



# **National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference**

*Agenda and Registration Form*

**August 17 – 19, 2008  
Holiday Inn & Suites  
Duluth, Minnesota**



# National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference

AUGUST 17 – 19, 2008 • DULUTH, MN

## TENTATIVE AGENDA

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

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11:00 am – 5:00 pm     **REGISTRATION**

Noon – 4:00 pm     **MOBILE WORKSHOP:  
NORTH SHORE SCENIC DRIVE, AN ALL-AMERICAN ROAD**

The North Shore of Minnesota has what no other place in the Midwest can offer – an inland sea, a mountain backdrop, an unspoiled wilderness, and a unique feeling all its own. This special tour will travel along the shores of Lake Superior, stopping at Two Harbors Lighthouse and the Split Rock Lighthouse State Park. *(Pre-Registration Required; Additional \$40 Fee)*

Noon – 4:00 pm     **MOBILE WORKSHOP:  
DULUTH SEAWAY PORT AUTHORITY AND HARBOR**

This special boat cruise will explore the Port of Duluth-Superior, one of the largest inland seaports in the world. At the far westerly tip of Lake Superior near the geographic center of the North American continent, this is where the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway navigation system ends – and begins. *(Pre-Registration Required; Additional \$40 Fee)*

4:30 – 6:30 pm     **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' ROUNDTABLE**

4:30 – 6:30 pm     **RPO AMERICA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

- **Election of Officers for RPO America**
- **Special Report Release: New Rural Consultation Self-Assessment Guide & RPO-MPO Collaboration Case Studies**  
This special project is a collaboration of NADO's RPO America, the NADO Research Foundation and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) under a cooperative agreement with the Federal Highway Administration.
- **Progress Report: RPO America and NADO Research Foundation's Center for Transportation Advancement and Regional Development**
- **RPO Peer Information Exchange**

**Immediately Followed by Meeting of National RPO Council of Peers**

6:30 – 8:30 pm     **OPENING NETWORKING RECEPTION** *(Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres)*

*AICP Certification Maintenance Credits May Be Offered at all Conference Sessions and Workshops. Details will be posted to the conference Web site.*

## MONDAY, AUGUST 18

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- 7:30 – 8:30 am      **COFFEE AND NETWORKING**
- 8:30 – 9:30 am      **PLENARY SESSION: SHAPING OUR NATION'S TRANSPORTATION POLICY FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**
- **The Honorable James L. Oberstar**, Chairman, U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (*Invited*)
  - **Vice Admiral Thomas J. Barrett**, Deputy Secretary of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation (*Invited*)
- 9:40 – 10:40 am      **PLENARY SESSION: DEVELOPING A NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FOR AMERICA'S ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AND MOBILITY**
- **David Cole**, Commissioner, Maine Department of Transportation
- 10:50 am – Noon      **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
- Technical Track: Emergency Management Links to Transportation Planning and Service Delivery
  - Technical Track: Innovations in Travel Demand Modeling
  - Policy Track: Financing Rural and Small Metropolitan Infrastructure
- Noon – 1:30 pm      **LUNCHEON ADDRESS: CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**
- 1:45 – 3:00 pm      **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
- Technical Track: Implementing Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plans and Rural Transit Initiatives
  - Technical Track: Exploring Innovations in Rural Safety
  - Policy Track: Addressing Freight and Intermodal Transportation Solutions within Your Region
- 3:15 – 4:30 pm      **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
- Technical Track: New and Affordable GIS Tools and Applications for Rural Transportation Planning
  - Technical Track: Developing Criteria for Project Prioritization
  - Policy Track: Transportation and Economic Development
- 4:30 – 6:00 pm      **2008 NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AWARDS: PROJECT SHOWCASE AND NETWORKING RECEPTION**
- All conference participants are invited to attend this highly interactive project innovation showcase event. Winners of NADO and RPO America's *2008 National Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards* will be available to talk one-on-one with conference participants about their award-winning projects. Light hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

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## TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

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8:00 – 8:30 am

### CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND PEER NETWORKING

8:45 – 10:00 am

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- Technical Track: Transportation Elements of Renewable Energy
- Technical Track: Connecting the Dots – Intercity Passenger Transportation
- Policy Track: Developing Relationships and Forming an RPO with Your State DOT and Local Governments

10:15 – 11:30 am

### PLENARY SESSION: COORDINATING LAND USE, REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VISIONS

Noon – 2:00 pm

### MOBILE WORKSHOP: DOWNTOWN DULUTH ENHANCEMENT SYSTEM

Downtown Duluth has an incredible network of pedestrian and bike trails and other features that connect various areas of downtown, including the waterfront. Join your peers in exploring this vast network during the walking tour. *(Pre-Registration Required; Additional \$15 fee includes boxed lunch)*

Noon – 2:00 pm

### MOBILE WORKSHOP: NEW DIRECTIONS IN AVIATION

Formerly an Air Force Base, the Duluth International Airport has a runway that nearly rivals the length of Minneapolis-St. Paul's. Also located on airport grounds is Cirrus Design, the leading manufacturer of single-engine propeller planes. Cirrus Design is currently developing a relatively low-cost "very light jet" model, which may significantly impact the future of business travel. Attend this tour to learn more about the region's aviation assets. *(Subject to Availability; Pre-Registration Required; No Additional Fee)*

For regular conference updates and further agenda details, visit



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Please Fax or Mail Registration Form and Payment To:  
NADO • 400 N. Capitol St, NW • Suite 390 • Washington, DC 20001  
Tel: 202.624.7806 • Fax: 202.624.8813 • Email: [Info@nado.org](mailto:Info@nado.org)

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## Conference Registration:

- \$200 Early-Bird Rate (By July 21)
- \$250 Regular Rate (After July 21)

## Mobile Workshop Registration:

- \$40 Guided Tour of the North Shore Scenic Drive, an All-American Road (Sunday, August 17)
- \$40 Duluth-Superior Harbor Cruise Tour (Sunday, August 17)
- \$15 Walking Tour of Duluth, Including Boxed Lunch (Tuesday, August 19)
- New Directions in Aviation Tour (No Fee; Tuesday, August 19)

*All Mobile Workshops Subject to Availability*

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## Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Check here if you have any ADA requirements. A NADO staff person will contact you to see how we can meet your needs.

**Hotel Information:** Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites • 200 West First Street • Duluth, MN 55802  
218.722.1202 • [www.hiduluth.com](http://www.hiduluth.com)  
Hotel rate: \$129 single or double • Hotel Room Block Deadline: July 21, 2008

**Staff Contact:** Carrie Kissel, Program Manager • Tel: 202.624.8829 • Email: [ckissel@nado.org](mailto:ckissel@nado.org)

**Cancellation policy:** A \$50 administrative fee will be assessed for cancellations.  
Cancellations must be made in writing by July 28.

Visit [http://www.nado.org/conferences/trans.php?con\\_id=82](http://www.nado.org/conferences/trans.php?con_id=82) for conference updates.

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