Congressional City Conference

Information Technology and Communications (ITC) Committee

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
Lincoln Room 2
Sunday, March 12, 2017
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

David Luna, Chair
Councilmember
Mesa, Arizona

David Baker, Vice Chair
Mayor
Kenmore, Washington

Gary Resnick, Vice Chair
Mayor
Wilton Manor, Florida

Angelina Panettieri
Principal Associate
202-626-3196
Panettieri@nlc.org
1:30 p.m.  WELCOME AND MEETING OVERVIEW
• The Honorable David Luna, Chair
  Information Technology and Communications Committee
  Vice Mayor, Mesa, Arizona

Introductions, NLC Board of Directors Report and explanation of expected outcomes from the meeting.

1:45 p.m.  LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATES
• Angelina Panettieri
  Principal Associate for Technology and Communications, Federal Advocacy, National League of Cities,

Committee members will receive an update on NLC’s 2017 federal priorities, and a deep dive on the regulatory and legislative telecommunications and technology issues impacting local government authority or services. Committee members will also receive an update on the policy and resolution changes made by the committee during 2016.

2:15 p.m.  BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS – SUBCOMMITTEE GROUPS

Committee members will break into subgroups to discuss the three major work plan items identified by the committee during its January 2017 conference call, and discuss for thirty minutes before regrouping to share their conclusions. If they have not joined a subcommittee, committee members will also have the opportunity to do so at this time.

Subcommittees:

Economic Mobility Policy Subcommittee
This subcommittee will conduct a review of NLC's standing policy, as well as existing and proposed new resolutions, identify those which support city efforts to increase economic mobility, and identify any areas for policy revision or resolution changes. "Economic mobility" is defined as the ability of an individual or family to improve their economic status, usually through improving their income. This may include increased skills, access to better-paying jobs, housing or transportation stability, or other factors.

The subcommittee will prepare recommendations for the ITC Chair to present to NLC President Matt Zone.

Local Leader-Industry Working Group Subcommittee
This subcommittee will meet with representatives from industry and state municipal leagues to discuss the challenges facing cities and industry in the efforts to deploy small-cell wireless infrastructure, and identify voluntary best practices, for both city leaders and industry interested in entering a community.

The subcommittee will guide staff in producing a written resource guide for cities, as well as educational programming for city leaders on small-cell infrastructure deployment. Familiarity with city wireless negotiations is encouraged.

Communications Act Subcommittee
The statute that governs America's telecommunications policy has not been substantially revised since the Telecommunications Act of 1996, yet the technology that powers our communication has changed dramatically. With broad consensus among congressional leadership on the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction that the legislation is due for an overhaul, a rewrite of the law is likely within the next several years.

This subcommittee will review the major issues and controversies within the law that are most important to cities (such as municipal broadband, broadband deployment (whether wired or wireless), FCC reform, and Universal Service Fund reform, and identify priorities for NLC to use as an advocacy tool in any discussions of a rewrite.

2:45 p.m.  SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT-OUT AND WORK PLAN DISCUSSION

The Committee will reconvene as a whole and discuss the outcomes of subcommittee discussions. The Committee will finalize its 2017 work plan at this time and discuss dates for events, activities, and deliverables for its 2017 advocacy.

3:15 p.m.  FCC 101: WORKING WITH THE FCC
- Richard Lerner
  Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
  Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau
  Federal Communications Commission

Committee members will receive an introductory overview to the Federal Communications Commission and how to interact with this independent federal agency. The committee will learn what each of the major bureaus are responsible for, find out which offices are most engaged on the issues impacting cities, and how city officials can communicate with, get resources
from, and advocate to the FCC. This session will also help prepare those committee members planning to meet with FCC bureau leadership on Tuesday, March 14.

4:15 p.m. ADJOURNMENT

Next ITC Committee meeting:
Summer Leadership Forum
Cleveland, OH
June 19-22, 2017
As a resource and advocate for more than 19,000 cities, towns and villages, the National League of Cities (NLC) brings municipal officials together to influence federal policy affecting local governments. NLC adopts positions on federal actions, programs and proposals that directly impact municipalities and formalizes those positions in the National Municipal Policy (NMP), which guides NLC’s federal advocacy efforts.

NLC divides its advocacy efforts into seven subject areas:

- Community and Economic Development
- Energy, Environment and Natural Resources
- Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations
- Human Development
- Information Technology and Communications
- Public Safety and Crime Prevention
- Transportation and Infrastructure Services

For each of the seven issue areas, a Federal Advocacy Committee advocates in support of NLC’s federal policy positions. Members of each Committee serve for one calendar year, and are appointed by the NLC President.

**Federal Advocacy Committees**

Federal Advocacy Committee members are responsible for advocating on legislative priorities, providing input on legislative priorities, and reviewing and approving policy proposals and resolutions. Additionally, Committee members engage in networking and sharing of best practices.

Federal Advocacy Committees are comprised of local elected and appointed city and town officials from NLC member cities. NLC members must apply annually for membership to a Federal Advocacy Committee. The NLC President makes appointments for chair, vice chairs, and general membership. In addition to leading the Federal Advocacy Committees, those appointed as Committee chairs will also serve on NLC’s Board of Directors during their leadership year.

At the Congressional City Conference, Federal Advocacy Committee members are called upon to advocate for NLC’s legislative priorities on Capitol Hill, as well as develop the committee’s agenda and work plan for the year. Committee members meet throughout the year to further the plan, hear from guest presenters, discuss advocacy strategies and develop specific policy amendments and resolutions. At the Congress of Cities, Committee members review and approve policy proposals and resolutions. These action items are then forwarded to NLC’s Resolutions Committee and are considered at the Annual Business Meeting, also held during the Congress of Cities.

**Advocacy**

Throughout the year, Committee members participate in advocacy efforts to influence the federal decision-making process, focusing on actions concerning local governments and communities. During the Congressional City Conference, Committee members have an opportunity, and are encouraged, to meet with their congressional representatives on Capitol Hill. When NLC members are involved in the legislative process and share their expertise and experiences with Congress, municipalities have a stronger national voice, affecting the outcomes of federal policy debates that impact cities and towns.
I have noted the following sessions that may be of interest to the ITC Policy and Advocacy Committee. Please double check your program book or the conference app for any possible room changes.

Monday, March 7, 2016
1. Opening General Session, 9:00 to 10:30 am

2. Federal Agency Round Robin, 1:45 to 3:15 pm
   - Learn from federal agencies about various federal programs and opportunities that are available to cities and towns. Administration officials will be available to answer questions about federal resources, tools, grants, and programs of interest to local governments. This session will allow participants to engage in facilitated small group discussions with Administration officials and other local elected officials through a series of 20-minute rotations. Representatives from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (Broadband America resource), U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (Loan and grant assistance for broadband), and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (ConnectHome program) will be in attendance.

Tuesday, March 8, 2016
1. Digital Inclusion: Building A City of the Future for All, 10:30 to 12:15 pm
   - Access to high-speed internet and digital literacy are more important than ever for your residents. However, that access is not equally available – and in fact, the number of Americans with a broadband internet connection has dropped over the past year. Find out how cities are tackling digital inclusion challenges in their communities and what federal resources are available to you to make sure that all of your residents are part of the 21st century economy.

Wednesday, March 9, 2015
1. Legislative Briefing, Morning, Capitol Hill
National League of Cities Announces 2016 Federal Priorities

By Clarence Anthony, CEO & Executive Director, National League of Cities
February 19, 2016

Nearly seven years after the Great Recession, many of you are reporting improvement in your local economy. Job growth, increasing residential property values, and retail sector health are helping to put cities on a stronger fiscal footing. Despite cuts in federal and state aid, you continue to raise the bar, increasing citizen engagement and government transparency and improving the quality and accessibility of city services.

However, we know there is another side to this story. While we see an economy that continues to outpace the rest of the world in innovation and entrepreneurship, we also see one weighed down by slow productivity growth and stagnant wages. Critical infrastructure across the nation is in a state of neglect and disrepair. Rising home prices are helping replenish local tax bases, but at the same time exacerbate the affordable housing crisis.

Cities work best when the economy works for every resident. True to the founding principles of this organization more than 90 years ago, we believe when the most trusted level of government has the authority to implement locally-driven solutions, our communities grow stronger. We also believe a well-functioning partnership among all levels of government is imperative.

NLC’s 2016 federal priorities reflect important issues around the economy, infrastructure and public safety, providing a framework to empower cities to address the challenges we face and move our nation forward. Specifically, NLC calls on Congress and the administration to:

• Close the online sales tax loophole
  Today’s marketplace offers more choices than ever. But simply put, the playing field isn't level for all sellers - and states and localities are unable to collect more than a fraction of the revenue that's owed. Over 23 billion dollars a year are lost. That’s why we're calling on Congress to close the online sales tax loophole by passing e-fairness legislation.

• Protect the tax exemption for municipal bonds
  Protecting the tax exemption for municipal bonds is critical to local government's ability to respond to community needs. If the tax exemption is eliminated or limited, states and localities will be forced to pay more to finance projects, leading to less infrastructure investment, fewer jobs and a greater burden on local residents in the form of higher taxes and fees.

• Reform federal sentencing
  We urge Congress to reform the federal criminal justice system to allow for greater flexibility in sentencing and increased resources to support re-entry programs. Reentry programs tailored to the specific needs of our communities are essential to reduce recidivism and bolster the success of ex-offenders. We call on Congress to pass the “Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015” (S. 2123), which adjusts prison sentences for certain non-violent drug offenders, targets violent criminals, and supports
recidivism reduction programs. We also support the Second Chance Reauthorization Act (S. 1513/H.R. 3406), which would provide resources to local governments to improve outcomes for individuals returning to communities reducing in recidivism rates.

- **Reauthorize the EPA brownfields program**
  Many local governments, out of necessity, take ownership of brownfields properties. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Program provides grants and technical assistance to communities and other stakeholders, giving them the resources they need to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. The EPA Brownfields Program is vital for local governments in aiding their redevelopment efforts and supporting the productive reuse of property which otherwise remains a blight on the community. To strengthen the program, NLC calls on Congress to expand liability protections for local governments that acquire contaminated brownfields sites but had no involvement in the contamination, as well as increase the assistance available under the program.

In addition to these priorities, we will monitor and advocate for the interests of cities on other important issues. In 2016, NLC will work to:

- **Revise the “Waters of the U.S.” rule**
  We support congressional efforts to direct the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to create a more open and transparent rulemaking process with input from all levels of government. Cities need federal regulators to conduct a comprehensive regulatory and economic impact analysis on how the rule will impact each Clean Water Act program. We also support revising the rule in a way that addresses lingering concerns regarding the certainty and clarity of the terms of the existing rule.

- **Ensure swift implementation of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act**
  The legislation may have passed, but the work has just begun. We are working closely with the U.S. Department of Transportation to ensure the FAST Act provides local leaders with the greatest possible control over how federal funding is spent in their regions.

We’ll work hard throughout the year to move this agenda forward, but we need you to be involved. Cities are strong when we stand together. I encourage you to register now for the Congressional City Conference, March 5-9 in Washington, D.C. Join thousands of city leaders to hear from federal policy makers and educate members of Congress about the needs of cities.
POLICY

After a substantial and comprehensive rewrite of the ITC National Municipal Policy Chapter in 2015, the Information Technology and Communications Committee proposed no amendments to existing policy.

RESOLUTIONS

The committee recommended two existing resolutions for renewal:

- Resolution #31: Local Government Support of Community/Municipal Broadband Networks
- Resolution #32: Broadband Access: A Call for Universal Availability, Affordability and World-Class Quality

The committee recommended one new resolution for adoption:

- Resolution #33: Local Government Support for Fairness and Truth in Advertising for Internet Service Providers

These recommendations were approved by the full National League of Cities membership during its Annual Business Meeting on November 19, 2016 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
2017 Information Technology and Communications Committee Roster

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Kenmore, Washington

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Councilmember
Mesa, Arizona

Vice Chair

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Mayor
Wilton Manors, Florida

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