



NADO NEWS

★ A Timely and Trusted News Source for the Nation's Regional Planning and Development Organizations

NADO NEWS: June 24, 2011

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

Join regional transportation professionals from across the nation at the National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference, August 24 – 26 in Washington, DC. Visit [://www.nado.org/training](http://www.nado.org/training) to learn more and register.

Timely issues, such as the future of statewide and regional transportation planning, positioning rural and small metro regions for innovation, and updated air quality standards, will be addressed during 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, safety, livable communities, and many more.

As the 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.

The National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference is sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Commission, Development District Association of Appalachia, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, National Association of Development Organizations and RPO America, and other planning partners.

For more information or to register, visit [://www.nado.org/training](http://www.nado.org/training). Contact NADO Program Managers Carrie Kissel, at 202.624.8829 or [@nado.org](http://www.nado.org), and Kathy Nothstine, at 202.624.5256 or [@nado.org](http://www.nado.org) with any questions.

The 2011 EDFS Conference is Just Around the Corner—Register Now!!

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 [://www.nado.org/training/](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 Marriott (800.992.4023) is offering a rate of

\$170 single or double; visit [://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasmc-washington-marriott-at-metro-center/](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasmc-washington-marriott-at-metro-center/) to learn about the hotel. 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 Fails in Senate

On June 21, the U.S. Senate failed to pass a cloture motion on a five-year reauthorization measure (S.782) for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Needing 60 votes for passage, the motion was defeated on a 49-51 vote with four Democratic Senators joining all Republicans in opposing the cloture motion. As a result, the EDA reauthorization bill will not move forward for formal consideration and a final vote at this time.

In the Senate, a cloture motion is used to end a “filibuster through amendments” when the opposition introduces non-germane amendments to drag out debate on a bill. The only amendment successfully adopted was introduced by Sen. Jim DeMint (R-SC) and would have eliminated the \$0.45 per-gallon tax credit that refiners get for blending ethanol with gasoline and the \$0.54 per-gallon tariff on imported ethanol. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) tried to use the cloture vote to begin formal consideration of the bill and to limit debate on over 90 amendments that were offered to EDA’s 29-page reauthorization bill. What had started as a bipartisan measure easily passed out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, then quickly became a platform for a partisan-charged political battle on the Senate floor.

Although the reauthorization measure was unsuccessful, **EDA will continue to operate through the annual appropriations process.** The reauthorization process is used to amend and update an agency’s policies and priorities, as well as assist Congress in the oversight of federal agencies and programs. EDA has not been reauthorized since 2008 and has continued to

receive funding through the appropriations process. It is essential to continue your outreach efforts with your Senators and Representatives on the importance of EDA’s FY2012 budget. It is not too late to ask your members of Congress to support EDA in the FY2012 appropriations process, especially related to increasing funding for the Economic Development District (EDD) planning program and maintaining support for the public works account.

Thank you again to each and every NADO member and friend who contacted their legislators about this important vote. Numerous Senators from both parties expressed their strong support for EDA, including the work of EDDs, during the debate.

CBO Releases Annual Report and Issues Warning About Unrestricted Debt Growth

On June 22, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a report warning that the United States’ long-term financial and economic health is in danger if the nation’s \$14.3 trillion debt continues its unrestrained growth. CBO said the growing debt “would reduce national saving, leading to higher interest rates, more borrowing from abroad, and less domestic investment-which in turn would lower income growth in the United States.”

The annual report arrives as congressional leaders push for a deal on a long-term deficit reduction plan that could be used as a vehicle to raise the debt limit by August. The Treasury Department has warned the nation faces a first ever default, and possible financial disaster, if the cap is not increased. Without a plan to reduce debt growth, CBO said that taxes would have to be raised and government services cut to pay for the spiraling costs of interest on the debt. The agency also said the mounting cost of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid is a significant factor in the projected debt increase.

The report noted that publicly held debt, which is currently \$9.7 trillion, has been surging and is projected to equal 70 percent of the economy by the end of the year. In 2008, it was at 40 percent of gross domestic product, near the historical average. CBO said its projections “understate the

severity of the long-term budget problem because they do not incorporate the negative effects that additional federal debt would have on the economy, nor do they include the impact of higher tax rates on people's incentives to work and save." CBO recommended that lawmakers need to increase revenues considerably as a percentage of GDP, decrease spending significantly from projected levels, or adopt a combination of those two approaches.

The challenge for the small group of negotiators, led by Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., is to reach a tentative deficit reduction agreement by July 1 with at least \$2.5 trillion in budget savings. The plan will ultimately need to be able to pass both chambers of Congress before the August 2 deadline set by the Treasury Department to avoid a default on government obligations. So far, they have not been able to resolve their differences on taxes, entitlements and short-term economic stimulus proposals.

With much still unresolved, Senate Republicans are preparing a fallback strategy to avoid a default. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) is hinting that a short-term increase in the debt ceiling may be needed if the White House will not agree to cut entitlement spending. Republicans in the House have already dismissed the idea of a short-term increase in the debt limit.

House Passes Short-Term FAA Extension

On June 24, the House passed the "Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2011, Part III" (H.R. 2279), which will extend programs under the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for three weeks until July 22. The current extension is set to expire on June 30 and the House is leaving for a week long recess beginning June 27. The measure was passed because the two chambers still have not been able to come to an agreement on a number of provisions in the long-term reauthorization measure (H.R. 658). These include:

- An increase in the number of daily long-distance flights into and out of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Arlington, VA
- A provision in the House-passed bill that would repeal a 2010 ruling from the National

Mediation Board that made it easier for some railroad and airline workers to unionize

- The Essential Air Service program that provides subsidies to airlines to provide service to small, rural communities, which would be phased out for the continental U.S. in the House bill but would see funding increases under the Senate version
- Overall FAA funding levels (Senate had a two-year, \$34.5 billion bill, House had a four-year, \$59.7 billion bill)

The Senate will now need to act on the extension when it returns next week. It is important to note that this would be the 20th extension of programs under FAA. The last long-term authorization for the FAA, the "Vision 100-Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act" (P.L. 108-176), expired on Sept 30, 2007.

Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bills Expected After the July 4 Recess

Both the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) are preparing to release their versions of the long-term surface reauthorization legislation the week of July 4. House Chairman John L. Mica (R-FL) is expected to release a six-year, \$218 billion plan, an amount that was established by the passage of the House FY2012 budget resolution. Senate EPW Chairman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) is expecting to release a bill that will maintain spending at the FY2010 enacted level of \$339 billion plus inflation. President Obama's FY2012 budget request was for a \$556 billion six-year reauthorization measure.

While both the House and the Senate are still aiming to have bills passed by the August recess to avoid another extension of programs under SAFETEA-LU (P.L. 109-59), it is becoming increasingly likely that a further extension will be needed due to the House's uncertainty that the legislation would receive floor time before the August recess.

House Committee Members Send Letter on Priorities for Surface Reauthorization Bill

On June 14, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) and Subcommittee on Highways and Transit Ranking Member Peter A. DeFazio (D-OR), sent a letter to Chairman John L. Mica (R-FL) and Subcommittee on Highways and Transit Chairman John J. Duncan (R-TN) outlining their priorities for a long-term surface transportation reauthorization bill. They also expressed concern that to this point they had largely been left out of the process, noting the Committee's history of bipartisanship. A copy of the letter can be found here:

[://www.nado.org/letter-to-reps-mica-and-duncan-from-reps-rahall-and-defazio-regarding-surface-transportation-authorization-bill-priorities/](http://www.nado.org/letter-to-reps-mica-and-duncan-from-reps-rahall-and-defazio-regarding-surface-transportation-authorization-bill-priorities/)

House Transportation Committee Holds Hearing on Amtrak Privatization Legislation

While originally planning a markup of draft legislation that would partially privatize Amtrak, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure opted instead to hold a hearing on the matter at the request of Committee Ranking Member Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) and Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Chairwoman Corrine Brown (D-FL). The purpose of the hearing was to hear from stakeholder groups about a variety of concerns regarding the legislation. The witnesses, which included Amtrak President Joseph Boardman, all largely opposed the concept of the bill.

The draft bill would make the operation of the North East Corridor (NEC) a public-private partnership and would mandate that all other existing Amtrak routes be opened up to competition. 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.

Senate Committee Holds Hearing on Farm Bill Accountability

On June 23, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry held the hearing, *Farm Bill Accountability: The Importance of Measuring Performance, While Eliminating Duplication and Waste*. The purpose of the hearing was to focus on accountability, performance, and eliminating duplication and waste in U.S. Department of

Agriculture (USDA) programs. Dallas Tonsager, Under Secretary of Rural Development for USDA, addressed the topic of energy-efficient homebuilding as a way for rural communities to maximize federal resources. Other witnesses included Michael Scuse, Acting Under Secretary of Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services at USDA, Harris Sherman, Under Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment for USDA, and several others.

House Appropriations Committee Approves FY2012 Financial Services Bill

On June 23, the House Appropriations Committee approved the FY2012 Financial Services and General Government Appropriation bill. The legislation provides annual funding for the Treasury Department, the Executive Office of the President, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, the Small Business Administration, the General Services Administration, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and several other independent agencies. The bill includes a total of \$19.9 billion in funding for the agencies, nearly \$2 billion below last year's level and nearly \$6 billion below the President's FY2012 request. Some of the highlights include:

Department of the Treasury: The bill includes \$12.2 billion for the Treasury Department, which is \$929 million below last year's level and nearly \$2 billion below the President's request. Within this total, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will receive \$11.5 billion – \$606 million below last year. The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI) would receive \$183 million compared to \$226 million (down \$43 million) in FY2011 and \$227 million in the President's FY2012 request.

Small Business Administration: The bill contains \$978 million for the Small Business Administration (SBA) – \$249 million more than last year's level and \$7 million below the President's FY2012 request.

Complete details are available online at [://appropriations.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=248454](http://appropriations.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=248454)

Co-Sponsors Needed: Regional Transportation Planning Organizations Bill

Reps. Tim Walz (D-MN) and 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, Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and 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). NADO is pushing for the language from H.R. 1565 and S. 625 to 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. Contact NADO Associate Legislative Director Jen Walsh (@nado.org or 202.624.8467) for assistance.

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 (@nado.org or 202.624.8590) or Jen Walsh (@nado.org or 202.624.8467).

FEDERAL NEWS AND NOTES

HUD FY2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Advance Notice

This week, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided advance notice that the second round of Sustainable Communities Regional Planning grants will soon be made available through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The grants will be awarded competitively to multi-jurisdictional and multi-sector partnerships as well as regional consortia consisting of state and local governments, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), educational institutions, non-profit organizations and philanthropic organizations.

The Advance Notice provides a detailed review of the program requirements that will be expected

from the official NOFA. This notice is provided to allow potential applicants to be aware of the requirements so that they can begin initial preparations for when the application is posted to Grants.gov. Once the final NOFA is posted, HUD will announce information on due dates.

Regional development organizations should be aware that in the FY2011 NOFA, the definition of a region has been expanded to include a region designated under state law or gubernatorial executive order for the purpose of facilitating and coordinating local government planning for land use, transportation, economic development, parks and open space, or other related activities, or an Economic Development District designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. To read the full text of HUD's advance funding announcement, [HUD's website here](#).

To receive the application when it becomes available, sign up for the Grants.gov Notification service at [://www.grants.gov/applicants/email_subscription.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/email_subscription.jsp). Interested parties should contact @hud.gov with specific questions about the advance notice.

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 <://frwebgate3.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/PDFgate.cgi?WAISdocID=5CpoH3/0/2/0&WAISaction=retrieve>.

OMB Requests Comments on the Hope VI Program Application

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) submitted a request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of a proposed information collection for the Hope VI program application. The information is required to allow HUD to obligate grant funds and manage awarded grants.

OMB has requested public comment on the proposed information collection for HUD's Hope VI program application in order to ascertain whether the information collection is necessary for the property performance of the agency, the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of collected information, and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents. Written comments must be submitted by July 22, 2011. Additional information is available online at <://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-22/pdf/2011-15519.pdf>.

SBA Seeks Comments on Retrospective Review Plan

The Small Business Administration (SBA) is inviting the public to comment on a preliminary retrospective review plan which they have prepared in response to Executive Order 13563, Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review. The goal of the retrospective review is to improve the effectiveness and decrease the burden of SBA's regulatory program. The plan will enable SBA to review its existing regulations in order to ascertain whether they should be modified, streamlined, expanded or repealed. The due date for comments is July 25, 2011. Additional information is available at <://frwebgate1.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/PDFgate.cgi?WAISdocID=hv6rDK/0/2/0&WAISaction=retrieve>.

ETA Releases New Resource for Employment Projections

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Office of Workforce Investment released a new resource, *Internet Links for State and Local Employment Projections* ([.doleta.gov/business/projections](://doleta.gov/business/projections)). While the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is responsible for national employment projections, state and local employment projections are primarily funded by ETA. This new resource includes links to industry and occupational projections for all 50 states, statewide and local projections, long-term and short-term projections and other resources. Questions concerning *Internet Links for State and Local Employment Projections* may be directed to Frank Gallo, Workforce Analyst, at [.Frank@dol.gov](mailto:Frank@dol.gov) or 202.693.3755.

NADO NEWS AND NOTES

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" was held on Tuesday, June 21 and featured two initiatives of the Land-of-Sky Regional Council (Asheville, NC). Linda Giltz, AICP, Senior Planner at Land-of-Sky, described 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, AICP, also a Senior Planner at Land-of-Sky, discussed the *Western North Carolina Forest Products Cooperative Marketing Project*, a program that 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. The webinar recording and a PDF of the presentations can be found here:

://ruraltransportation.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=69578.

“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:
[://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/552780427](http://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 - 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 [.regionalinnovation.org](http://regionalinnovation.org). Register for the webinar at
[://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/610385275](http://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/610385275).

South Beach—Here We Come!!! Join NADO at the Loews Miami Beach October 8 – 11 for our 2011 Annual Training Conference (ATC)

Miami is used to Snowbirds—the annual migration of retirees and other economically fortunate folks from the frozen north to the sunny, warm shores of Florida—but the city will not be the same after NADO members from around the nation convene for our 44th Annual Training Conference! This year's 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!

Don't miss this opportunity to catch up with your peers and learn about their relevant and replicable projects and initiatives, hear from national experts on regional development, participate in one of many interesting mobile workshops that will not only take you out of the hotel but across the causeway to the City of Miami and beyond. NADO's ATC is the perfect place to share and exchange information, seek ideas and suggestions for tackling challenges to your region and your work, develop new professional partnerships and learn.

You may register for the conference online by visiting [://www.nado.org/event-registration/?regevent_action=register&event_id=1&name_of_event=2011AnnualTrainingConferenceMiami](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 [://www.loewshotels.com/en/Miami-Beach-Hotel/GroupPages/NADO](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 your trip now!

NADO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- [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
- [Annual Training Conference](#)
October 8 – 11, 2011, Miami Beach, FL

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