



NADO NEWS

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A Publication of the National Association of Development Organizations

Registration Now Open for Two NADO Conferences!

For more information on these important events, please reference the articles below or visit <http://www.nado.org/training>.

National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference

Registration for the 2011 National Rural Transportation Conference, to be held August 24 – 26 in Washington, DC is open online. Visit <http://www.nado.org/training> to learn more and register.

As the nation's only annual event focused on training for the nation's regional transportation planning and economic development professionals, state department of transportation planning staff, and local officials, the conference offers incomparable learning and networking opportunities with peers from other states. In addition, with the conference being held in Washington, DC, several federal agency representatives will participate in conference events. Sessions, workshops and facilitated discussions will offer participants practical information on a variety of rural and small metropolitan transportation topics, including freight, environment, transit, livable communities, and many more.

For more information or to register, visit <http://www.nado.org/training>. Contact NADO Program Managers Carrie Kissel, at 202.624.8829

or ckissel@nado.org, and Kathy Nothstine, at 202.624.5256 or knothstine@nado.org with any questions.

2011 EDFS Conference Set for August in Washington, DC

You can now register for the 2011 EDFS Conference which is scheduled for August 22 – 25 at the Marriott Metro Center in Washington, DC. Visit <http://www.nado.org/training/> for online registration, the preliminary agenda, details about the conference and hotel. Conference topics will include meeting the financing needs of small businesses, building borrower credit, collection and recovery/loan workouts, working with growth companies, loan fund consolidation, microloan funds, building loan fund capacity, accountability and due diligence, marketing the RLF and several plenary sessions, including the ever popular federal program updates. We are also looking into one or two mobile workshops to local projects of interest. The hotel is offering a rate of \$170 single or double. Please contact NADO Deputy Executive Director Laurie Thompson at lthompson@nado.org or 202.624.5948 if you have any questions.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

EDA Reauthorization Bill Faces Major Hurdles on Senate Floor

Due to several unrelated amendments, the Senate's five-year reauthorization bill (S. 782) for the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is facing major hurdles on the Senate floor next week. The EDA reauthorization bill has been

on the Senate floor for nearly two weeks, with the Senate Democratic leadership using the bill as a forum to discuss the economy, federal debt and deficits, and role of EDA in local job creation initiatives.

Unfortunately, the bill is also being used as a vehicle to debate and attach non-germane, highly politically charged issues such as federal subsidies for ethanol, endangered species issues and more than 100 other non-EDA related amendments. This is a major reason that the bill is expected to fail on the Senate floor with the cloture vote Tuesday afternoon. In addition, the Club for Growth, Heritage Foundation and Cato Institute have all launched aggressive attacks on EDA, culminating in a Wall Street Journal op-ed piece by Sen. James DeMint (R-SC) criticizing EDA and calling for the elimination of the agency.

Even if the EDA reauthorization bill is defeated or tabled in the Senate, the agency will continue to operate through the annual appropriations process. The authorization process is a separate legislative process for establishing the overall policy framework and policies for an agency or program.

Agriculture Appropriations Bill Passes in the House

On June 16, the House passed the "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012" (H.R. 2112). The legislation would provide \$125.5 billion in total funds for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration and related agencies for FY2012, more than \$5 billion below President Obama's request for FY2012.

Below is a summary of key bill highlights:

Rural Development: The bill provides \$2.1 billion for rural development programs, a decrease of \$338 million from last year's level (17 percent), and \$109 million below the President's FY2012 request.

Food and Nutrition Programs: Mandatory food and nutrition programs within the Department

of Agriculture, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps) and child nutrition, are funded at nearly \$90 billion, \$2 billion less than the President's FY2012 request. Child nutrition programs will receive \$19 billion. The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program is funded at \$6 billion.

Agricultural Research: The bill provides over \$2.2 billion for agriculture research programs, including the Agriculture Research Service and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture. This is a reduction of over \$354 million from last year's level. This funding level will continue to support research on crop diseases, emerging chemical and biological threats, food safety and water quality. The funding will also maintain the nation's research investment in land-grant and other agricultural colleges and universities.

Conservation Programs: The bill provides \$770 million for Conservation Operations through which the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps farmers, ranchers and private forest landowners to conserve, protect and enhance their land. This is a decrease of \$99 million below last year's level. The bill also provides \$15 million for dam rehabilitation to help small communities ensure their small watershed projects meet current safety standards.

Energy-Water Appropriations Bill Approved by House Committee

On June 15, the House Energy-Water Appropriations Subcommittee approved a bill that would fund the U.S. Department of Energy and related agencies at \$30.6 billion for FY2012, which is \$5.9 billion (nearly 19 percent) less than President Obama's budget request and \$1 billion below FY2011 spending levels, bringing spending for the programs down to about the FY2005 level. It is unclear when the spending bill will be taken up by the full House. The following federal-state regional commissions are funded under this bill:

- **Appalachian Regional Commission:** The bill would provide \$68.4 million, down from \$76 million in FY2010.
- **Delta Regional Authority:** The bill would provide \$11.7 million, down from \$13 million in FY2010.
- **Denali Commission:** The bill would provide \$10.7 million, down from \$11.97 million in FY2010.
- **Northern Border Regional Commission:** The bill would provide \$1.35 million, down from \$1.5 million in FY2010.
- **Southeast Crescent Regional Commission:** The bill would provide \$250,000 in FY2012.

Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill Release Delayed

Originally planned for this week, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman John L. Mica (R-FL) has delayed releasing a draft of the surface transportation reauthorization until the week of July 4, followed by a Committee mark up on July 12. It is expected to be a six-year, \$218 billion plan. President Obama's FY2012 budget request was for a \$556 billion six-year reauthorization measure.

Chairman Mica's pledge to include extensive use of public-private partnerships was realized this week with the release of draft legislation to privatize high-speed and intercity passenger rail service in the U.S., specifically, Amtrak's DC-Boston Northeast Corridor. The draft legislation, known as the "Competition for Intercity Passenger Rail in America Act", would ultimately be incorporated into the long-term surface reauthorization plan. More information on the plan to privatize high-speed rail can be found here:

<http://www.transportation.house.gov/News/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1310>

Lawmakers continue to struggle with how to fund the long-term reauthorization bill. The options being examined include: tolls, an infrastructure bank, and a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) tax.

Both the House and the Senate are still aiming to have bills passed by the August recess to avoid further extensions of programs under SAFETEA-LU (P.L. 109-59).

Co-Sponsors Needed: Regional Transportation Planning Organizations Bill

Representative Tim Walz (D-MN) and Representative Richard Hanna (R-NY) circulated a Dear Colleague letter on May 20 to the entire House of Representatives asking for cosponsors on the Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPO) bill (H.R. 1565) in the House. Previously, on March 17, Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) introduced companion legislation (S. 625). The legislation would strengthen the role of rural local officials in the statewide transportation planning and investment process by establishing and giving federal recognition to RTPOs for areas outside the boundaries of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). We hope that language from H.R. 1565 and S. 625 will be included in the multi-year SAFETEA-LU reauthorization measure for federal surface transportation programs. Please urge your Members of Congress to cosponsor these bills. In the House (H.R. 1565, the Walz-Hanna RTPO bill), have your Member or their staff contact Brian Kessler in Rep. Walz's office at 202.225.2472 or Andrew Brady in Rep. Hanna's office at 202.225.3665. In the Senate (S. 625, the Klobuchar-Alexander RTPO bill), have your Senator or their staff contact Travis Talvitie in Sen. Klobuchar's office at 202.224.3244 or Curtis Swager in Sen. Alexander's office at 202.224.4944.

Need a NADO Legislative Briefing?

If your organization, board, or state association needs a legislative briefing on the latest developments on Capitol Hill, please contact NADO Associate Legislative Directors Deborah Cox (dcox@nado.org or 202.624.8590) or Jen Walsh (jwalsh@nado.org or 202.624.8467).

FEDERAL NEWS AND NOTES

New *SelectUSA* Initiative Targets Investment in the U.S.

On June 15, at an event hosted by the Business Roundtable, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke announced the launch of a federal initiative. *SelectUSA*, which will be housed within the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC), will pursue foreign and domestic investment by highlighting why the U.S. is the premier place to do business

and mitigating investment barriers. Created by Executive Order, *SelectUSA* is the first federal effort specifically aimed at encouraging investment in the U.S. in order to create jobs and sustainable economic growth. According to USDOC, *SelectUSA* will be led by Executive Director Barry Johnson, and will “encourage foreign businesses to operate in the United States, U.S. and foreign businesses to expand and grow in the United States, and U.S. businesses operating outside our borders to return their previously off-shored operations back to the United States.”

For additional information, see the USDOC Press Release at <http://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2011/06/15/us-commerce-secretary-gary-locke-announces-first-federal-effort-attra>. The Executive Order establishing *SelectUSA* is available at <http://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2011/june/2011selectusa-eo.pdf>.

HUD Requests Comments on Community Challenge Planning Grant

The Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (P.L. 112-10) provided \$30 million for the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Community Challenge Planning Grant Program.

In conformance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities invites the general public to comment on the proposed information collection for the Community Challenge Planning Grant in order to ascertain: (a) whether the information collection is necessary for the property performance of the agency; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Written comments must be submitted by June 28, 2011. Additional information is available at <http://frwebgate3.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/PDFgate.cgi?WAISdocID=5CpoH3/0/2/0&WAISaction=retrieve>.

Funding Available: USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s 2011 Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) is designed to promote the domestic consumption of agricultural commodities by expanding direct producer-to-consumer marketing opportunities. Approximately \$10 million in competitive grant funds are available in grant awards between \$5,000 and \$100,000. FMPP funding will be available for use beginning October 2011, with project work occurring between October 2011 and October 2013. Matching funds are not required. Eligible entities are: agricultural cooperatives; producer networks; producer associations; local governments; nonprofit corporations; public benefit corporations; economic development corporations; regional farmers market authorities; and Native American tribal governments. Eligible projects must establish, expand, or promote direct producer-to-consumer marketing activities within the U.S. The application deadline for this program is July 1. To learn more about this opportunity and to apply through grants.gov, [click here](#).

Application Deadline Extended for Biorefinery Assistance Program Loans

On March 11, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Business-Cooperative Service and Rural Utilities Service announced the availability of \$129 million to support guaranteed loans under the Biorefinery Assistance Program. The Biorefinery Assistance Program provides loans for the development and construction of commercial-scale biorefineries or for the retrofitting of existing facilities for the development of advanced biofuels. As only 10 applications were received by the deadline, the deadline has now been extended to July 6, 2011. Additional information concerning the deadline extension is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-06/pdf/2011-13850.pdf>. Complete details about this opportunity are available at <http://frwebgate3.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/PDFgate.cgi?WAISdocID=FXxQgq/1/2/0&WAISaction=retrieve>.

ETA Corrects WIA Section 503 Incentive Awards Announcement

On May 9, the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced that four states—Arizona, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Texas—are eligible to apply for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) incentive awards under WIA section 503. On June 7, 2011, ETA amended the May announcement to include an appendix detailing which states passed the WIA and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act portions of the incentives review. This appendix was excluded from the original announcement. The application deadline is June 23, 2011. Additional information concerning the corrected announcement is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-07/pdf/2011-13938.pdf>. Information about the announcement is available at <http://frwebgate3.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/PDFgate.cgi?WAISdocID=ztJ41U/1/2/0&WAISAction=retrieve>.

FTA Transit Climate Change Adaptation Assessment Pilot Programs

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is soliciting proposals for transit climate change adaptation assessment pilots. The pilots will fund transit agencies or partnerships with transit agencies to assess the vulnerability of transit agency assets and services to climate change hazards such as heat waves and flooding. The pilots will also assess initial adaptation strategies and link these strategies to transit agency organizational structures and activities. FTA contemplates making approximately four cooperative agreement awards, ranging from \$50,000 to \$175,000 each. Total funding available is \$525,000. Eligible recipients are either 1) a public transportation provider or, 2) a university, non-profit, private or public entity working in partnership with a public transportation provider.

The full announcement is located [here](#). It is posted on the grants.gov site as opportunity DOT-FTA-2011-016-TBP. An applicant must submit a proposal electronically to <http://www.grants.gov/> by midnight EDT August 25 for consideration. For more information, contact Tina Hodges, Office of Budget and Policy,

Federal Transit Administration, U.S. DOT at tina.hodges@dot.gov or 202.366.4287.

Funding Available under USDA Rural Housing Service's Section 538 Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service (RHS) has released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and is accepting proposals for guaranteed loans under the section 538 Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program (GRRHP) for FY2011. The Department of Defense and Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (Pub. L. 112-20) (April 15, 2011) appropriated approximately \$31 million to the Agency for FY2011 funding for the section 538 program. The commitment of program dollars will be made first to approved and complete applications from prior years NOFA, then to applicants of selected responses in the order they are ranked under this NOFA that have fulfilled the necessary requirements for obligation. Applications must be submitted by December 30, 2011. Complete details are available online at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-05-26/pdf/2011-13012.pdf>.

NADO NEWS AND NOTES

Rural Development Discussion for Next Farm Bill

NADO Executive Director Matthew Chase participated in a special Farm Bill forum held by the Farm Foundation at the National Press Club on June 14. The panel discussion focused on the future of the USDA Rural Development mission area in the 2012 Farm Bill. Chase discussed the importance of defining the federal role in rural development, enhancing the program flexibility and speed of USDA programs, and developing new access to capital tools for rural entrepreneurs and businesses. "Rather than trying to chase the call centers and dumb down our economies, we need to try and build a world-class economy and figure out how can we position rural American for the future," remarked Chase. "If we don't get serious about how can we modernize [federal] programs, make them more effective, and really have a return on investment, the default policy will be just to eliminate them, or to continue this death by 1,000 cuts. We need more modern tools that can help

rural industries really take advantage of their assets.” Chase also highlighted the need to promote regional approaches within Rural Development. “We need to build new incentives into rural development programs to not require, but to incentivize regional behavior. Rather than doing it town by town, we need to look regionally.”

NADO Two-Part Webinar Series: Regional Sustainable Development

The NADO Research Foundation is sponsoring a two-part webinar series exploring how regional development organizations are incorporating sustainability principles into their regional planning processes.

“Land-Based Sustainable Development Strategies in Western North Carolina” is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, from 2pm – 3pm EDT and will feature two initiatives of the Land-of-Sky Regional Council (Asheville, NC). Linda Giltz, Regional Planner at Land-of-Sky, will describe the *Linking Lands and Communities Project*, a four-county, multidisciplinary program to help guide land use decisions across the landscape by identifying and mapping the region’s most valuable natural and cultural resources. Erica Anderson, also a Regional Planner at Land-of-Sky, will discuss the *Western North Carolina Forest Products Cooperative Marketing Project*, which builds the capacity of forest producers to sustainably pursue a variety of forest enterprises using a bottom-up planning and economic development approach guided by forest producers and by forest product consumers. Registration is free; reserve your place for the webinar now at: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/924646491>.

“Rural-Urban Connections in the Sacramento Region,” will be held on Tuesday, July 12, from 2pm – 3:30 pm EDT and will feature David Shabazian, Senior Planner with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG). Shabazian will discuss the *Rural-Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS)*, a look at the region's growth and sustainability objectives from a rural perspective. Through the RUCS framework, SACOG is working with rural residents, businesses, and public agencies to form strategies that enhance

agriculture, rural economies, resource conservation, recreation, quality of life, and regional sustainability. This webinar will demonstrate the interactive scenario modeling tools that SACOG is using to broaden understanding of how land use and transportation investments affect rural areas, agriculture production, and the region as a whole. Registration is free; reserve your place for the webinar now at:

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/552780427>.

Free Webinar on the Regional Innovation Acceleration Network

Please join us for a free webinar on Tuesday, June 28, from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm EDT to learn about the Regional Innovation Acceleration Network (RIAN). An EDA-funded State Science and Technology Institute (SSTI) project, RIAN is a virtual networking tool that bridges together people, ideas and resources as the basis for economic growth and development. The webinar will be led by Mark Skinner, Vice President and Director of RIAN, who will explore the benefits of the new RIAN web site, define the concept of Venture Development Organizations (VDOs), demonstrate RIAN’s interactive map designed to help economic development practitioners identify their regional innovation colleagues, and discuss how RIAN facilitates the growth of existing innovation networks. For additional information on RIAN, visit www.regionalinnovation.org. Register for the webinar at

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/610385275>.

NADO’s 2011 Annual Training Conference: Start Planning Your Conference Experience Now!

NADO’s 2011 Annual Training Conference (ATC) will be held at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel on historic Collins Avenue in South Beach October 8 – 11. Conference planning is in full swing, including final touches on a number of interesting and relevant mobile workshops, timely best practice sessions, numerous networking opportunities (a tried and true way to share information with your peers and to learn from each other), thought-provoking plenary sessions and much more! As

always, the conference is being planned with your suggestions and feedback in mind. You may register for the conference on-line (preferred method) now by visiting http://www.nado.org/event-registration/?regevent_action=register&event_id=1&name_of_event=2011AnnualTrainingConferenceMiami. This link will also take you to the preliminary conference agenda. Visit <http://www.loewshotels.com/en/Miami-Beach-Hotel/GroupPages/NADO> for information about the Loews Hotel and to reserve your rooms on line. Don't miss out on another great ATC – start planning now!

New on Rural Transportation.org

New resources have been posted to NADO's www.RuralTransportation.org website this week:

- [New RAND Report: Highway Infrastructure and the Economy](#)
- [NADO Two-Part Webinar Series: Regional Sustainable Development](#)
- [FHWA Freight Webinar on June 15](#)

Visit www.RuralTransportation.org to access these and other resources. For more information on NADO's transportation programs, contact NADO Program Managers Carrie Kissel, at 202.624.8829 or ckissel@nado.org, or Kathy Nothstine, at 202.624.5256 or knothstine@nado.org.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership Upgrade:

FIVCO ADD (Grayson, KY) upgraded to Sustaining Membership. Sherry McDavid is the Executive Director. For more information, visit www.fivco.org.

New Executive Director:

Bonnie Prigge has been named Executive Director of Meramec Regional Planning Commission (St. James, MO). Prigge will replace Richard Cavender who will retire at the end of June after serving 32 years with Meramec RPC. Prior to that, Cavender

worked with Mid America Regional Council for 10 years. For more information, visit www.meramecregion.org.

NADO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- [NADO Webinar: Land-Based Sustainable Development Strategies in Western North Carolina](#)
June 21, 2011: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. EDT
- [Free Webinar on the Regional Innovation Acceleration Network](#)
June 28, 2011: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT
- [NADO Webinar: Rural-Urban Connections in the Sacramento Region](#)
July 12, 2011: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. EDT
- [2011 EDFs Training Conference](#)
August 22 – 25, 2011, Marriott Metro Center, Washington, DC
- [2011 National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference](#)
August 24 – 26, 2011, Marriott Metro Center, Washington, DC
- [2011 Annual Training Conference](#)
October 8 – 11, 2011, Miami Beach, FL

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