

# National Association of Regional Councils



## 2006 NARC Policy Brief

*NARC policies are developed yearly from consultations with and information provided by the association's working groups, committees and its membership. The policies provide a context for NARC's national agenda on significant national and legislative issues. Each policy brief includes a rationale for NARC's position on topics relevant and important to America's regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations, metro and rural, large and small.*

### Rural Transportation

#### **Issue:** Rural Transportation

**Background:** Our nation's commitment to rural transportation has remained insufficient. Congress had the opportunity to create new programs and fund rural areas with the same commitment they have shown to urban and metropolitan communities – but did not in SAFETEA-LU. NARC strongly believes that the only way to account for changes in the quality of life of rural residents is to extend to them the same authority and responsibility on infrastructure investments that urban communities enjoy. Furthermore, they need the resources to make these changes a reality.

NARC will continue to engage Congress to accommodate rural regions in the transportation process. NARC will also extend to rural regions the skills and technical expertise necessary to plan and program transportation projects – in highways, transit, aviation, and other vital areas.

#### **Policy Recommendations:**

- Conduct a series of Rural Transportation Summits to explore the state of the practice and state of the art in rural transportation and new avenues for coordination and funding.
- Expand NARC opportunities with other rural transportation providers – USDA, HHS, DOL, etc.

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