis, MO  
St. Paul, MN  
State College, PA  
Sunrise, FL  
Syracuse, NY  
Tacoma, WA  
Tampa, FL  
Travis County  
Trenton, NJ  
Union City, NJ  
Union County, NJ  
Washington, D.C.  
West Hollywood, CA  
Woodmere, OH  
Yolo County, CA  
Yonkers, NY  
York, PA

## FLINT

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rect funding to fully implement her plan.

"Mayor Weaver has the leadership and the capacity to get this done," said Cochran at the press conference, "but she needs the resources to fully implement her plan."

Senators James Inhofe (OK) and Debbie Stabenow (MI) are spearheading an effort to attach an amendment to the Energy bill (S. 2012) that would provide some resources to Flint as well as other jurisdictions that have water and wastewater infrastructure problems. The \$220 million package would provide \$100 million in additional Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds, \$70 million for WIFIA (Water

Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act), and \$50 million to address health needs for people exposed to lead.

Senator Mike Lee (UT) put a hold on the amendment stating that Flint and the state of Michigan are both responsible for this man-made disaster and that since Michigan has a budget surplus, the federal government should not have to pay to fix the problem. Stabenow is working with Lee on compromise language.

Meanwhile, the House Budget Committee on March 16, rejected in a party-line vote, a \$475.5 million proposal to provide emergency aid for Flint.

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# Senate Panel Approves a Short-Term FAA Renewal Plan

By Kevin McCarty

Members of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, led by Chairman John Thune (SD) and Ranking Member Bill Nelson (FL), approved an 18-month renewal of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and its programs, reporting "The Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2016" (S. 2658) out of committee on March 16.

While the renewal period is relatively short, the Senate panel's legislation, nonetheless, addresses many of the same policy issues included in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's 6-year FAA renewal plan (HR 4441). The notable exception is the Senate leaders purposefully excluded provisions establishing a private, not-for-profit corporation to manage the nation's air traffic control (ATC) system, a central element of the House committee's bill.

Like the House bill, S. 2658 provides for no increase in the cap on Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs), an action which undermines airport capital programs, especially those seeking to undertake major expansions where additional PFC authority is needed to underwrite future capital commitments. The Senate committee-passed bill, similarly, streamlines the rules for using existing PFC authorities.

S. 2658 also raises the authorization for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants, but raises the funding authorization slightly more. The Senate bill raises AIP funding from \$3.35 billion in FY'16 to \$3.75 billion in FY'17, as compared to the \$3.597 billion level for FY'17 in HR 4441.

"Passage of this bipartisan legislation is a win for airline passenger rights, advancing responsible drone usage, boosting the competitiveness of the aerospace industry, and making our skies safer," said Thune. "I look forward to considering these reforms on the Senate floor and building consensus with our colleagues in the House."

"It's really encouraging to see the FAA bill pass and have such bipartisan support," said

Nelson. "There are some good provisions in it that will help consumers and improve drone safety."

## Cities Preempted on Drone Operations

In addressing issues related to Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) or drones, there are specific provisions in S. 2658 pertaining to the broader deployment of commercial drones throughout the U.S., including a broad preemption of state and local authority over how drones might operate inside cities and counties.

Notably, the Senate bill includes provisions that preempt all states and local laws, regulations and requirements relating to the "design, manufacture, testing, licensing, registration, certification, operation and maintenance" of UAS. This same section confirms that states and local governments do have authority to act in other areas, such as nuisance, voyeurism, and property damage, among other areas, provided that "such laws are not specifically related to use of UAS systems for these acts."

The Conference of Mayors joined with the National League of Cities to express concerns about the broad preemption provided for in S. 2658, with the two organizations urging the Senate leaders, Sens. Thune and Nelson, to set aside the preemption language in their legislation. "Specifically, we are writing to express concerns about Section 2142, which largely preempts cities and towns from regulating the operations of UAVs in the future," wrote Conference CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran and NLC CEO and Executive Director Clarence Anthony.

In the March 15, 2016 letter, they wrote, "There simply are no facts that justify this one-size-fits-all preemption of local authorities, as proposed in the legislation. In fact, policymakers, including those at the federal level, do not yet know what the broader use of commercial UAVs means for our cities and towns, and cannot reasonably anticipate the challenges that will arise with the expanded

deployment of UAVs. We do know that it is unreasonable to expect the nation's local leaders to petition the FAA for relief on what are certain to be a myriad of local circumstances and conditions, and to expect FAA staff to opine on such questions, most of which been the exclusive province of local leaders for so many generations."

The preemption language in Section 2142 in the Senate bill is certain to be a dominant concern of state and local government organizations as S. 2658 moves forward in the legislation process, especially floor debate in the full Senate which is expected as early as next month.

With the underlying FAA law due to expire at the end of March, both the House and Senate have already passed legislation extending FAA's programs and authorities through July 15, 2016.

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## DE BLASIO

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day," Turner told the Subcommittee. Commenting that a term like "abandon" may sound like hyperbole, Turner said "for cops in every major American city, I can tell you this is not empty rhetoric. There is no other way to describe the dramatic decreases in DHS support for local police and first responders. DHS funding for the combined grant programs in 2010 was more than \$3 Billion. By 2016, the current fiscal year, it had fallen to half that amount." If Congress were to approve the cuts proposed for the coming year, law enforcement agencies could receive as little as a third of what was once provided by Washington," he continued.



## USCM Co-Presents Congressional Arts Award



Americans for the Arts President and CEO Robert Lynch, U.S. Representative Suzanne Bonamici (OR) and Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Tom Cochran. Each year, USCM and Americans for the Arts present the Congressional Leadership in the Arts Award. This year's honoree, Representative Bonamici, was honored for her work on STEAM. The award was presented at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, prior to the annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy.

### MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL Member Profile

# kivvit

Kivvit is a nationally recognized public affairs and communications firm with offices in Chicago, Miami, New Jersey, New York, and Washington, D.C. We provide communications planning, message development, media relations, content production, and communication delivery services. We help our clients tell their story through the media to achieve their ultimate communications goals – whether that's improving brand recognition and generating new business, advancing a policy goal, or building lasting reputational capital. We have worked on some of the most ambitious and high profile issues, public-private partnerships, real estate developments and land use projects in the country.

Areas of Expertise: Crisis Management and Communications,  
Downtown Development, Energy, Land Use, Media Relations, Utilities Issues

Special Interests:  
Crisis Management, Downtown Development, Energy, Media Relations, Utilities Issues

For more Business Council profiles visit the USCM Website at [usmayors.org/buscouncil](http://usmayors.org/buscouncil)





## USCM CALENDAR

### 2016

Monday, March 28 - Saturday, April 2  
**National Community Development Week**

Contact: Gene Lowe [glowe@usmayors.org](mailto:glowe@usmayors.org)

Thursday, April 14 - Friday, April 15  
**Mayors Water Council Meeting**

Hollywood, FL

Contact: Rich Anderson [randerson@usmayors.org](mailto:randerson@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6795  
Registration Open

Thursday, April 21 - Friday, April 22  
**Workforce Development Council (WDC) Board Meeting**  
Portland, OR

Contact: Ida Mukendi [imukendi@usmayors.org](mailto:imukendi@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6724  
Registration Open to Board Members Only

Friday, June 24 - Monday, June 27  
**84<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Mayors**

Indianapolis, IN

Contact: Carol Edwards [cedwards@usmayors.org](mailto:cedwards@usmayors.org) / 202-293-7330  
Sponsorship: Geri Powell [gpowell@usmayors.org](mailto:gpowell@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6774  
Registration Opens Spring 2016

Friday, June 24 - Saturday, June 25  
**Workforce Development Council (WDC) Board/Annual Conference**  
Indianapolis, IN

Contact: Ida Mukendi [imukendi@usmayors.org](mailto:imukendi@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6724  
Registration Opens Spring 2016

Monday, September 19 - Tuesday, September 20  
**Workforce Development Council (WDC) Board Meeting**  
**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Congressional Forum**

Washington, DC

Contact: Ida Mukendi [imukendi@usmayors.org](mailto:imukendi@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6724  
Registration Opens Summer 2016

### 2017

Tuesday, January 17 - Thursday, January 19  
**85<sup>th</sup> Winter Meeting**

Washington, DC

Contact: Carol Edwards [cedwards@usmayors.org](mailto:cedwards@usmayors.org) / 202-293-7330  
Sponsorship: Geri Powell [gpowell@usmayors.org](mailto:gpowell@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6774  
Registration Opens Fall 2016

Friday, January 20  
**Presidential Inauguration Day**  
Washington, DC

# Congressional Members Request \$3.3 Billion for CDBG

By Eugene T. Lowe

"Dear Colleague" letters in both the House and Senate have called on their appropriation subcommittees to fund the Community Block Grant (CDBG) program at \$3.3 billion in FY2017. The Administration's FY2017 budget would fund CDBG at \$2.8 billion, a \$200 million cut of last year's enacted level of \$3 billion.

Both letters described the more than forty-year program as one defined by its flexibility and tailored to address local needs and priorities. But they say the program has been cut by nearly \$1.4 billion since FY2001 which warrants an increase.

Those members signing the Dear Colleague letters include:

Senate: Leahy, Schatz, Coons, Markey, Warren, Gillibrand, Hirono, Peters, Cardin, Klobuchar, Sanders, Feinstein, Baldwin, Franken, King, Nelson, Stabenow,

Durbin, Manchin, Whitehouse, Cantwell, Booker, Heinrich, Bennet, Murphy, Casey, Kaine, Boxer, Shaheen, Menendez, Brown, Wyden, Warner, Donnelly, Schumer, Merkley, Blumenthal

House: Brady, Barletta, McGovern, King, Fattah, Gibson, Waters, Fudge, Vela, Clay, Nadler, Capuano, Clark, Blumenauer, Holmes-Norton, Vargas, Perlmutter, Levin, Adams, Yarmuth, Neal, Cartwright, Van Hollen, Loebsack, Velaquez, Costa, Bonamici, Tsongas, Keating, DelBene, Takano, Deutch, Moore, Engel, Pocan, Johnson, Welch, Barbara Lee, Beatty, Hinojosa, Larsen, Kennedy, Bishop, Kirkpatrick, Danny Davis, Brownley, Clarke, Corrine Brown, Wilson, Carson, Beyer, Cummings, Higgins, DeLauro, Fitzpatrick, Pingree, Peters, Esty, Eshoo, Quigley, Watson-Coleman, Veasey, Takai, Ellison, Schakowsky, Delaney, Capps, Farr, Pascrell, Plaskett, Ashford, Swalwell,

Chu, Cohen, Robert Scott, Dingell, Smith, Boyle, Henry Johnson, Jr., Hastings, DeFazio, Doyle, Bustos, Polis, Jackson-Lee, Grisham, Larson, Sanchez, Thompson, Huffman, Connolly, Rice, Maloney, Cicil-line, Moulton, Kildee, Cardenas, Lieu, Sires, Conyers, Honda, Carney, Tonko, Castor, Schiff, Richmond, Lipinski, Becerra, Gabbard, Lujan, Edwards, Rangel, Matsui, Frankel, DeSaulni, Cleaver, Heck, Garamendi, Kind, Lofgren, Norcross, Turner, Payne, Costello, Sewell, LoBiondo, Sanchez, Hurd, Courtney, Comstock, Green, Lewis, Murphy, Butterfield, Westerman, Katko, McNerney, Ruppersberger

The letters and signers can be found at :

[http://usmayors.org/documents/CDBG\\_FY17\\_Final.pdf](http://usmayors.org/documents/CDBG_FY17_Final.pdf)

## Apply Now: 2016 National Education Pathways with a Purpose Grant Applications Due March 31

The deadline for submitting U.S. Conference of Mayors/USA Funds 2016 National Education Pathways with a Purpose grant awards applications is March 31, 2016. This is the second year of the multi-year partnership, which promotes innovative programs that prepare students for college and careers.

This year, USA Funds has increased the 2016 National Education Pathways with a Purpose grant award amounts to \$100,000 for the Large City winner; \$40,000 for the Medium City Winner and \$10,000 for the Small City Winner. The winner in each city-size category will be announced during the 84th Annual Conference of Mayors, June 24-27 in Indianapolis.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors and USA Funds encourage you to take this opportunity to tout your success in building programs to support college preparation and long-term career success. Apply for the 2016 National Education Pathways with a Purpose grant awards and your city could win a monetary award to support and/or enhance a successful program that provides education pathways with a purpose of completion and entry into the workplace. The first round application is a 500-word executive summary outlining the application program.



For more information on how to apply please visit <http://www.usmayors.org/pathwayswithapurpose/>. If you need additional information, please contact USCM Program Director Megan Cardiff at (202) 861-6735, or [mcardiff@usmayors.org](mailto:mcardiff@usmayors.org).

# Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf Welcomes the Mayors' Institute on City Design for its 64th National Session

The Mayors' Institute on City Design (MICD) was held in Oakland from February 24-26 for its 64th National Session. Hosted by Mayor Libby Schaaf and the city, the event was attended by Bloomington Mayor John Hamilton; Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia; Nashua Mayor Jim Donchess; Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek; Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve; and Westminster Mayor Herb Atchison. Experts in architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, land use economics, transportation planning, and urban design joined the mayors in the two-and-a-half-day discussions and offered pragmatic advice on how the mayors could approach the design and development challenges facing each of their cities.

The 64th National Session began with tour of Oakland led by Planning Director Rachel Flynn. The tour showcased a number of historic sites and new development projects around the city's vibrant neighborhoods. Later that evening, the opening reception was held at the historic Camron-Stanford House overlooking Lake Merritt, followed by dinner. Mayor Schaaf welcomed participants to Oakland after remarks were made by the MICD Director Trinity Simons and USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran.

Hamilton initiated the design discussions the following morning, presenting on Bloomington's efforts to develop the Switchyard Park, a new linear park south of downtown. The city would like to maximize park access to the adjacent neighborhoods and evaluate land use opportunities around the site. The Resource Team advised the mayor to prioritize funding and implement a housing strategy to ensure equitable development of the park.

Garcia followed with a discussion on a potential development parcel in Long Beach to help the city prepare for an early internal dialogue about the future uses of the site. After an open conversation with the mayor, the Resource Team offered development scenarios and design strategies for each vision, as well as identifying the short- and



From left, The Trust for Public Land Senior Vice President and Director of City Park Development Adrian Benepe; Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve; USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran; MICD Director Trinity Simons; Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia; USCM Managing Director Tom McClimon; Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek; Nashua Mayor Jim Donchess; Supernormal Founder and MIT Media Lab Researcher Elizabeth Christoforetti; Bloomington Mayor John Hamilton; Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf; AECOM Vice President and Landscape Architect Practice Leader Ignacio Bunster-Ossa; TransitCenter Deputy Executive Director Shin-pei Tsay; Westminster Mayor Herb Atchison; University of California, Berkeley Professor Emeritus Allan Jacobs; Land Collective Founding Principal David Rubin; Strategic Economics Founding President Dena Belzer; City of Boulder Senior Urban Designer Sam Assefa; MICD Program Manager Jeff Jamawat.

long-term challenges and opportunities as the city moves forward with the project.

Atchison concluded Thursday's discussions by presenting on Westminster's efforts to develop a new downtown. Emphasizing an incremental development approach to create authenticity and foster a sense of place, the city is seeking recommendations on the phasing plan and "small-lot" strategy. The Resource Team weighed in on the benefits and shortfalls of the proposed development strategies and gave feedback on the site plan and parking.

Donchess commenced the discussions on the final day of the Institute with a presentation on the western gateway to downtown Nashua. Building on the momentum of the new Broad Street Parkway, the city would like to conceptualize a vision for the gateway area using sustainable development practices and looking at new street configurations to promote walkability, transit use, and compact development pattern. The Resource Team encouraged the mayor to set a bigger and broader vision that amplifies the existing open space assets and employs green infrastructure solutions to address

some challenges of the site.

Tornek presented on Pasadena's efforts to re-envision the South Fair Oaks Specific Plan area as a new, large-scale TOD district centered around two mixed-use corridors leading to Old Pasadena. The city is interested in building on the presence of two institutional anchors and the Metro Gold Line station. The Resource Team offered suggestions on the mix of uses for the opportunity sites and recommended urban design strategies that can help strengthen the connection to the light-rail station.

Schieve concluded the Institute by presenting on the revitalization strategy for downtown Reno. The city would like to transform the area by providing student housing, bringing in neighborhood-serving amenities, and drawing a stronger connection to the university located a few blocks north. The Resource Team gave guidance on a key intersection anchored by city-owned properties, using public art and creative placemaking approaches to help inform the

see MICD on page 16

# Secretary Foxx Announces City Finalists for U.S. DOT's "Smart City Challenge"

By Kevin McCarty

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx recently unveiled seven city finalists for his department's "Smart City Challenge," an initiative that challenges mayors and other city leaders to integrate emerging technology into their transportation networks and define what it means to be a Smart City when it comes to transportation.

This U.S. DOT challenge was among the issues Foxx discussed with mayors in January during the Conference's 84th Winter Meeting at the Transportation and Communications Committee session.

Designed to demonstrate what is possible when cities use new technologies to connect their transportation assets, the seven selected cities – Austin, Columbus (OH), Denver, Kansas City (MO), Pittsburgh, Portland (OR), and San Francisco – must now compete to be the challenge finalist, making the winning city eligible to receive up to \$40 million in federal funding over a three-year period.

"The level of excitement and energy the Smart City Challenge has created around the country far exceeded our expectations," said Foxx. "After an overwhelming response – 78 applications total – we chose to select seven finalists instead of five because of their

outstanding potential to transform the future of urban transportation."

Each finalist will now receive a \$100,000 grant to support the development of their complete application, with a variety of technical support provided by U.S. DOT and corporate sponsors at their disposal, to be submitted in May. Secretary Foxx is expected to make the announcement of the final challenge winner sometime in June.

According to a U.S. DOT release, the winning city will be "selected based on their ability to think big, and provide a detailed roadmap on how they will integrate innovative technologies to prototype the future of transportation in their city."

In making the announcement, Foxx also identified additional firms that will be supporting applications by the seven cities and additional resources to the winning city beyond the \$10 million pledged by Vulcan, Inc. to the winning city to incorporate electric vehicle infrastructure into their proposed city of tomorrow.

U.S. DOT's new challenge builds upon the findings of its "Beyond Traffic" study, notably it finding that the U.S. will add more than 70 million



Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx.

over the next 30 years, with cities and their local areas expected to absorb most of this population growth. Integrating new technologies offers opportunities to upgrade existing infrastructure to support this growth. Already, new transportation apps are offering live transit vehicle monitoring and real-time traffic and route planning. In the coming years, smartphones, embedded sensors, and other technologies are expected to generate more data that can be harnessed to help move people and goods more safely and efficiently.

## MICD

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broader revitalization goals.

Joining the mayors at this National Session was a distinguished group of Resource Team members: the City of Boulder Department of Community Sustainability and Planning Senior Urban Designer Sam Assefa; Strategic Economics Founding President Dena Belzer; The Trust for Public Land Senior Vice President and Director of City Park Development Adrian Benepe; AECOM Vice President and Landscape Architecture Practice Leader (Americas) Ignacio Bunster-Os-

sa; Supernormal Founder and MIT Media Lab Researcher Elizabeth Christoforetti; the University of California, Berkeley Professor Emeritus of City Planning Allan Jacobs; LAND COLLECTIVE Founding Principal David Rubin; and TransitCenter Deputy Executive Director and New York City Public Design Commissioner Shin-pei Tsay.

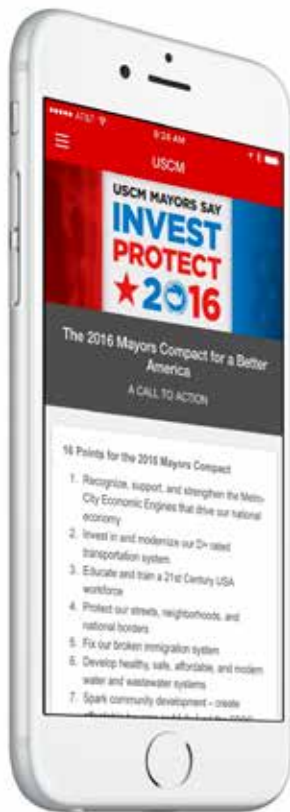
MICD is a leadership initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership

with the American Architectural Foundation and USCM. The 64th National Session was sponsored in part by United Technologies Corporation. Since 1986, MICD has helped transform communities through design by preparing mayors to be the chief urban designers of their cities. MICD conducts several sessions each year. For a list of upcoming events, past participants, or for more information, visit [micd.org](http://micd.org) and follow @MICDdotORG on Twitter.



## Mayors' Institute on City Design





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Duke Energy is the largest electric power holding company in the United States with more than \$100 billion in total assets. Its regulated utility operations serve approximately 7.1 million electric customers located in six states in the Southeast and Midwest. Its commercial power and international business segments own and operate diverse power generation assets in North America and Latin America, including a growing portfolio of renewable energy assets in the United States.

Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Duke Energy is a Fortune 250 company traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DUK. More information about the company is available at: [www.duke-energy.com](http://www.duke-energy.com).

### Special Interests:

Downtown Development, Economic Development, Education, Energy, Environment, Infrastructure, Real Estate, Small Business Development, Utilities Issues

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# 84th Annual Conference of Mayors Indianapolis, Indiana

June 24 - 27, 2016

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U.S. CONFERENCE  
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