



# U.S. MAYOR

Register: Water Council Meeting in DC on April 30-May 1 . . . 6

Apply Now: Mayors Climate Protection Awards . . . . . 14

Garcetti Hosts Mayors Institute on City Design . . . . . 16

## Mayors, Other Local Government Groups Raise Concerns Over Administration's Definition of "Waters of the U.S."

### Congress Responds

By Judy Sheahan

The issue of defining "Waters of the U.S." is moving on multiple fronts in Washington (DC) with the Administration and the Legislative Branch at odds over what is considered water and therefore subject to Clean Water Act regulations.

The Conference of Mayors joined with the National League

of Cities, National Association of Counties, and four other organizations in a joint letter to outline concerns about the proposed rule. The organizations asked for the rule to be modified and reissued with an additional comment period, and, if that isn't done, they have asked for the proposal to be withdrawn and resubmitted once those issues are addressed.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) sent their final rule, without the addi-

**See WATERS OF US on page 12**

**MAYORS TRANSPORTATION LOBBY DAY • MAY 13 • CAPITOL HILL**

*See Story on Page 3*

## Conference of Mayors Signs New Agreement with Francophone Mayors

By Paul Leroux

Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu met with French-speaking mayors from around the world during the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF) conference in New Orleans on March 31 to solidify cross-cultural relationships. Building on mutual desire to establish a collaborative relationship, Cochran and Landrieu held extensive talks and signed a memorandum of understanding with AIMF President and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo and AIMF Executive Director Pierre Baillet.

The two organizations agreed to formalize cooperation, work toward the exchange of information, and participate in each other's activities. Based in Paris, the AIMF includes member cit-



Photo by New Orleans staff

**Left to right, AIMF Executive Director Pierre Baillet, USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, and AIM President Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo sign a memorandum of understanding in New Orleans on March 31.**

**See AIMF on page 4**



**April 17, 2015  
Washington (DC)**

This week, a political breakthrough came here in Washington when the Senate Finance Committee Chair Orrin Hatch and Ranking Democratic Senator Ron Wyden agreed to a compromise trade bill. Introduced on Thursday of this week, this legislation is backed by President Obama since he needs fast track authority to end up with the passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). This agreement involves Japan, Vietnam, and twelve other nations.

President Obama has an interesting situation before him. He will have some strong Republican support; he will have some strong Democratic opposition. And Big Labor and Big Business will go to war over this deal.

The ink was barely dry on the bill before New York Senator Charles Schumer, emerging to be the strongest contender for Senate Minority Leader, quipped to the press, "I don't believe in these agreements anymore. I've changed." He has supported trade bills over the years. And his comments are early in this game.

The Obama team cites the strong labor and environmental rules within the agreement to alleviate concerns expressed by labor leaders and activist environmental groups.

No doubt, as the debate goes forward, 2016 presidential candidates, due to labor swing states, will be forced to weigh in and this will be a part of the national conversation and debate.

In 1993, the mayors were all over the place with President Clinton when he won passage of the NAFTA trade agreement with Mexico and Canada.

As to today's mayors, the White House has posted statements of support from mayors Bell of Birmingham, Stanton of Phoenix, Liccardo of San Jose, Garcia

of Long Beach, Cabaldon of West Sacramento, Buckhorn of Tampa, Kriseman of St. Petersburg, Gillum of Tallahassee, Reed of Atlanta, Fischer of Louisville, Landrieu of New Orleans, Rawlings-Blake of Baltimore, Coleman of Columbus Ohio, Doyle of Beaverton, Nutter of Philadelphia, Dean of Nashville, Parker of Houston, Rawlings of Dallas, Taylor of San Antonio, and Strickland of Tacoma. This helpful information was posted to The White House IGA website by our friend Jerry E. Abramson, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at The White House, on April 15, the day the deal was reached. See [whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/04/14/what-theyre-saying-mayors-across-country-endorse-president-obama-s-trade-agenda](http://whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/04/14/what-theyre-saying-mayors-across-country-endorse-president-obama-s-trade-agenda) – this gives you an idea as to what mayors are saying and how mayors are already involved in this debate. The statements, according to the website, came from a "variety of forms including press calls and local events."

Conference President Kevin Johnson appointed Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to Chair our Task Force on Trade, and appointed Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown to Chair our Ports and Exports Task Force. Earlier this year, we held a conference call task force meeting for these two groups.

At our Winter Meeting U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman attended and was completely engaged with mayors on his efforts and activities. We also joined with him again in the White House in a forum where Atlanta Mayor Reed and Philadelphia Mayor Nutter voiced strong backing for President Obama and Trade Representative Froman as they move forward.

Mayors will no doubt be drawn into this national debate even more as Washington fine-tunes the agreement. There will be strong pressure on many of our mayors from all the conflicting groups within our cities.

Two months from now, we assemble in San Francisco. Many are telling our leadership that it will all be settled before we get to San Francisco and that the trade

**See COCHRAN on page 3**



**U.S. MAYOR**

**Publisher,  
Editor-in-Chief  
Tom Cochran**

ISSN 1049-2119

**Managing Editor:**  
Ed Somers

**Contributing Editors**

David W. Burns  
Debra DeHaney-Howard  
David Gatton  
Larry Jones  
Kathryn Kretschmer-Weyland  
Eugene Lowe  
Kevin McCarty  
Tom McClimon  
Geri Powell  
Judy Sheahan  
Crystal Swann  
Elena Temple-Webb  
Laura DeKoven Waxman  
Jim Welfley  
Kathy Wiggins

Produced by Wendy L Wilkerson  
Proofreader: Paul Leroux

Advertising information:

<http://usmayors.org/usmayornewspaper>  
[advertise@usmayors.org](mailto:advertise@usmayors.org)

U.S. MAYOR (ISSN 1049-2119) is published semi-monthly except for August, September and December by The United States Conference of Mayors, 1620 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006-4005.

Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director.

E-mail address changes to:  
[usmayor@usmayors.org](mailto:usmayor@usmayors.org)

Subscription: <http://usmayors.org/usmayornewspaper/>  
[usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org)

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Please e-mail address corrections to [usmayor@usmayors.org](mailto:usmayor@usmayors.org)  
No telephone calls please.



**COCHRAN**  
from page 2

bill will be done. However, if the schedule slips, we could have this issue before us then as we, as an organization, do not have a policy position on the deal that went down yesterday.

### **Transportation Lobby Day / May 12-13**

National organizations are coming together the week of May 11 to demand Congress pass a transportation bill. Transportation issues dominated the recent Cities of Opportunities Task Force Meeting in Boston. New York City Mayor de Blasio led the discussion and called for a mobilization of mayors to stand up, come to Washington and help push Congress off the deadlock of recent years concerning the bipartisan issue of having a strong infrastructure of safe bridges, roads, and mass transit.

The issue is fraught with a number of mayors and other groups being very concerned that if we just "increase the pie" with more federal money for highways and roads, we cannot assure that our needs will be met in two very important ways.

First, if you increase the pie, giving more money just for roads, much-needed in the rural areas, without providing funds to our metro areas with heavy traffic, you do nothing to alleviate the stress of the overwhelming majority of Americans living in the metro areas who are dealing with traffic issues each day.

Second, if you increase the pie for transportation, many are concerned that our key initiatives such as CDBG, food programs, COPS funding and others may be cut.

In the House we are supporting

Chairman Shuster, the leading Republican on transportation who has been with us at most of our meetings and who is sincerely negotiating with his fellow Republicans to garner enough votes from his side of the aisle. But it's tough for him because some Members of Congress were elected to go to Washington to reduce spending and not raise taxes – even if they are part of having a safe and strong transportation system.

Mayors have met with Republican Leader McConnell and others in the Senate. The Majority Leader is asking about how the program will be funded.

President Obama's position on funding, aggressively pursued by Transportation Secretary Foxx, would have some funding come from the repatriation of foreign profits earned by U.S. companies.

There are some that have taken a strong position to increase the gas tax at the pump to fund our national transportation needs. A strong and early voice for raising the gas tax for transportation has been Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donahue. The National Association of Counties sent a letter to Speaker Boehner supporting a gas tax increase for transportation funding. The National League of Cities has policy supporting an increase of the gas tax, which contains conditions that the funding is to be sent down to local governments. The United States Conference of Mayors, our organization, has no policy on the increase of gas taxes at the pump in 2015. It would take a vote by our Executive Committee or a resolution adopted in June at our business session in San Francisco.

We are calling on mayors to come to Washington (DC) May 12 to 13. You received a notice late last week and more information will be sent soon.

### **Bike Summit**

We are very proud of our Bike Summit, to be held in Madison, Wisconsin – the first one ever for us! Mayors are signing up. Madison Mayor Paul Soglin is leading the summit and he has gained support for this initiative that has come a long way in just a few years. Bike usage in American cities is growing, not just as

sport and recreation, but also as an alternative way to every day and weekend travel for city dwellers.

So, register now and be with us May 13 - 15, see the flyer postcard notice we sent you. Contact Kevin McCarty at 202-861-6728 / [kmccarty@usmayors.org](mailto:kmccarty@usmayors.org) for further information.

### **San Francisco – June 19 to 22 83rd Annual Meeting**

Our 83rd Annual Meeting is two months away. Mayor Ed Lee, our host, released this week the host activities already planned for you to see. See our website at [usmayors.org/83rdAnnualMeeting/](http://usmayors.org/83rdAnnualMeeting/) to see for yourself the incredible array of special events that will take place just for you as you come to our Annual Meeting this June.

Working with President Kevin Johnson, we will provide productive and meaningful sessions for all during the substantive part of our Annual Meeting program. We work hard to make sure you can come to our meetings for innovations and the very best practices that you can have as take-aways when you go back to your home city. More to come on the great meeting ahead for all of us.

Register now. Online at [usmayors.org/83rdAnnualMeeting/](http://usmayors.org/83rdAnnualMeeting/) or contact Carol Edwards at [cedwards@usmayors.org](mailto:cedwards@usmayors.org) or 202-293-7330.

San Francisco is the place you need to be June 19 to 22.



# Mayors Headed to Washington to Push for Multi-Year Surface Transportation Renewal

With the nation's surface transportation law (MAP-21) set to expire on May 31, it is critical that mayors continue to work with their Congressional delegations to push for a multi-year surface transportation renewal law that provides increased funding and a greater share of resources directly to local areas.

As announced during the Cities of Opportunity Task Force Meeting in Boston last month, Conference of Mayors Leadership is calling mayors to Washington (DC) to participate in Infrastructure Week events that help focus attention on the need for a long-term surface transportation renewal law that increases funding and local control.

Mayors will converge on Capitol Hill on May 13 to meet with their Con-

gressional delegations and convey the urgency for action.

Mayoral engagement in Infrastructure Week activities will build on the work that many mayors did in their cities on April 9 to support Stand Up for Transportation Day in conjunction with the American Public Transportation Association.

Congressional leaders are working to find additional revenues to fund another extension – expected to run through September 30 or December 31 – providing for transportation funding continuity and, importantly, another window of opportunity for Congress to complete action on a long-term surface transportation renewal that helps meet our infrastructure needs. To take full advantage of this next extension, mayoral efforts will continue to focus

in the coming weeks and throughout the summer on securing final Congressional action on this critical legislation. This law will provide about \$40 billion in federal resources each year for investments in highway, street, bridge and road safety and another \$10 billion for public transit.



## AIMF from page 1

ies from Africa, Asia, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, and Oceania.

In addition to meeting with Hidalgo and Baillet, Cochran and Landrieu took part in a bilateral meeting with Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre and addressed the opening plenary session of the New Orleans meeting.

"I am pleased to establish this relationship between the USCM and the AIMF. The Conference [of Mayors] has a long history of involvement in international relations and we have to learn from each other.

This is the century of cities," said Cochran. In his remarks, Cochran also emphasized the strong history of French-U.S. relations, beginning with the American Revolution and continuing through the present day.

"We are joined together through our culture, through our music, through our food, through our history," said Landrieu in a press conference. "Although we live in different nations, the walls of those nations do not separate us but give us an opportunity as mayors to solve some of the most difficult problems. It is true that premiers and presidents can sign treaties and declare wars, but it also true that mayors can do everything else." Many of those assembled looked to the inaugural ses-

sions of the Global Parliament of Mayors in October, as well as the COP 21 climate change summit, which Paris will be hosting in December, as opportunities to work together across national boundaries.

U.S. mayoral delegates at the AIMF conference included Alexandria (LA) Mayor Jacques Roy, Bloomington (IL) Mayor Tari Renner, Davenport Mayor Bill Gluba, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Denham Springs Mayor Gerard Landry, Lake Charles Mayor Randy Roach, Mandeville Mayor Donald J. Villere, and Ville Platte Mayor Jennifer Vidrine. The AIMF sought these cities out based on their French heritage.



# Chicago, Madison, Las Vegas Highlight Another Round of Mayoral Elections

By David W. Burns

A round of high-profile mayoral elections recently took place across the United States with results in many cities, including Chicago, Las Vegas, and Madison (WI).

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel defeated Cook County Commissioner Jesús “Chuy” García in their runoff on April 7 with 55.7 percent of the vote. The two faced off after neither candidate received more than 50 percent of the vote during the general election on February 24.

Madison (WI) Mayor Paul Soglin will serve another term after defeating Alder Scott Resnick in the city’s April 7 runoff election. Soglin won with 72 percent of the vote. Fellow Wisconsin mayors Jim Schmitt of Green Bay and John Dickert of Racine also won their bids for reelection.

Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman won her reelection bid as well with 55 percent of the vote in the April 7 primary. She avoided a runoff by capturing more than 50 percent.

In Monrovia, preliminary election returns have current Woman Mayors Chair Mayor Mary Ann Lutz behind Councilman Tom Adams by 186 votes. Vote-by-mail ballots and provisional ballots will be counted on April 23 with final results due shortly after.

There are many cities with new mayors elected into office, including Wichita, where Councilmember Jeff Longertl won his bid on April 7. He was sworn in on April 14. Fort Collins elected Wade Troxell with 59 percent of the vote as he sought his first term as mayor.

For a complete listing of election results throughout the year, visit the website [usmayors.org/elections](http://usmayors.org/elections).



**Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel**



**Madison (WI) Mayor Paul Soglin**

Photo by Stuart Levitan



**Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman**



**Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmitt**

# MAYORS WATER COUNCIL

**The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages all mayors  
to attend the Mayors Water Council Meeting  
in Washington (DC)  
April 30 – May 1**

**Mayors Water Council Co-Chairs  
Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
and  
Indianapolis Mayor Gregory A. Ballard**

***Cordially invite you\* to join the Mayors Water Council discussions on:***

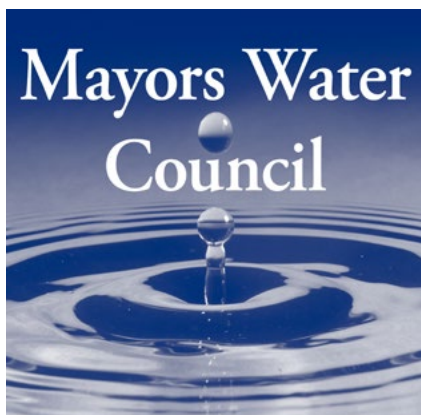
- Integrated Planning and EPA Regions
- Public Water Affordability Dialogue
- Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Financing, and P3s
- Water Supply, Conservation, and Recycling
- Legislative and Regulatory Review
- Water System Efficiency Best Practices

**Beacon Hotel  
1615 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington (DC) 20036  
Telephone Number: 202-296-2100  
Toll Free: 800-821-4367**

Registration materials will be posted on the website

**[usmayors.org/mwcdc](http://usmayors.org/mwcdc)**

\* If you cannot attend,  
consider sending your water or public works  
staff to participate.



**Meeting Begins  
2 pm, April 30  
Concludes  
12 pm, May 1**



# April 2015 Is Dollarwise Month

The U.S. Conference of Mayors DollarWise Campaign has announced that April is DollarWise Month. This year's DollarWise Month theme is "Be DollarWise With Your Tax Refund."

Among the many cities participating - Akron, Alexandria (VA), Boston, Hialeah, Jacksonville, Kansas City (MO), Lake Charles, Lansing, Louisville, Northglenn, Pembroke Pines, and Washington (DC) will be launching events and initiatives to financially empower residents.

There is still time for your city to participate. To register and learn more about DollarWise Month, please fill out the online form ([here](#)).



## DOLLARWISE

MAYORS FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY

Two helpful resources include: [Better Money Habits.com](#), an online financial education tool developed with the Khan Academy; and [Spent: Looking for Change](#), a documentary that addresses the dangers of payday lending.

For questions on how to register and participate, contact DollarWise Manager James Kirby by e-mail at [jkirby@usmayors.org](mailto:jkirby@usmayors.org) or by phone at 202-861-6759.

## Something to Consider for Retirement

When you think about saving and investing for retirement, what comes to mind? Chances are that the first couple of questions you likely ask yourself are:

- How much do I need to contribute to my workplace savings plan to have a comfortable income when I'm no longer working?
- What fund options are available to me and which one should I choose to create the best investment strategy for my unique needs?

Those are good questions to be sure. And they focus on what is often referred to as the accumulation phase of your savings and investing strategy. It's certainly the phase that gets the most attention because that's where your hard work and commitment to your own future will really pay off.

But what about the fun part? You know, like how are you going to spend the money you've set aside for all those years? Of course, it can't be a free-for-all because you don't want to run out money. And once you've retired, you'll still have some regular monthly bills, a budget for

groceries and other expenses to cover.

That's where a guaranteed income investment option can come in handy. This type of investment is designed to protect a portion of your retirement savings account and provide you with a set monthly income amount — for life.

Typically, this is something people consider investing in when they get about ten years away from their expected retirement date. It's a way to ensure that a market decline — especially a significant one — doesn't deplete your savings at a time in your career when you don't have much time left to make up for those losses.

More and more people have an interest in guaranteed investment options. In fact, 74 percent of people have shown some level of interest in this type of solution. And more than 75 percent of people say they would feel more secure about their retirement income if they had an guaranteed income investment option available to them.

So when you ask yourself how you're going to reach your retirement goals, don't forget to think about what you're going



to do once you get there. The way you'll spend your money is just as important as how you save and invest it along the way.

This article is provided by Empower Retirement™. The U.S. Conference of Mayors and Empower have a platinum partnership that provides retirement services to Conference of Mayors members. For more information about guaranteed investment options, contact Jeff Bean with The U.S. Conference of Mayors at 202-302-6944 or Don Jurgens with Empower Retirement at 303-737-3370.





# Dallas Wins 2015 Garden and Green Spaces Award with La Bajada Urban Youth Farm

By Joan Crigger

The La Bajada Urban Youth Farm in West Dallas began its journey April 7 to become a three-acre working urban farm as part of the ScottsMiracle-Gro Company's and The U.S. Conference of Mayors' nationwide GRO1000 gardens and green spaces program. La Bajada will serve as a community green space and gathering place for the West Dallas neighborhood. It will include a commercial kitchen, storage, office space, an outdoor classroom, and a little league athletic field. An educational and training program for area youth also will be included at the farm. The area youth will be employed as paid interns giving them work experience on a team and in an environmental stewardship setting.

During the dedication ceremony, Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings said, "We are delighted that The U.S. Conference of Mayors and ScottsMiracle-Gro have chosen the Urban Youth Farm as a GRO1000 site in the La Bajada community. As we showed when we hosted The U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Summer Meeting last June, big things are happening



**Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, center, helping Bill Dawson from the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Columbus (OH) plant a peach tree at the dedication of the La Bajada Urban Youth Farm.**

in Dallas, and it all begins with thriving neighborhoods. The La Bajada Urban Youth Farm shows that great things can happen when we work together."

The University of Texas at Arlington

School of Architecture, with the West Dallas Community Centers, Paul Quinn College, the city of Dallas, community schools and private donors determined that a community-centric project was needed to allay the concerns and fears of residents immediately in the wake of a new corridor project that was part of a long-term, strategic district revitalization effort.

GRO1000 is a national program launched by ScottsMiracle-Gro in 2011 to create more than 1,000 community gardens and green spaces in the U.S., Canada and Europe by 2018. The U.S. Conference of Mayors partnered with ScottsMiracle-Gro on the GRO1000 initiative to recognize mayors for the installation of innovative public green spaces designed to improve our nation's cities.

This year's winning cities include Dallas, Hartford, Rochester (NY) and West Sacramento. For more information, visit the website [usmayors.org/gro1000](http://usmayors.org/gro1000).



**Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings announcing the \$40,000 grant award from The U.S. Conference of Mayors and ScottsMiracle-Gro at the dedication of the La Bajada Urban Youth Farm.**



# Benefits Communication Can Improve Your City's Budget

By Carey Adamson, Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company

In today's economy, a strong budget is more important than ever for your city. But many municipal leaders overlook an untapped resource that can drive results: benefits communication.

Why is benefits communication and education so important? To manage your budget in the best way possible, your city needs satisfied, productive employees — and employees consistently rate benefits as one of the key factors influencing their job satisfaction. So when you can improve the benefits communication process and its results, you stand to gain a competitive edge in retaining and recruiting quality employees.

Yet there's a significant communications gap in most workplaces. Nearly all employees (98 percent) in a 2013 Colonial Life-Harris Interactive poll said it's important to understand their benefits. But only a third (34 percent) of employees whose employers offer benefits say they understand their benefits very well — and seven percent don't understand them well at all.

## Close the Gap at No Cost

The good news is you may be able to easily close this communications gap at little to no direct cost to your city's employees by taking advantage of the resources of your benefits provider. Top voluntary benefits partners can take the burden off your limited staff to deliver effective, consistent benefits communication that helps your employees understand their benefits and make the best choices for their individual needs.

Here are some of the best practices in benefits communication:

- **One-to-one support.** A one-size-fits-all approach to benefits communication no longer works. Insurance is complex, and relying on self-education or technology alone isn't realistic. Having access to a trained benefits specialist who personalizes the decision-making

experience for employees can create real satisfaction. Employees appreciate having someone help them understand all the terminology and choices, as well as give them the confidence they need to make good decisions for their families.

- **Multiple employee touch points.** Give employees multiple options to enhance benefits communication. Some basic methods you should offer include one-to-one meetings, group meetings and Internet or self-enroll methods. Supplement these methods with online resources, printed benefits booklets, printed enrollment guides and interactive multimedia tools.
- **Interactivity.** Today's benefits communication and education involves more than just developing a message and delivering it. It's about creating employee participation. Using tools such as workbooks and interactive needs analysis helps create true engagement and participation.
- **Convenience.** Providing tools to give access to employees throughout the year, not just at annual enrollment, is important. The use of corporate portals, for example, has become increasingly popular, giving workers easy, 24/7 access to a wide range of web-based benefits information they can use year-round at their convenience.
- **Year-round communication.** No one's life is static, and benefits communication shouldn't be either. Think about your new employees and employees who experience life changes throughout the year, such as marriage, retirement or the birth of a child. You need a way to keep up the communications efforts year-round.

With the right voluntary benefits partner and enrollment strategy, you can implement a strong benefits communication and education program that will help you realize competitive advantages — including a happier, more engaged and more productive staff.



**Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company Vice President of Public Sector Market Services Carey Adamson.**

## About the Author

Carey Adamson is Vice President of Public Sector Market Services for Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company.

Colonial Life is a market leader in providing financial protection benefits through the workplace, including disability, life, accident, cancer, critical illness and hospital confinement indemnity insurance. The company's benefit services and education, innovative enrollment technology and personal service support more than 80,000 businesses and organizations, representing more than 3 million of America's workers and their families. For more information about Colonial Life's products and services, contact Adamson at [CLAdamson@ColonialLife.com](mailto:CLAdamson@ColonialLife.com) or visit [www.ColonialLife.com](http://www.ColonialLife.com).

You may also connect with Colonial Life at [www.facebook.com/coloniallife-benefits](https://www.facebook.com/coloniallife-benefits), [www.twitter.com/coloniallife](https://www.twitter.com/coloniallife) and [www.linkedin.com/company/colonial-life](https://www.linkedin.com/company/colonial-life).

# U.S. Communities: Gold Standard for Cooperative Purchasing

There are a lot of purchasing cooperatives out there these days, but The U.S. Conference of Mayors sponsors only one — U.S. Communities. What differentiates U.S. Communities from other regional and national programs? The answer lies in these key differentiators.



## Lead Public Agency Model

U.S. Communities initiated the use of a lead public agency as its model from its first contract offering in 1998. Each contract offered by the program has been publicly solicited by a large lead public agency on behalf of all other local and state agencies in the United States.

## Public Agency Oversight Model

U.S. Communities provides program oversight and compliance with professional public procurement standards through its advisory board. The board consists of 28 public procurement professionals representing cities, counties, schools, higher education and state government. Each member serves a three-year term. Each appointed member must have the authorization of its public jurisdiction to serve.

## Lowest Cost to Government Commitment

Prior to the award of a contract to a supplier, the supplier must agree to specific terms and conditions. A key com-

mitment is that the offering is the lowest-priced offering the supplier provides to the government sector.

## Program Audits

U.S. Communities provides internal and third-party audits of the contracts on the program. Each year, several contracts are audited by a third-party independent auditing firm for compliance with contract pricing, terms and conditions.

## Significant Savings

All U.S. Communities contracts are offered without fees or costs to participating public agencies and nonprofit organizations. Registration is free, and public agencies are not required to commit to minimum amounts of purchasing. Agencies can use the program as frequently or as little as they desire.

Today more than 55,000 registered agencies, education institutions and nonprofits utilize U.S. Communities contracts to procure more than 1.8 billion dollars in products and services annually.

Each month more than 600 new participants register their organization to simplify their procurement process. This continuing growth is fueled by the program's proven track record of delivering excellence in procurement solutions.

## Professional Association Sponsorship

U.S. Communities was co-founded as a public benefit cooperative to assist public agencies in procuring goods and services on a cooperative basis. Its co-founders include the Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities and the Association of School Business Officials.

For 17 years, U.S. Communities has provided significant hard-dollar savings on commodities and services, as well as soft-dollar savings on avoided administrative costs to public agencies nationwide.

For more information on U.S. Communities, contact Kathryn Kretschmer-Weyland at 301-460-5251 or [kweyland@usmayors.org](mailto:kweyland@usmayors.org)

## SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS!

***We know you have good news to share about your mayor or a unique local program. Tell us about it so other cities can learn from your success!***

***Send your press releases and photos for U.S. Mayor newspaper to***

***USCM Public Affairs Office:***

***[etemple@usmayors.org](mailto:etemple@usmayors.org)***

***202-861-6719***



By Laura DeKoven Waxman

More than 70 cities and counties, The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities joined together in a friend-of-the-court brief filed April 7 with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in the *Texas vs. United States* lawsuit, urging immediate implementation of President Obama's executive action on immigration.

The brief is intended to demonstrate strong support by local governments across the nation for the President's reforms, which would provide temporary relief from deportation to immigrants with longstanding ties to the U.S. who pass a background check and meet other criteria. It argues that the District Court judge who blocked implementation of the programs failed to consider the significant harms to America's local governments caused by this delay. The brief argues further that the District Court judge's decision to block executive action with a preliminary

# Conference of Mayors Joins Mayors of New York, Los Angeles, More Than 70 Other Cities, Counties in Amicus Brief Supporting Executive Action on Immigration Reform

nary injunction is bad for the economy, hurts families, threatens law enforcement priorities, and will stall desperately needed changes to the federal government's immigration policies.

Working through Cities United for Immigration Action, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti led the effort to prepare the brief and get the 73 cities and counties on board, along with the Conference of Mayors and the League. The Conference of Mayors assisted with outreach to mayors.

## Among mayors' comments on the brief:

**New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio:** "Continuing to delay implementation of the President's executive action on immigration hurts our economy and puts families at risk. Cities are where immigrants live, and cities are where the President's executive action will be successfully implemented. Our cities are united, and we will fight for the immigration reform this nation needs and deserves – whether in the courtroom, in Congress, or in our

See REFORM on page 12

## The cities and counties that signed on to the brief are:

Alexandria (VA)  
Allentown (PA)  
Atlanta (GA)  
Austin (TX)  
Baltimore (MD)  
Bell (CA)  
Boston (MA)  
Bridgeport (CT)  
Buffalo (NY)  
Cambridge (MA)  
Central Falls (RI)  
Chapel Hill (NC)  
Charleston (SC)  
Chicago (IL)  
Coconino County (AZ)  
Columbia (SC)

Columbus (OH)  
Dallas County (TX)  
Dayton (OH)  
Denver, CO  
Dolton (IL)  
El Paso County (TX)  
Everett (MA)  
Gary (IN)  
Haledon (NJ)  
Hartford (CT)  
Highland Park (IL)  
Hoboken (NJ)  
Holyoke (MA)  
Houston (TX)  
Jersey City (NJ)  
Kansas City (MO)  
Little Rock (AR)  
Los Angeles (CA)  
Los Angeles County (CA)

Lucas County (OH)  
Madison (WI)  
Milwaukee (WI)  
Minneapolis (MN)  
Montgomery County (MD)  
Newark (NJ)  
New York (NY)  
Niagara Falls (NY)  
North Miami (FL)  
Oakland (CA)  
Paterson (NJ)  
Philadelphia (PA)  
Pittsburgh (PA)  
Plainfield (NJ)  
Portland, OR  
Providence (RI)  
Racine (WI)  
Ramsey County (MN)  
Rochester (NY)

Salt Lake City, UT  
San Francisco (CA)  
San Jose (CA)  
Santa Ana (CA)  
Santa Cruz County (AZ)  
Santa Fe (NM)  
Santa Monica (CA)  
Schenectady (NY)  
Seattle (WA)  
Skokie (IL)  
St. Louis (MO)  
State College (PA)  
Syracuse (NY)  
Tacoma (WA)  
Tampa (FL)  
Travis County (TX)  
Washington (DC)  
West Covina (CA)  
Yonkers (NY)





## WATERS OF US

from page 1

tional comment period, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on April 3. They hope OMB will publish the rule and make it final.

Meanwhile, both the House and Senate have introduced or will be introducing bills that would withdraw the rule from becoming final and directs EPA and the Corps to redraft the rule and specifically consult with local and state government and address concerns raised by those entities.

The issues raised in the local government letter included overarching concerns such as the lack of adequate consultation with local and state organizations and inadequate economic analysis on the impact of the new rule. Specific concerns were also raised over how the rule would impact green infrastructure, water delivery and reuse systems, waste treatment systems, and public safety ditches to name a few. Particularly troubling in the rule



was the lack of definitions such as "tributary," "floodplain," "significant nexus," "adjacent," and "neighboring," which the organizations felt could be interpreted in a variety of ways unless properly defined and would result in additional and varied court interpretations.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee marked up and passes their bill on April 15, calling it the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act of 2015 (H.R. 1731) and hope to bring it to the floor possibly the week of April 20. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is also working on a bipartisan bill that they hope to introduce that same week and move quickly through

committee and to the floor. And while the Senate bill will be bipartisan, it is unclear as to whether the bill would garner the 66 votes that would be necessary to override a potential Presidential veto.

The Conference of Mayors passed policy on this issue at the 82nd Annual Meeting in Dallas, the *Resolution to Ensure that Municipal Concerns Are Addressed in Clean Water Act Regulations, Including the Definition of "Waters of the U.S."*. To download a copy of the resolution, go to the website [usmayors.org/resolutions/82nd\\_Conference/env12.asp](http://usmayors.org/resolutions/82nd_Conference/env12.asp)

## REFORM

from page 11

communities. Make no mistake about it: our voices will be heard."

**Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti:** "We are steadfast on a concrete immigration policy that will keep families intact and the country's economic prosperity on the rise. This is a nonpartisan issue that should focus on people and not politics."

**Houston Mayor Annise Parker,** Chair of the Conference of Mayors Criminal

and Social Justice Committee: "In Houston, more than 200,000 adults and children are waiting for the President's immigration order to be implemented. I remain confident that this will be only a temporary delay, but while we wait, confusion and frustration are growing. It's long past time to allow all eligible law-abiding immigrants to come out of the shadows and be recognized as legally documented participants and contributors to our economy and society."

**Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra,** Co-Chair of the Conference of Mayors Immi-

gration Reform Task Force: "It's only common sense to bridge a gap between our government agencies and a segment of the population that already lives here and contributes to our communities and local economies. Why not embrace a policy that would fully integrate undocumented immigrants and at the same time bolster the country's economy? I'm confident the President's executive action will prevail and I look forward to implementing its measures in Hartford."



By Kevin McCarty

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx recently released details of the application rules for the seventh round of Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) funding, providing \$500 million during this fiscal year to support innovative local transportation projects.

"The TIGER program has funded innovative projects, sparked new partnerships, created intermodal connections and enabled hard-to-fund projects that are changing the face of communities all across the country," said Foxx. "We are excited to kick off this year's competition."

Joining Foxx for the April 2 announcement was Conference of Mayors Second Vice President Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett who briefed participants on the release phone call about his successes in using previous TIGER grant awards to advance city transportation priorities. In TIGER round 5, Oklahoma City received

# U.S. DOT Announces New TIGER Grant Round to Further Advance Innovative Local Transportation Solutions



\$13.6 million for its intermodal transportation hub to support renovation of the Santa Fe Depot to reinstate space for Amtrak passenger rail service and provide access for future local rail transit services.

"The TIGER grant enabled the city of Oklahoma City to leverage existing state and local funding to create a long-range vision for multi-modal transportation in OKC," said Cornett. "The grant allowed us to extend our vision of public transit in a way that will benefit our residents for decades to come."

Foxx's statement emphasized that TIGER 2015 grants will competitively fund capital investments in surface transportation that will have a significant impact on the nation, a region, or a metropolitan area, provide significant and measurable improvements over existing conditions, and generate economic development and improve access to reliable, safe and affordable transportation for communities, both urban and rural. A minimum of 20 percent of funds will fund projects in rural areas.

Since 2009, \$4.1 billion in TIGER grants have been awarded to 342 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The Secretary's release indicates that the previous six rounds have generated more than 6,000 applications, totaling more than \$124 billion in proposed transportation project investment across the country.

Foxx also explains in his statement that this demand for funding is why the Administration has requested \$7.5 billion in funding over six years in TIGER funding in its MAP-21 renewal proposal, called the GROW AMERICA Act.

Pre-Applications for this new round of TIGER funding are due on May 4, 2015. Final applications are due June 5, 2015. For more information on how to apply online, go to the website [www.dot.gov/TIGER](http://www.dot.gov/TIGER).

## KEY APPLICATION DATES!

### MAY 4

- Pre-applications due

### JUNE 5

- Final applications due

### Details at

[www.dot.gov/TIGER](http://www.dot.gov/TIGER)

# Walsh Establishes One Boston Day

By Ed Somers

April 15 marked two years since the tragic bombings that took place during the Boston Marathon in 2013. To help honor the victims of that terrible event, and support the resilience of the people of Boston, Mayor Martin J. Walsh launched a new effort and website called One Boston Day.

The website was designed to help individuals, businesses and community organizations share how they are marking One Boston Day on social media using the hashtag #OneBostonDay. The U.S. Conference of Mayors and mayors across the nation expressed their support for this effort on April 15 through tweets of encouragement and remembrance.

"One Boston Day will inspire all of us to come together as the community we are and share the spirit of Boston by giving back," said Walsh in launching the initiative. "April 15 is a date that has come to stand for our city's deepest values. I hope everyone can mark this day in a way that is appropriate and inclusive for each of our experiences." One Boston Day will encourage random



Photo by Jeremiah Robinson

**Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh joins the family of Martin Richard to unveil an honorary banner at the site of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing.**

acts of kindness and spreading goodwill. This new tradition came in response to the desire expressed by many survivors to pass on the kindness, generosity and support they received following the 2013 Boston Marathon.

Walsh assisted in raising honorary banners on Boylston Street on April 15 to

honor the victims and survivors of April 15, 2013 and the days following. The city held a moment of silence at 2:49 p.m. April 15 to mark the two-year anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombings, and then church bells rang throughout the city.

Sponsored by **The United States Conference of Mayors** and **Walmart**

## 2015 Mayors' Climate Protection Awards

We invite you to apply for the 9th Annual Mayors' Climate Protection Awards to be announced in San Francisco, CA during the Friday, June 19 Climate Awards Luncheon at The United States Conference of Mayors 83rd Annual Meeting, June 19-22, 2015.

**We encourage all mayors to apply today!**

- Applicants should describe an outstanding and/or innovative program (in 500 words or less) that your city government has developed, either recently or in the past. The program must be one currently operating.
- All applications are reviewed by panel of judges.
- Every Conference member is eligible to apply for the awards – application deadline is Friday, May 1, 2015.
- Applications will be accepted online at: <http://usmayors.org/climateprotection/2015mayorsclimateawards>

**APPLICATION  
DEADLINE:**

**Friday, May 1, 2015**

This year's top winners will receive funding for local charities working on sustainability, with \$25,000 for first place in the large city category (more than 100,000 people) and \$15,000 for first place in the small city category (fewer than 100,000).



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

**Walmart** 



# Conference of Mayors President Johnson Meets with State, Local Government Leaders in Salt Lake City to Discuss Collective Interests

Conference of Mayors President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson met with Utah Governor Gary Herbert (Vice Chair of the National Governors Association), Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker (President of the National League of Cities) and Utah State Senator Curtis Bramble (President-Elect of the National Conference of State Legislators) in Salt Lake City to discuss issues of common interest that all four groups can work together on to advance.

The group issued the following statement on E-Fairness at the conclusion of their meeting:

"Today, we had a rare opportunity to meet together, as leaders of four of the largest associations of elected officials in the United States, to discuss how we can work together in a bipartisan spirit, to address our shared goals and issues that are important to our constituents. We had a good discussion on a number of those issues, most notably our strong desire to see Congress close the online sales tax loophole and pass e-fairness legislation this session.

"As leaders in local and state government, we know the importance of creating a level playing field between our brick-and-mortar community businesses



Photo by Salt Lake City staff

**Left to right, President-Elect of the National Conference of State Legislators State Senator Curtis Bramble, President of the National League of Cities Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker, Vice Chair of the National Governors Association Utah Governor Gary Herbert, and USCM President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson.**

and online retailers. This would also allow consumers to have more choices through fair competition. Collecting already owed sales taxes means more money for state and local governments to provide basic

local services such as maintaining roads and hiring police officers, without increasing the overall federal deficit."

## USCM on the WEB

[usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org)



# Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti Welcomes Mayors' Institute on City Design for Its 61st National Session

The Mayors' Institute on City Design (MICD) was held in Los Angeles March 18-20 for its 61st National Session. Hosted by Mayor Eric Garcetti and the city, the event was attended by Columbia (MO) Mayor Robert McDavid, Hialeah Mayor Carlos Hernandez, Mesa Mayor John Giles, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, Portland (OR) Mayor Charlie Hales, and San Antonio Mayor Ivy Taylor. Experts in architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, real estate development, transportation planning, public art, 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 city design challenges facing each of their cities.

The 61st National Session began on March 18 with a tour of downtown Los Angeles led by the mayor's office. The tour showcased major downtown sites, including Grand Central Market, Bradbury Building, the Broadway corridor, and the Arts District. Later that evening, the opening reception was held on the 27th floor observation deck at city hall, which features a panoramic view of Los Angeles skyline. Welcome remarks were made by the MICD Director Trinity Simons; National Endowment for the Arts Director of Design Programs Jason Schupbach; American Architectural Foundation President and CEO Ron Bogle, Hon. AIA; and Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran. Garcetti joined participants for dinner on Thursday evening.

Schaaf initiated the design discussions Thursday morning, presenting on Oakland's efforts to redevelop the area south of Lake Merritt. Building on the success of Lake Merritt Boulevard, the city would like to improve neighborhood access and connectivity to new amenities around the lake. The Resource Team gave guidance on how to integrate the existing assets, including the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center, BART Station, and Laney Community College into the redevelopment vision.



**Left to right, Portland (OR) Mayor Charlie Hales, Mesa Mayor John Giles, Columbia (MO) Mayor Robert McDavid, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, San Antonio Mayor Ivy Taylor, Hialeah Mayor Carlos Hernandez, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, and USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran.**

Giles followed with a discussion on creating a more vibrant and lively downtown. With four light rail stations opening this year, the city anticipates development pressure and recognizes the opportunity to bring catalytic changes to Mesa. The Resource Team advised the mayor to target development on Main Street and provided examples of land use policy that can help manage city-owned parcels around downtown.

Taylor presented on the city's efforts to enhance the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System, a network of planned recreation trails that wind through the natural landscapes along San Antonio creeks. With 46 miles of trails now open to the public and 40 additional miles funded, the city is seeking design strategies to provide better linkages to neighborhoods. The Resource Team encouraged the mayor to focus the planning efforts on one segment of the trails ring as a demonstration project, allowing it to expand and inspire the rest of the network.

Hales concluded Thursday's discussions with a corridor development project on Portland's Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The city would like to create an African-American cultural district that supports minority-owned businesses and promotes equitable development, using the corridor as the building blocks for the underrepresented communities in northeast Portland. The Resource Team offered suggestions on public policy, as well as creating landmarks that pay homage to the area's history and residents.

Hernandez commenced the discussions on the final day with a presentation on the Tri-Rail and Metrorail Transfer Station. Hialeah would like to maximize the redevelopment potential of the station area, leveraging transit to bolster economic development and catalyze neighborhood revitalization. The Resource Team advised the mayor to work with the community and potential institutional

**See MICD on page 17**

partners to develop a vision for the site and curate the experience that is authentic to the city's unique cultural identity.

McDavid concluded the Institute with a discussion on housing for university students in Columbia. Prompted by rapid growth in student population, the city is looking for the appropriate strategies to meet the demand of new housing projects. Emphasizing the value of long-range planning and public engagement, the Resource Team weighed in on the underlying issue and helped the mayor identify key stakeholders.

Joining the mayors at this National Session was a distinguished group of Resource Team members: U3 Advisors Co-CEO Omar Blaik; Charlier Associates President Jim Charlier, AICP; Dlandstudio Architecture + Landscape Architecture Principal Susannah Drake, AIA, FASLA; the City of New Orleans Place-Based Planning Director William Gilchrist, FAIA; Barbara Goldstein & Associates Principal Barbara Goldstein; Carlos Jiménez Studio Principal Carlos Jiménez; Brooks + Scarpa Architects Principal Lawrence Scarpa, FAIA; and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Economic Resilience Director Harriet Tregoning.

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



**Front row, left to right, MICD Director Trinity Simons; Dlandstudio Architecture + Landscape Architecture Principal Susannah Drake, AIA, FASLA; San Antonio Mayor Ivy Taylor; Barbara Goldstein & Associates Principal Barbara Goldstein; Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf; HUD Office of Economic Resilience Director Harriet Tregoning; Charlier Associates President Jim Charlier, AICP; Hialeah Mayor Carlos Hernandez; MICD Program Manager Jeff Jamawat; and Portland (OR) Mayor Charlie Hales. Back row, left to right, Carlos Jiménez Studio Principal Carlos Jiménez; American Architectural Foundation President and CEO Ron Bogle, Hon. AIA; USCM Managing Director Tom McClimon; Brooks + Scarpa Architects Principal Lawrence Scarpa, FAIA; Mesa Mayor John Giles; Columbia (MO) Mayor Robert McDavid; U3 Advisors Co-CEO Omar Blaik; New Orleans Place-Based Planning Director William Gilchrist, FAIA; and USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran.**

with the American Architectural Foundation and the Conference of Mayors. The 61st 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 attendees, or for more information, visit [micd.org](http://micd.org) and follow @MICDdotORG on Twitter.

## Calendar of Events

(Updated 04/17/15)

### April 30-May 1

**Mayors Water Council Meeting**, Washington (DC). Contact: Rich Anderson [randerson@usmayors.org](mailto:randerson@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6795. **Registration will be available at** [usmayors.org/MWCDC](http://usmayors.org/MWCDC)

### May 13

**Mayors Transportation Lobby Day**, Washington (DC). Contact: Kevin McCarty [kmccarty@usmayors.org](mailto:kmccarty@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6728. **Registration Now Open**

**For updates or changes, check our web site at**  
**[usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org)**

### May 13-15

**Mayors Bike Summit**, Madison. Contact: Kevin McCarty [kmccarty@usmayors.org](mailto:kmccarty@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6728. **Registration Now Open**

### June 19-22

**83rd Annual Conference of Mayors**, San Francisco. 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 Now Open**





# SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR ED LEE *"Rolls Out Red Carpet"* for the 83rd Annual Conference

**San Francisco • June 19-22**

**USCM RESOLUTIONS SUBMISSION DEADLINE:  
May 19 at 5:00 p.m. EDT**



## **Host City Events:**

- Welcome Gala: San Francisco City Hall – Friday Night
- Sunrise Walk Across the Bay: The Golden Gate Bridge – Saturday Morning
- Color of Life Global Celebration: California Academy of Sciences – Saturday Night
- Celebration of Faith and Community Service: Glide Memorial Church – Sunday Morning
- Bash by the Bay: The Embarcadero – Sunday Night
- Morning in the Park: Golden Gate Park – Monday Morning
- San Francisco Tech and Innovation Tour: Autodesk, Twitter and Uber – Monday Afternoon
- Year of the Goat Chinese Celebration: Chinatown – Monday Evening
- Family Activity Programs – Throughout the conference, families and guests will have an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities including boat rides to Alcatraz Island, Wine Country tours, visits to Muir Woods, Fisherman's Wharf, and the Exploratorium, and a Presidio Play Day for the kids.



**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN AT**  
**[USMAYORS.ORG](http://USMAYORS.ORG)**

**Title Sponsor**

**WELLS  
FARGO**