



# U.S. MAYOR

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## Mayors Institute on City Design Responds to Jersey Shore Cities, Superstorm Sandy

In response to Superstorm Sandy, the Mayors' Institute on City Design (MICD) held a special design institute in Belmar (NJ) September 18-20. Over the years, MICD, with leadership provided by the Conference of Mayors and its CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran, has provided important post-disaster design assistance, working with mayors in New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina and with mayors from Joplin and Tuscaloosa following recent tornados.

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**Smith: "Regardless of What Happens in Washington, Mayors Will Continue to Lead" ... See Statement on Page 9**

## Cabaldon Promotes Membership Benefits at Reception for California Mayors

By Katie Pirolt and Debra DeHaney-Howard

"It's really important, as mayors, that we're giving our voice at the table as well," West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon said at a Conference of Mayors reception September 19 honoring California mayors. "The U.S. Conference of Mayors certainly makes a difference to me and my community because it's full of high energy mayors getting stuff done, and

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**West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon addresses California mayors and highlights benefits of USCM membership.**

Photo by Phil Kampel Photography



**October 3, 2013  
Washington (DC)**

The Mayors' Institute for City Design (MICD) raised our flag on the shore of New Jersey on September 18. We convened mayors, architects, and urban designers in one room in Belmar, New Jersey to follow through on a promise we made in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy to offer a special session for the mayors located on the Jersey Shore.

Six mayors – Matt Doherty of the Borough of Belmar, Susan Howard of Monmouth Beach, Dina Long of Sea Bright, Michael J. Mahon of Oceanport, Jennifer Naughton of Spring Lake, and Michael Ryan of Lake Como – came with a specific challenge they are still having now in the eleventh month since the storm of the century hit these coastal cities.

While these medium size and small cities all got hit by Sandy, it was interesting to see that the cities had individual challenges quite different from one another.

There was extensive give and take from the experts and the mayors, and a synergy that I have not felt in previous Design Institutes. The energy in the room could be a result of the fact that all the mayors knew each other, and each had experienced a common nightmare, Sandy.

Trinity Simons, Director of MICD, did a great job with her new energy and creativity in making this Institute the best we have had. A special thanks to her for all the work and time she gave to this terrific event.

When Sandy hit the Jersey Shore, as always, we had conference calls with a number of mayors who wanted to offer anything they could to help their brother and sister mayors on the Jersey Shore. It was apparent that the larger cities would get a great deal of attention. Our concern was how we might assist the smaller cities along the shore.

We appreciate our partners. Jason Schupbach, Design Director at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), expressed early on the need to go to the Jersey Shore and our other partner, Ron Bogle of the American Architectural Foundation (AAF), also gave his support.

Marilyn Taylor, Dean of Architecture at The University of Pennsylvania, did a masterful job in facilitating very substantive and practical sessions between the mayors and the top team of architects and designers.

When we went to meet with Mayor Matt Doherty in Belmar several months ago, Trinity Simons, Tom McClimon and I knew that this was not the usual kind of Design Institute. Mayor Doherty had been recommended to us by our long-standing member mayors of New Jersey: Mayors Tim McDonough of Hope, and Brian Wahler of Piscataway. Their choice proved right. Mayor Doherty came to our Annual Meeting in Las Vegas and was most helpful to Trinity as she solely executed the New Jersey Design Institute. We also thank Mayors McDonough and Wahler for coming to our pre-dinner and providing inspirational remarks for the mayors and designers.

We left New Jersey having bonded with the mayors and we felt there may be a need to follow up with a special session with the Jersey Shore mayors at our Winter Meeting in January.

I am very proud that we have responded to the mayors of the New Jersey Shore. It is the heritage and mission of The United States Conference of Mayors to respond to USA mayors in need during a disaster. The Mayors' Institute on City Design was perfect for this mission and we are most grateful to our partners, NEA and AAF, as we continue to serve the mayors and cities – large, medium and small – across our nation.



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# CA MAYORS

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it's a great place to learn about interesting, exciting innovations that people are doing all over the country," he said.

In his remarks, Cabaldon highlighted the benefits of membership with the Conference of Mayors. "For me, as a mayor of a smaller city in particular, that access to the key policy makers in the federal government at every level is so beneficial." Cabaldon gave the example of West Sacramento's \$500 million levee project and how he is able to meet with the head of the Army Corps of Engineers at every Conference of Mayors meeting, stating, "It certainly makes a difference to me and my community."

Cabaldon concluded by saying, "I find it's a huge benefit for my city. It's been a terrific way for me to serve my city better and either get the federal government off our back or bring their resources to leverage our community."

The reception honoring California mayors was held during the three-day Annual Meeting of the League of California Cities.

Conference of Mayors staff also met with California officials throughout the meeting at the Conference of Mayors'



**Left to right, USCM staff member Kevin McCarty, Cerritos Councilmember George Ray, and Cerritos Mayor Bruce Barrows.**

exhibit booth, helping to expand organizational outreach efforts in California, a key state in the Conference of Mayors 50-state membership campaign.

Conference of Mayors Vice President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson welcomed delegates to the Annual Meeting in remarks delivered at the opening session.

Also at the convention, Past President Former Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill was awarded the 2013 Past Presidents' Lifetime Achievement Award. California League Immediate Past President Mike Kasperzak presented the award,

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**At left, USCM staff member Debra DeHaney-Howard with Santa Barbara Mayor Helene Schneider.**



**Left to right, USCM staff member Katie Pirolt, Chula Vista Mayor Cheryl Cox, and USCM staff member Debra DeHaney-Howard.**

Photo by Phil Kampel Photography

## CA MAYORS

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saying, "Beverly O'Neill is an inspiration to all of us who dedicate our lives to making our communities better." On behalf of State Senator Alex Padilla, O'Neill was also presented a California State Senate Resolution commending her public service. Padilla congratulated O'Neill, saying, "She is an inspiration and role model for all of us who are dedicated to public service." O'Neill served as President of The U.S. Conference of Mayors from 2005-2006.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members of the League of California Cities nominating committee elected José Cisneros, Treasurer to the city and county of San Francisco, as the organization's new president, and Tony Ferrara, mayor of Arroyo Grande as Vice President.



**At left, Cathedral City Mayor Kathleen DeRosa with Desert Hot Springs Mayor Yvonne Parks.**

## York Mayor Bracey Launches Weight Watchers Assistance Program

By Crystal Swann

York was one of three cities at the 81st Annual Meeting in June awarded the 2014 Healthy Communities Grant to support local efforts to combat overweight and obesity. The Healthy Communities Grant Program is a new partnership between the Conference of Mayors and Weight Watchers, an initiative designed to help communities curb obesity by fostering healthy lifestyles.

York received a \$25,000 grant to administer its winning program and a portion of \$1 million in deeply discounted Weight Watchers memberships for local residents who qualify based on health status and financial need. The program is a part of "Let's Move York City," which

## weightwatchers

strives to foster healthy lifestyles supporting innovative programs such as "Healthy Kids on the Move," "Play Streets" and "Eat, Play, Breathe York." The city's Healthy Communities Grant is a year-long subsidy program that will distribute Weight Watchers memberships to qualifying residents. Qualifying residents will be able to attend weekly meetings for \$3 (a discount of \$10 each) and gain free access to \$19-a-month worth of digital tools, such as point tracking, recipes and

a barcode scanner.

York Mayor Kim Bracey said she's humbled and honored that the city was picked to take part in the program. "Weight Watchers is here in the city of York, and we're happy about that," she said.

The other winning cities are Baltimore and Racine. They will launch their programs in the coming weeks.



# Urban Violence More Deadly than Nation's Wars, Mayors Declare

## Nutter, Landrieu Say Solution a Shared Responsibility

By Laura DeKoven Waxman

Conference of Mayors Past President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter and Conference of Mayors Trustee New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu jointly delivered a call to action at the National Press Club in Washington September 26 to reduce violent deaths in U.S. cities, particularly among young African American men. In their luncheon address, they made an impassioned appeal for greater attention to the violence crisis in the nation's cities and greater response by federal, state and local governments, the private sector, and the media.

Following are excerpts from their remarks:

### Landrieu:

...Every day, from before dawn to the stroke of midnight, on average 40 more of our fellow citizens will be lost, 40 more killed in the neighborhoods of America. America cannot be strong abroad if we are weak at home. The humanitarian crisis is not just in some far off nation, but here on our streets, in our neighborhoods and in our homes. Morally, economically, and for the good of this nation's strength and security, we must do more....

...Consider this, from 1980-2012, 626,000 people, a disproportionate number African American, murdered on the streets of America. That's more Americans than were lost during World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, the War in Iraq, and War in Afghanistan combined. So the struggle goes on and it is clear that the catastrophic death of young black men on the streets of America remains strange fruit



**At left, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu with Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter addressing National Press Club Luncheon.**

from the same poisonous tree of hatred, injustice and inequality – a vestige of our nation's Original Sin....

...And herein lies part of the message for today – preventing murder and stopping violent crime must become a national priority to be faced together as one nation, indivisible. So, Mayor Nutter and I come to you today as generals during wartime. We are telling Congress, we need a surge on the streets of America. Local, state, and federal government, each need to do their part; churches and schools, friends and neighbors, mothers and fathers, each need to do their part. Washington is broken. It's time for our country to do what is difficult for the sake of doing what is right....

### Nutter:

...Illegal guns are the Weapons of Mass Destruction on our streets, and we experience mass murder in slow motion – one by one by one by one, every single day. Where is our "red line" on violence in America? 10,000+ murdered Ameri-

cans EVERY year – that's a crime against humanity. We have a Civil War unfolding in our cities every day, every week, every month....

### Landrieu:

...This is how the federal government can help reduce gun violence and murder- hit the streets. Democrats, Republicans, Congress and President Obama- lock hands and launch a stronger, more targeted COPs program to put new cops on the beat, just like Congress and President Clinton did in the 1990s.

Congress has the money. In fact, according to the Governmental Accountability Office, from 2009-2011 nearly \$14 billion was spent by the US government building, hiring, training and equipping police departments. But this \$14 billion wasn't spent in New Orleans or Philadelphia or Chicago, even though we are fighting the good fight against violent crime on what amounts to a shoestring

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## VIOLENCE

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budget. No, this money went to build police departments for the people of Afghanistan and Iraq, Pakistan, Mexico, and Colombia. We need to redirect federal resources back to the home front. We need Congress to treat fighting murder and violent crime as a national priority. Furthermore, we need to do something about criminals with illegal guns....

### Nutter:

...So, here's what you can do:

Do stories on this American problem, week-long specials, show what's going on like you did during the Civil Rights Movement – the hangings, the water hoses, the dogs; like you did during the Vietnam War – dead Americans coming from foreign battlefields. Take the responsibility and show dead Americans coming from the battlefield streets of cities all over America.

Talk with mayors and governors and ask what they're doing and what they need. Meet with citizens on the streets and hear their pleas and cries for peace and freedom from violence. Talk to police chiefs and the law enforcement community about their ideas. Ask members of Congress what they think about it all, and more importantly – what are they going to do about this daily carnage. What is the federal response to America's new "Civil War."

Cover these stories, care about the issue, devote air time, budgets and personnel to this horrific American tragedy – Black men and boys are dying, Americans are dying, in our own killing fields – do something now, because knowing demands action.



## Mayors Detail Violence Prevention Plans



***USCM Past President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter and Camden Mayor Dana Redd were among several mayors participating in the Justice Department's Third Annual Summit on Preventing Youth Violence September 26 in Crystal City (VA). Nutter and Redd briefed participants on their cities' comprehensive plans, which include prevention, intervention, enforcement, and reentry strategies.***

# USCM on the WEB

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



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MICD is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts, The United States Conference of Mayors, and the American Architectural Foundation. MICD was founded in 1986 by Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. During the last 27 years, MICD has assisted over 950 mayors in addressing their most pressing city design challenges.

Belmar Mayor Matt Doherty hosted this special session. After Sandy, Doherty was vocal amongst local leaders, pushing for state and federal funding. He spoke at the Tourism, Arts, Parks, and Sports Committee meeting during the Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, stressing that the "Jersey shore is open for business."

In addition to Doherty, Monmouth Beach Mayor Susan Howard, Sea Bright Mayor Dina Long, Oceanport Mayor Michael J. Mahon, Spring Lake Mayor Jennifer Naughton, and Lake Como Mayor Michael Ryan attended the meeting. Conference of Mayors Membership Committee Chair Piscataway Mayor Brian Wahler and Hope Mayor Tim McDonough welcomed their fellow mayors, along with MICD Director Trinity Simons, National Endowment for the Arts Chief of Staff Jamie Bennett, and Cochran.

Coastal New Jersey mayors met with design and development experts over a day-and-a-half to discuss critical design and planning challenges they are facing post-Sandy. Mayors each brought a case study, and experts in architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, water infrastructure, economic development, and transportation offered pragmatic advice on how the mayors could approach the projects to rebuild stronger, more climate resilient communities.

The mayors' projects addressed a wide array of issues, including: water resources engineering for failing infrastructure, working with state and federal partners to maximize limited resources, elevating structures and maintaining local character and accessibility, boosting local culture and heritage to promote tourism, rebuilding municipal structures, and promoting economic development.

Naughton initiated design discussions by presenting Spring Lake's efforts to prevent future flooding of Wreck Pond. The borough would like to elevate homes around the water body and build a "living shoreline" to reduce the impact of water overflow in an event of severe storm. The project also presents an opportunity to introduce recreational uses for the pond. The resource team gave design recommendations to prevent flooding and promote recreational uses, and they gave implementation suggestions of how to work with local and state partners to maximize results.

Long followed with a presentation that focused on the underutilized beach in Sea Bright. Public access to the beach is currently blocked by an uninterrupted sea wall that lined the borough's uniquely narrow landform. The resource team gave guidance on appropriate programming of the beach that can help stimulate local economy and make Sea Bright an attractive regional destination.

Mahon presented on Oceanport's efforts to redevelop a portion of the decommissioned Fort Monmouth. The 98-acre site falls within the water-rise risk zone identified by FEMA. The resource team encouraged the mayor to reconfigure the existing site plan to improve transit access, foster retail activities, and create a pedestrian-friendly environment.

Doherty concluded the day's discussions with a presentation on the Belmar's new boardwalk that was rebuilt after Sandy. Confronted with funding restrictions to build hard infrastructure, Doherty was seeking soft infrastructure solutions that would protect this community investment from the borough's vulnerable shoreline. The resource team encouraged the mayor to consider natural sand dunes and/or engineered dune system to strengthen and protect the new boardwalk.

Ryan commenced discussions on the following day by presenting Lake Como's efforts to address the flooding issues caused by a lake that sits on three jurisdictional boundaries. The resource team gave guidance on how abutting communities could find long-term solu-



tions to this problem that involve regional stakeholders.

Howard concluded the Institute by presenting Monmouth Beach's efforts to rehabilitate several municipal buildings that suffered water damage during Sandy. These structures are located on the same block and on a main street in the borough. The resource team advised the mayor to consolidate uses and rethink the site plan for the entire block instead of focusing on the existing complex.

Joining the mayors at this session was a distinguished group of resource team members: Unabridged Architecture Director of Design and Sustainability John Anderson, AIA, LEED AP; HR&A Advisors Vice Chairman Candace Damon; Nspiregreen Partner and Principal Planning Manager Veronica O. Davis, P.E.; Sasaki Associates Principal Jason S. Hellendrung, ASLA; Hargreaves Associates President and Senior Principal Mary Margaret Jones, FAAR, FASLA; University of Pennsylvania School of Design Dean and Paley Professor Marilyn Jordan Taylor, FAIA; and Interboro Partners Principal and New Jersey Institute of Technology College of Architecture and Design Associate Professor George Theodore, AIA.

This special 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 the website [www.micd.org](http://www.micd.org).

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# Federal Shutdown

## U.S. Conference of Mayors President Mesa Mayor Smith Issues Statement on Federal Government Shutdown: "Regardless of What Happens in Washington, Mayors Will Continue to Lead"

*Conference of Mayors President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith issued the following statement on the federal government shutdown:*

"It is unfortunate that Washington has chosen to go the route of a government shutdown instead of figuring out a way to move forward for the sake of all Ameri-

cans, including the majority of people who live in cities.

"Regardless of what happens in Washington, the nation's mayors will continue to lead, balancing budgets and solving problems. We do not have the luxury of turning our backs on our residents.

"We are pragmatic doers who believe in rolling up our sleeves, finding common



**USCM President Mesa Mayor Scott Smith**

ground on even the most difficult of issues and getting things done for the good of the whole. We encourage Washington to do the same."

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**Front Page Caption:** Front row, left to right, Oceanport (NJ) Mayor Michael J. Mahon; Nspiregreen Partner and Principal Planning Manager Veronica O. Davis, P.E.; The University of Pennsylvania School of Design Dean and Paley Professor Marilyn Jordan Taylor, FAIA; Monmouth Beach (NJ)

Mayor Susan Howard; Hargreaves Associates President and Senior Principal Mary Margaret Jones, FAAR, FASLA; and Interboro Partners Principal and New Jersey Institute of Technology Associate Professor Georgeen Theodore, AIA. Middle row, left to right, MICD Program Intern Jeff Jamawat; Belmar (NJ) Mayor Matt Doherty; USCM CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran; HR&A Advisors Vice Chairman Candace Damon; Spring Lake (NJ)

Mayor Jennifer Naughton; Sea Bright (NJ) Mayor Dina Long; and MICD Director Trinity Simons. Back row, left to right, American Architectural Foundation Director of Planning Thom Minner; Sasaki Associates Principal Jason S. Hellendrung, ASLA; Lake Como (NJ) Mayor Michael Ryan; Unabridged Architecture Director of Design and Sustainability John Anderson, AIA, LEED AP; and USCM Managing Director Tom McClimon.

# Federal Shutdown

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## In a Time of Shutdown, the Age of the Mayor

Seven local leaders from around the country who look better than Congress right now.

Part of the Esquire 80 (exactly) 80 people, concepts, shoes, and foot-long sandwiches that define our time

*Published in the October 2013 80th Anniversary issue*

When our federal government is so stubbornly committed to failure, our only recourse is to look to the local. Adapted from Esquire's 80 Things, here are seven mayors from around the country who are actually doing their jobs and doing them well.

### Julián Castro, 39



San Antonio (population 1.36 million) Created a pre-K program that will allow 22,000 low-income four-year-olds to attend school.

### Terry Bellamy, 41



Asheville, N.C. (population 85,000) Reduced carbon emissions by 18 percent in five years; first African-American and youngest mayor in the city's history; homecoming queen of Asheville High School.

### Michael Nutter, 56



Philadelphia (population 1.536 million) Launched an initiative to reduce gun violence by targeting repeat offenders and teaching gun safety, which led to a 40 percent drop in shooting victims; created nearly 10,000 summer jobs for city youths.

### Shane Bemis, 41



Gresham, Oreg. (population 107,000) Enabled 144 small businesses to open in three years by waiving all fees and charges for new businesses if they moved into previously vacant spaces; currently replacing all of Gresham's streetlights with LED bulbs; owns Boccelli's Ristorante, described on Yelp as "the best restaurant in Gresham. Granted that's not a high bar, but still the best."

### Annisie Parker, 57



Houston (population 2.14 million) Total number of jobs have grown 13.1 percent since she became mayor in 2010, the highest rate of improvement among large cities; first gay mayor of a major American city; former oil executive who champions renewable energy; raised a teenager she met at a pride parade.



### R. Rex Parris, 61



Lancaster, Calif. (population 157,000) Requires all new homes to be powered by solar panels in an effort to make Lancaster the first energy-self-sufficient town; explains his acceptance of climate-change science by saying he "may be a Republican" but he's "not an idiot."

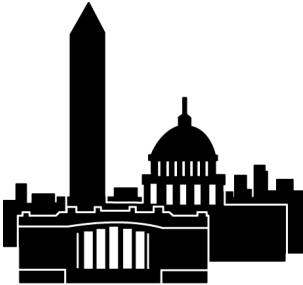
### Jerry Gist, 71



Jackson, Tenn. (population 65,000) Improved the health of citizens by making groceries available in food deserts, improving biking and walking paths, and reducing health-care costs by \$2 million in the first year of reforms; describes his role as the mayor of a small town as the one "everybody calls."

# Federal Shutdown

## WASHINGTON OUTLOOK



## Disagreement Over Defunding Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) Forces Government Shutdown

*By Larry Jones*

Partisan disagreement over defunding Obamacare prevented House and Senate leaders from reaching agreement on a temporary spending bill in time to avoid a government shutdown October 1. The temporary measure is needed to keep the government operating since Congress failed to pass any of the 12 regular spending bills that normally fund federal agencies and programs. Ideally, Congress aims to approve all regular spending bills before October 1, the start of a new fiscal year that runs through September 30 next year. Although leaders in both major parties generally agree the federal government should continue to be funded at current sequestered funding levels (which makes \$986 billion available for discretionary programs), they disagree over funding for Obamacare – legislation adopted in 2010 to reform the nation's health care system and extend health insurance to millions of uninsured individuals.

Although the full effects of the shutdown on the economy and state and local governments will not be known until sometime after it ends, the impact could be significant. According to Alec Phillips, an economist with Goldman Sachs, federal compensation will be reduced \$400 million for every day of the shutdown. Also over 800,000 federal employees nationwide have been furloughed, national parks and museums

and most federal agencies are closed. Also depending on how long the shutdown last, funding for programs such as Community Development Block Grants, job training grants, and the Head Start program will be cut off after contingency funds run out (local grant recipients have funds on hand to continue operating for one or more weeks).

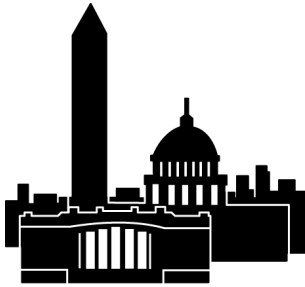
President Obama met with Congressional leaders from both parties October 3, but there was no breakthrough on a deal to end the shutdown. However, there is a growing interest in the White House and Congress in striking a grand deal that would address several larger budget issues. With the federal government fast approaching its legal limit on borrowing (the federal government is expected to reach the current limit, \$16.7 trillion, on October 17), there is growing interest among leaders from both parties in striking a grand budget deal that would not only address the CR and the debt limit (which is needed so the federal government can continue paying its bills), but fully fund the government in 2014, raise additional revenues, provide for tax reform, and changes in entitlement spending. But the President and Democratic leaders in Congress have made it clear that before they would agree to begin negotiating on a grand budget deal, the House must agree to pass a clean CR and raise the debt ceiling.

During the last two weeks, the Republican-controlled House approved a con-

tinuing resolution (CR) on September 20 that would keep the federal government operating through December 15 at current funding levels but included a provision that would defund Obamacare. The Democrat-controlled Senate voted to amend the House version of the CR by funding federal operations at current levels through November 15, and striking the provision that would defund Obamacare. In sending the CR back to the House, the Senate urged House leaders to approve a clean continuing resolution so it could be sent to the President and signed in time to avoid a shutdown.

The House ignored the Senate's request and continued to insist on changes in Obamacare, sending the CR back to the Senate numerous times with amendments that would: delay the implementation of Obamacare for one year, repeal the medical device tax which helps fund the new health care law, and set up a conference committee from both Houses to try to find a compromise to resolve the deadlock. In each case, the Senate voted to strike these amendments, send the measure back to the House and insist on a clean CR. House Republicans also made numerous attempts to approve amendments to the CR to fund separate federal agencies. But Democratic leaders in the House and Senate, who viewed the tactic as a way of getting around funding Obamacare, opposed these efforts.





## Listening Sessions Scheduled to Help Develop Standards for Existing Plants

By Judy Sheahan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) September 20 proposed new Clean Air Act standards to cut carbon pollution from new power plants as part of President Obama's Climate Action Plan. The agency is also planning eleven public listening sessions around the country to solicit ideas and input from the public and stakeholders about the best Clean Air Act approaches for reducing carbon pollution from existing power plants.

In 2009, EPA determined, and the Supreme Court affirmed, that greenhouse gas pollution threatens Americans' health and welfare by leading to long lasting changes in our climate that can have a range of negative effects on human health and the environment. Power plants are the nation's largest stationary source of carbon pollution, responsible for about one third of all greenhouse gas pollution in the United States.

"Climate change is one of the most significant public health challenges of our time. By taking commonsense action to limit carbon pollution from new power plants, we can slow the effects of climate change and fulfill our obligation to ensure a safe and healthy environment for our children," said EPA Administrator Gina

## EPA Proposes Carbon Pollution Standards for New Power Plants

McCarthy. "These standards will also spark the innovation we need to build the next generation of power plants, helping grow a more sustainable clean energy economy."

The proposal sets separate standards for new gas-fired and coal-fired power plants. New large natural gas-fired turbines would need to meet a limit of 1,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per megawatt-hour, while new small natural gas-fired turbines would need to meet a limit of 1,100 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per megawatt-hour. New coal-fired units would need to meet a limit of 1,100 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per megawatt-hour, and would have the option to meet a somewhat tighter limit if they choose to average emissions over multiple years, giving those units additional flexibility.

Currently, nearly a dozen states have already implemented or are implementing their own market-based programs to reduce carbon pollution. In addition, more than 25 states have set energy efficiency targets, and more than 35 have set renewable energy targets.

The agency is seeking comments on its proposal as it completes the rulemaking process. EPA's comment period will be open for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register.

EPA will issue proposed standards for existing power plants by June 1, 2014. For more information on the carbon standards, go to the website <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards>

Separately, EPA has initiated outreach to a wide variety of stakeholders that will help inform the development of emission guidelines for existing power plants. EPA will be holding 11 public listening sessions in the following cities:

- October 15 - Boston
- October 18 - Philadelphia
- October 23 - New York
- October 23 - Atlanta
- October 30 - Denver
- November 4 - Lenexa
- November 5 - San Francisco
- November 7 - Washington (DC)
- November 7 - Dallas
- November 7 - Seattle
- November 8 - Chicago

For more information on these sessions and to register online, go to the website: <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/public-listening-sessions>. For those who cannot attend these sessions, input can be e-mailed to [carbon-pollutioninput@epa.gov](mailto:carbon-pollutioninput@epa.gov) by November 8.





## Awaits Action by Full House

By Judy Sheahan

A bill authorizing Army Corps of Engineers projects, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), passed by an unanimous voice vote September 19 out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. It awaits full floor action, which is expected to happen sometime this Fall.

The bill is the product of months of effort by Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (PA) to craft a bipartisan bill that would be approved by both sides. Historically, Congress has passed this type of legislation every two years but no bill has been signed into law since 2007.

"WRRDA is the most policy and reform focused legislation of its kind in the last two decades," Shuster said. "This bill contains no earmarks and makes reforms needed to increase transparency, accountability, and Congressional oversight of federal water resources development. At its heart, WRRDA is about jobs and improving America's competitiveness. A strong water transportation network is critical to keeping pace with other nations that are improving their own infrastructure networks and gaining ground in an increasing competitive global marketplace."

The bill would do the following:

- Consolidates or eliminates duplicative or unnecessary studies and requires concurrent reviews;

## Army Corps Bill Passes Unanimously Out of Committee

- Streamlines environmental reviews;
- Deauthorizes \$12 billion of old, inactive projects that were authorized prior to the WRDA 2007 law;
- Fully offsets new authorizations with deauthorizations;
- Sunsets new authorizations to prevent future project backlogs;
- Establishes a new, transparent process for future bills to review and prioritize water resources development activities with strong Congressional oversight;
- Maximizes the ability of non-federal interests to contribute their own funds to move authorized studies and projects forward;
- Establishes a Water Infrastructure Public Private Partnership Pilot Program;
- Directs more of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund towards actual harbor maintenance; and
- Supports underserved, emerging ports.

The main concern that has been raised by Democrats, the Obama Administration and environmental groups is the bill's environmental streamlining provisions. However, these provisions were also included in the Senate version of the bill, S. 601, which passed in May.

The House bill also differs from the Senate bill in that it does not include a Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Authority (WIFIA) pilot program. This program, which is endorsed by the Conference of Mayors, allows a city to secure a low-interest loan, loan guarantee, or credit to pay for water resources or water and wastewater infrastructure projects now with the revenues guaranteed from a future funding source such as a tax or user fee.

House Leadership has said they are supportive of the WRRDA bill and promise to take it to the floor of the House sometime this Fall.





# Flexible TIGER Funds Continue to Advance Innovative Local Transportation Solutions

By Kevin McCarty

Although recent Congressional deliberations on the nation's surface transportation law, MAP-21, sometimes sought to restrict federal funding eligibilities, projects receiving TIGER grant awards from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) showcase the value of such funding flexibility in support of local, regional and state transportation solutions.

With each TIGER grant round, five in all since the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act initiated the program in 2009, DOT Secretaries and other leaders tout their value in expanding investment in the nation's infrastructure and the virtues of flexible federal dollars in

helping local leaders advance needed transportation improvements. Notably, TIGER funds draw upon a range of U.S. DOT funding eligibilities, and are not limited to the rules of an individual program funding silo.

"These transformational TIGER projects are the best argument for investment in our transportation infrastructure," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx last month in announcing 52 TIGER-supported transportation projects which are slated to receive approximately \$474 million.

"Rail was again a big winner," said Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph C. Szabo in noting that \$146 million – or roughly 30 percent of all funding in this

round – went to rail projects. "Through five rounds now, TIGER – which stands for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery – has invested \$808 million in rail projects in 48 states," he said.

Such projects are particularly timely as the Conference of Mayors, its member mayors and others are working to advance metropolitan-based export and trade strategies, efforts where investments in ports, intermodal facilities and freight rail networks are so vital to successful local efforts.

Foxx called attention to a \$10 million commitment to reconstruct a 100-year old wooden trestle in Tacoma (WA) that will double capacity and improve reliability and travel time for Sounder and Amtrak Cascades passenger rail services as well as enhance freight capacity on the line, contributing to economic growth for the city, the Port of Tacoma and Pierce County.

Another project Foxx cited is a \$10 million investment in Houston's Bayport Wharf extension project, which will double its future cargo capacity and reduce truck waiting and idling times, enhancing the port's ability to take advantage of the ships expected after the Panama Canal expansion.

The 52 TIGER-funded projects totaling \$474 million will attract \$1.8 billion in project commitments from the grantees. Foxx in his statement reported U.S. DOT received more than 500 applications requesting 20 times the funding available.

For additional information on the individual TIGER grant awards, go to the website [www.dot.gov/tiger/](http://www.dot.gov/tiger/).







By Crystal Swann

The House of Representatives voted 217 to 210 to cut nearly \$40 billion over ten years from the primary federal program feeding the poor, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The bill, "The Nutrition Reform and Work Opportunity Act," contained \$40 billion over ten years in cuts to SNAP, food stamp program, and other nutrition programs. The cuts, if made they became law, would eliminate SNAP benefits for millions of needy people, slash food benefits for additional participants, and undercut states' ability to keep SNAP support for certain jobless people in cities with high unemployment.

The House voted 226-191 on September

## House Votes to Cut Food Assistance Program by \$40 Billion

28 to approve the resolution that also would allow for same-day consideration of stopgap legislation to avoid a federal government shutdown. The move also combines the House-passed "farm bill-only" farm bill (H.R. 2642) with its nutrition bill (H.R. 3102), which seeks to cut about \$40 billion from SNAP.

In 2010, SNAP lifted nearly 3.9 million people out of poverty – 1.7 of them were children. Over 47 million people received benefits in 2012; the House bill would cut benefits for two to four million poor and unemployed adults. Nearly half of SNAP enrollees are children, and the program helps feed roughly one in three children in America. Additionally, almost 75 percent of SNAP participants are in households with children, seniors, or disabled individuals.

Over the last four decades, income inequality in America has become worse

than at any time since the Great Depression. The middle class is shrinking; the number of poor people is growing while the wages of the top one percent are increasing astronomically (48.2 percent of total earnings last year). According to a recent Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development study, the U.S. has the highest income inequality in the developed world. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that as many as four million people would be dropped from the program, which now has more than 48 million participants, a majority of whom are senior citizens, children or disabled.

Presumably, this action clears House leadership to appoint conferees in order to work out a deal with the Senate, which approved its farm bill (S. 954) in June. The current farm bill extension expired September 30.

**MAKE PLANS NOW**  
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## Obama Administration Announces \$300 Million Investment Package for Detroit

*By Conference of Mayors Staff*

White House and Cabinet officials were in Detroit September 27 to announce a plan to invest more than \$300 million in community development, transportation, and public safety initiatives in the city through a combination of federal grants and private and foundation resources.

The specifics of the plan were detailed during a summit that included Detroit Mayor Dave Bing, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Detroit Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, Attorney General Eric Holder, White House Economic Council Director Gene Sperling.

The White House made clear that the package is not a fiscal bailout of the city's reported \$18 billion in long-term liabilities, but rather an investment to strengthen its operations and spur economic growth and investment in Detroit.

Included in the package – comprised of existing federal funds (not contingent upon Congressional approval) and private-sector and foundation grants – are:

- \$150 Million for the Effective, Coordinated Demolition of Blighted Properties, Neighborhood Revitalization and Redevelopment in Detroit, including “unlocking” \$65 million in Community Development Block Grant Program funds for blight eradication, housing rehabilitation, and other community revitalization efforts through the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- \$30 Million to Improve Public Safety, Reduce Crime, and Decrease Emer-

gency Response Time, including \$3 million from the Department of Justice to hire new police officers, establish a bike patrol, support prisoner reentry and youth violence prevention programs, and convene police chiefs from across the nation to bring best practices and innovation to the Detroit Police Department; and expedited access to \$25 million in Federal Emergency Management Administration funding to hire 150 firefighters and purchase arson prevention and detection equipment.

- \$140 Million in Federal Funds for Improving Transportation Systems for City and Regional Residents, including ensuring access to more than \$100 million in transit grants from the

Department of Transportation, immediately releasing \$24 million of funding to repair and rehabilitate buses and to install security cameras to protect passengers and drivers, and “unlocking” a \$25 million TIGER grant and reaffirming the Department's commitment to the M1 RAIL/Woodward Ave Streetcar project, a key priority for Detroit's leaders, designed to leverage more than \$100 million in outside private and philanthropic investment.

A complete summary of the package, including the commitments being made by several major philanthropic organizations, can be found online at [usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org).

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**PHILIPS**

# Mayors Honored at 2013 Leadership for Healthy Communities Childhood Obesity Prevention Summit

Thought leaders, experts, locally elected officials and others gathered in Baltimore to discuss progress in the fight against childhood obesity in this nation. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Leadership for Healthy Communities (LHC) sponsored the summit, held September 29-October 1, focusing on the nation's most innovative policies for reducing childhood obesity.

According to the LHC press release and recent reports, after decades of steady increases, several cities, counties and states have seen noticeable improvements in childhood obesity rates. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reported that obesity among preschool children from low-income families declined in 18 states.



***USCM 2nd Vice President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake gives keynote address at 2013 Leadership for Healthy Communities Childhood Obesity Prevention Summit.***



***USCM 2nd Vice President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake with Food Policy Task Force Co-Chair Madison Mayor Paul Soglin at Leadership for Healthy Communities Summit.***

The summit revealed how local and state initiatives have started to make progress in reducing childhood obesity and highlighted the work of five elected officials, two of whom were mayors. The mayors are making great strides in their cities to combat childhood obesity and to create healthy, vibrant cities.

Conference of Mayors Immediate Past President Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter was honored for leading several major initiatives to increase the availability of healthy, affordable foods and promote healthy living in Philadelphia. In addition, Nutter made Philadelphia more pedestrian and bicycle friendly by issuing a Complete Streets Executive Order that resulted in more than 20 miles of bicycle lanes and creating a bicycle and pedestrian plan for the entire city. He also spearheaded "Get Healthy Philly," a city-wide public health initiative to promote a healthy, active and smoke-free life-

style. As a result of Nutter's leadership, Philadelphia has begun to see declines in childhood obesity rates, especially in low income and communities of color.

The other mayoral honoree, Hernando (MS) Mayor Chip Johnson, has long been a champion of promoting policies that improve access to healthy foods and increase opportunities for physical activity in his community. He's establishing a new city parks department, creating more bicycle lanes and sidewalks, and helping start the Hernando Farmers' Market—one of the most popular in the state. Comprehensive policy approaches to help children eat healthier and move more, like those being implemented in Hernando, have been linked to recent reports of declining childhood obesity rates in Mississippi.

For more information on the summit proceedings go to the website [www.leadershipforhealthycommunities.org](http://www.leadershipforhealthycommunities.org).



# Newton Mayor Warren, Conference of Mayors Work with Wells Fargo to Help Homeowners Avoid Foreclosure

The U.S. Conference of Mayors and Wells Fargo – that services about one of every six U.S. home loans – in August met for the seventh time as part of a national alliance focused on foreclosure prevention, property disposition, homeownership, and community development.

Mayors and Conference of Mayors staff joined Wells Fargo industry experts in Newton (MA) to discuss resources to address housing challenges in local areas. During the forum, Wells Fargo officials emphasized the importance of encouraging constituents facing financial distress to contact their mortgage servicer.

After touring a Wells Fargo home preservation workshop in Massachusetts that occurred as part of the forum, Newton Mayor Setti Warren, who serves as Conference of Mayors Community Development and Housing Committee Chair, commented, “It’s clear that Wells Fargo cares about the community.”

Referencing a previous forum with Wells Fargo executives in Charlotte, Warren added, “Even from a year ago, they’ve made changes that show how Wells Fargo is committed to stabilizing housing and assisting communities.”

While 93 percent of Wells Fargo mortgage customers are current with their home loans and the company’s delinquency and foreclosure rates are better than the industry average, often homeowners’ financial challenges extend beyond their mortgage and may be related to an employment change – losing a job or making less money at a new job, health problems and even divorce.

Wells Fargo has helped more than 882,000 mortgage customers with modifications since 2009. The effort is helping homeowners avoid foreclosure.

“Our goal is to help as many homeowners as we can avoid foreclosure whenever possible,” said Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Community Outreach Senior Vice President Joe Ohayon.

At the home preservation work-



***USCM Chair for Community Development and Housing Newton Mayor Setti Warren, center, joins other city’s officials to tour a Wells Fargo Home Preservation Workshop last August in Newton.***

shop that was held at the same time as the forum in Newton, Wells Fargo met with 128 homeowners struggling with mortgage payments among more than 43,000 the company has met with at its workshops nationwide.

One of the ways Wells Fargo reaches homeowners struggling with payments is at more than 1,100 home preservation events with nonprofits since 2009, including hosting 101 of its own sponsored large-scale home preservation workshops. Wells Fargo has scheduled upcoming home preservation workshops in Baltimore (Oct. 8), Prince George’s County (Oct. 24), Atlanta (Nov. 14), Tampa (Nov. 20), Orlando (Dec. 5), and Miami (Dec. 10).

Local mayors are welcome to tour the upcoming workshops.

Wells Fargo customers facing mortgage payment challenges can visit [www.wellsfargo.com/homeassist/](http://www.wellsfargo.com/homeassist/) or call 800-

678-7986 to work with Wells Fargo to explore options that may be available to help them avoid foreclosure.

Wells Fargo is also taking a proactive approach to maintain abandoned properties. Officials may contact the Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Property Preservation Department by calling toll free at 1-877-617-5274 or send e-mail to [codeviolations@wellsfargo.com](mailto:codeviolations@wellsfargo.com).

Another important resource is a database, known as MERS®, that can be used to research the mortgage servicer for at-risk properties. MERS provides access to data on the MERS® System free of charge to homeowners, county officials, and regulatory officials (subject to privacy restrictions). Officials can access the data on local mortgage loans registered on the MERS® System at [www.mersinc.org](http://www.mersinc.org) or by calling toll-free at 1-888-679-6377.

## ABOUT THE MAYOR



Tallahassee Mayor **John Marks** announced October 1 that he will not seek a fourth term as mayor of Florida's capital city.

First elected in 2003, Marks has led Tallahassee through a decade-long era marked by technological innovation, economic growth and recovery, and significant improvements to the overall quality of life for residents. During his tenure, Marks has helped leverage millions of dollars of state and federal resources for Tallahassee, served as the President of both the Florida League of Cities and the Florida League of Mayors, and is currently a Trustee of the Conference of Mayors and a Vice Chair of the Conference of Mayors Transportation and Communications Standing Committee.

"I'm tremendously proud of all that we have accomplished, and will accomplish, during my time as mayor," said Marks.



**Tallahassee Mayor John Marks**

"The greatest reward a public servant can ask for is the knowledge that in the end the hard work, the long hours, and the personal sacrifices have made a difference."

In listing some of the accomplishments he is most proud of, Marks cited winning The U.S. Conference of Mayors City Livability Award.

Marks' term will expire in November 2014.

## 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***

***202-861-6719***

## Calendar of Events

(Updated 10/04/13)

### 2013



**October 9-10**

**Mayors Water Council Meeting**, Alexandria (VA). Contact: Rich Anderson randerson@usmayors.org / 202-861-6795. Registration Open

**October 14-16**

**Municipal Waste Management Association Fall Summit** (USCM Affiliate), Tampa. Contact: Judy Headley jheadley@usmayors.org / 202-861-6798. Registration Open

### 2014

**January 22-24**

**82nd Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting**, Washington (DC). Contact: Carol Edwards cedwards@usmayors.org / 202-293-7330; Sponsorship: Geri Powell gpowell@usmayors.org / 202-861-6774. Registration Available Fall 2013

**April 25-27**

**Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment and Sports (TAPES) Committee Meeting**, New Orleans. Contact: Jocelyn Bogen jbogen@usmayors.org / 202-861-6727. Registration Available Winter 2014

**June 20-23**

**82nd Annual Conference of Mayors**, Dallas. Contact: Carol Edwards cedwards@usmayors.org / 202-293-7330; Sponsorship: Geri Powell gpowell@usmayors.org / 202-861-6774. Registration Available Spring 2014

*For updates or changes, check our web site at **usmayors.org***

## Indianapolis Launches New Neighborhood-Based Information Sharing Initiative

By Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard

Every time a couple of mayors or more get together it doesn't usually take long for the conversation to drift toward reaching people in their neighborhoods with information that is important to them. Last month, our city teamed up with a local company to announce a partnership that holds great promise for our city and hopefully other cities as well.

Many of us know Angie's List as the go-to source for reviews and references on things such as electricians, plumbers and more, but the company is also rolling out a new initiative called "Band of Neighbors." The idea behind the program is to help people share information in their neighborhoods and allow our public safety agencies to post real-time, geographically-targeted updates. And best of all, it doesn't cost users or taxpayers a dime.

All news alerts will be made through the Band of Neighbors forum, a secure social network tailored to Indy's 840 neighborhoods. Discussions within the Band of Neighbors forum are limited to residents of a specific neighborhood. Within the forum, neighbors can chat, ask about local news and share information.

Public safety messages from local police and fire departments will only appear in the neighborhoods where the actions or warnings are relevant. The Mayor's Neighborhood Liaisons' will also use the forum to communicate with the people in their geographic area of assignment.

The use of the technology to unite our citizens and to help them become aware of and take action within their own communities is an important component that highlights the ingenuity of the city's partnership with Band of Neighbors.

"When I arrived I mentioned that two of our goals for the Department of Public Safety would be to utilize technology and strengthen partnerships within the community," said Indianapolis' Director of Public Safety Troy Riggs. "Band of Neighbors makes both a possibility. Technology is being used to draw people together to take charge of their neighborhoods. I truly believe that when the police and community work together, that's a hard combination for any criminal to beat."

It can be like having a Neighborhood Watch alert on your phone or home computer. Lots of us get statewide or citywide news alerts, but there is no place to turn for news that's really important for one specific neighborhood or another. Band



**Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard**

of Neighbors brings you news that's literally close to home.

At a time when municipal budgets are strapped and the need to provide targeted and tailored messages directly to our citizens is critically important, this program is a win-win for the city and its nearly one million residents.

For more information about this project, contact Indianapolis Department of Public Safety Project Manager Laura White at [laura.white@indy.gov](mailto:laura.white@indy.gov).

***The idea behind the program is to help people share information in their neighborhoods and allow our public safety agencies to post real-time, geographically-targeted updates. And best of all, it doesn't cost users or taxpayers a dime.***

Mayors are invited to submit the "Best Practices" of their cities to U.S. MAYOR. Contact Public Affairs at 202-293-7330 or send e-mail to [usmayor@usmayors.org](mailto:usmayor@usmayors.org)

