



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
BETWEEN THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NADO)
AND THE
ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS (AMPO)**

I. BACKGROUND

AMPO

The Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) is a national nonprofit membership organization that represents the interests of MPOs in Washington, DC and acts as a forum for professional and organizational development among the nation's MPOs. AMPO's program areas include:

Training, Technical Assistance, and Professional Development

Assistance in implementing the new and more comprehensive metropolitan planning and programming requirements is a key AMPO program area. Activities to support this objective include the preparation and dissemination of guidelines for, and examples of, best planning practices; opportunities for information exchange, professional development, and training through conferences and workshops; and direct technical assistance opportunities through the Expert Exchange and Voluntary Peer Review Programs.

Coalition Building

AMPO's coalition building focuses on sustaining partnership activities with the local and state public interest groups, and on building new coalitions with traditional and non-traditional public interest groups with private sector and industry groups. The primary objectives are to seek support for common program and policy goals, and to enhance the intergovernmental transportation partnership through joint efforts to improve planning practices and procedures.

Policy Development and Education

AMPO's alliance of MPOs provides decision makers at all levels of government with a center of information for programs and policies to further mobility goals while addressing environmentally sustainable and economically competitive transportation systems and management in metropolitan communities. AMPO's activities are designed to provide transportation suppliers, consumers, and the general public with information and tools necessary for active involvement and participation in the metropolitan transportation planning process.

NADO

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) is a national nonprofit association that provides advocacy, education, research and training for the nation's regional planning and development organizations, including the emerging network of rural transportation planning organizations. The association promotes federal policies and programs that encourage regional solutions and cooperation to foster local prosperity and services. Within the broad context of regional development, NADO's core mission areas include: community and economic development, homeland security and emergency preparedness, environmental stewardship, small business development finance, transportation planning and workforce development.

With respect to transportation, NADO has a new program affiliate, *RPO America*, which serves as the national professional development association for the emerging network of rural transportation planning officials across the nation. RPO America provides education, information, peer networking and research initiatives aimed at enhancing the professional and organizational development of rural transportation planning professionals, policy officials and stakeholders. The group serves as a national clearinghouse and forum for the exchange of information among individuals involved in the planning and development of the nation's rural transportation infrastructure and systems. The group sponsors conferences and workshops, maintains a Web clearinghouse and provides technical assistance.

In July 2006, NADO launched a new Center for Transportation Advancement and Regional Development as part of the association's efforts to enhance the understanding of the relationship between transportation and economic development planning. Funded under a four-year cooperative agreement with FHWA, the Center will provide a broad array of educational, research and training resources for transportation and economic development planners, policy officials and stakeholders.

III. PURPOSE

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between AMPO and NADO is a logical step in achieving the goals of both organizations. This MOU documents the relationship and outlines some of the activities that will take place in the spirit of cooperation. As the relationship evolves and new activities and ideas emerge, the MOU will be revised. It is intended as a baseline or foundation, and not as a limitation.

IV. SCOPE

As a demonstration of mutual interest in forming a collaborative partnership, NADO and AMPO have agreed to work together in several areas of mutual interest:

Information Exchange

AMPO and NADO will contribute articles to each other's publications, assist with the identification of best practices and emerging issues, and will maintain links to each other's web pages. We will support and publicize each other's publications, special reports, conferences and web pages.

Meetings

AMPO and NADO will actively promote each other's meetings and exhibiting opportunities and will exchange complimentary registrations. Staff members of the two organizations will assist one another in planning sessions and finding speakers for meetings and conferences.

Membership

The two organizations will provide each other with membership mailing lists in electronic or mailing label form and will assist each other in membership development progress.

Outreach

From time to time, AMPO and NADO will collaborate on press releases and other events. AMPO and NADO will cooperate in their respective efforts to educate members of Congress on issues of mutual interest.

Training

AMPO and NADO will work together to enhance the professional development of MPO and RPO stakeholders. With decades of experience, the nation's MPOs are uniquely positioned to provide mentoring and training assistance to the emerging network of rural transportation planning organizations.

State Chapters and State Affairs Committee

AMPO and NADO will explore opportunities for linking the actions of state and regional associations or chapters from each organization with geographically associated MPOs, TMAs, RPOs and others.

General

Both organizations will seek opportunities to collaborate on other projects.

Nothing in this MOU in any way restricts AMPO and NADO from pursuing other business opportunities. This MOU has a fixed duration of two years. Either party may terminate this MOU for any reason upon written notice to the other party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, NADO and AMPO agree to this MOU as executed by their authorized representatives below:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS



By: _____
Matthew Chase, NADO Executive Director

Date Signed: September 8, 2006

THE ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS



By: _____
DeLania Hardy, AMPO Executive Director

Date Signed: September 8, 2006