

National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference

August 24–26, 2011 | Washington, DC

Thanks to the following organizations for their support of the 2011 National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference:

Appalachian Regional Commission

Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Development District Association of Appalachia

Environmental Protection Agency

Federal Highway Administration

Federal Transit Administration

NADO Research Foundation

RPO America





Photo credit: Destination DC

Welcome to the 2011 National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference

Welcome to Washington, D.C., and thank you for joining your peers for the 2011 National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference. Each year, this unique event convenes rural transportation planners, professionals and stakeholders to discuss practical issues and topics, engage one another through information exchange and networking opportunities, and learn from national experts. This event will also celebrate the 5th Anniversary of RPO America. As with previous years, conference organizers have applied to offer AICP Certification Maintenance credits for the training sessions and workshops.

Plenary and breakout sessions will cover a wide variety of topics, and several officials from federal agencies will address the conference. On Wednesday afternoon, representatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation will participate in the Federal Town Hall Plenary, to discuss new programs and grant opportunities. In addition, to take advantage of the host city of Washington, D.C., RPO conference attendees and their families will be able to take a special tour of the White House on Friday morning. Attendees and their guests will board buses at the Marriott for the short ride to the White House and will be able to tour the historic executive residence.

Throughout the conference, special networking events will allow attendees to share information with peers. On Wednesday evening, the Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards Showcase and Reception provides attendees the opportunity to learn about innovative projects in several different states. Network with exhibitors and learn about valuable resources for your organization at Thursday evening's reception. Finally, the Conversation Café on Friday morning will allow participants to engage in facilitated discussion on specific topics of interest, ranging from sustainable development to transportation during and after natural disasters. And as always, informal conversations with other attendees throughout the three-day event will allow new ideas to be shared and collaborations to form. Enjoy the conference!

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Schedule at a Glance

Wednesday, August 24

- 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Workshop: Sustainable Communities Approaches
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch on Your Own
- 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Opening Plenary: Federal Town Hall
- 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Special Plenary Session: TIGER Grants and Other Federal Funding
- 3:15 – 4:45 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions
- Lessons Learned from Starting an RPO
 - Air Quality Conformity for Rural and Small Metro Regions
- 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards Reception

Thursday, August 25

- 7:30 a.m. Excellence Awards Photo Session
- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Networking Breakfast
- 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. RPO America Peer Symposium: Sharing Innovations in Regional Transportation Planning
- 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions
- Regional Approaches to Sustainable Development
 - Planning with Transit at the Table
 - Freight and Regional Economic Development

Thursday, August 25 (cont'd)

- 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Luncheon: The Future of Statewide and Metropolitan Planning
- 1:45 – 2:45 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions
- Peer Accountability
 - Rural Transportation Safety
 - Putting Census Information to Use
- 3:00 – 4:15 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions
- Scenario Planning Training Session
 - Mobility in Rural and Small Metropolitan Regions
- 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. RPO America Annual Business Meeting and Special Legislative Update, immediately followed by the National RPO Council of Peers Meeting
- 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Networking Reception

Friday, August 26

- 8:00 – 9:15 a.m. Networking Breakfast and Conversation Café
- 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. White House Tour

FULL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Conference Registration Open	<i>Grand Ballroom Foyer</i>
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p>Workshop: Sustainable Communities Approaches</p> <p><i>This session will provide a demonstration and discussion on approaches to planning for sustainable communities in smaller towns and rural and small metro regions, and how federal resources can support regions that are seeking to implement these approaches. This workshop is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Appalachian Regional Commission.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Matthew Dalbey, Federal and State Division Director, EPA Office of Sustainable Communities ◦ Kevin Nelson, Senior Policy Analyst, EPA Office of Sustainable Communities 	<i>Salon D</i>
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch on Your Own	
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	<p>Welcome and Opening Plenary: Federal Town Hall</p> <p><i>In this town hall discussion, a panel of U.S. Department of Transportation staff will discuss emerging issues and the future direction of the agency. This panel provides an opportunity for an inside perspective and chance to ask questions about national-level transportation issues and planning practices affecting regional planning organizations and their state DOT partners.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Opening Welcome: Tim Ware, NADO President and Executive Director, Mid-East Commission (NC) ◦ Opening Welcome: Misty Casto, DDAA Secretary and Executive Director, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District (OH) ◦ Jim Cheatham, FHWA Office of Planning ◦ Lucy Garliauskas, FHWA Office of Human Environment ◦ Charlie Goodman, FTA Office of Systems Planning ◦ Harlan Miller, FHWA Office of Planning ◦ Kate Quinn, FHWA Office of Freight Management and Operations 	<i>Salon A</i>
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	<p>Special Plenary Session: TIGER Grants and Other Federal Funding</p> <p><i>U.S. Department of Transportation officials will provide information about the recently announced TIGER grants, as well as additional federal funding opportunities from USDOT and its partners.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <u>TIGER 3</u>: Beth Osborne, Office of the Secretary ◦ <u>Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing</u>: Barbara Klein-Amani, FRA ◦ <u>Upcoming FTA Grant Opportunities</u>: Henrika Buchanan-Smith, FTA 	<i>Salon A</i>
3:15 – 4:45 p.m.	<p><u>Concurrent Breakout Sessions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons Learned from Starting an RPO <p><i>Learn about developing and enhancing relationships between state DOTs and rural and small metro regions, as well as best practices for rural planning, such as integrating RPO tasks with other program areas. This session will provide insights for regions new to transportation planning or those interested in enhancing their current program.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Marsha Fiol, Virginia Department of Transportation ◦ Judy Lorenzo, Washington State Department of Transportation ◦ Larry Shifflet, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation ◦ Moderator: Sara Brown, South Central Tennessee Development District 	<i>Salon D</i>

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24 (CONT'D)

- Air Quality Conformity for Rural and Small Metro Regions Salon 1
New ozone standards may soon be released, and many new areas in rural and small metro regions could exceed the limit. Learn the basics of air quality conformity and what it means for regional transportation planning.
 - Emily Biondi, FHWA Office of Natural and Human Environment
 - Moderator: Hanna Cockburn, Piedmont Triad Regional Council (NC)

- 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards Reception Salon A
Join this year's award winners at a special roundtable reception to learn about the projects and network with attendees.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

- 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conference Registration Open Grand Ballroom Foyer
- 7:30 a.m. Excellence Awards Photo Session Salon E
- 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Networking Breakfast Grand Ballroom Foyer
- 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. RPO America Peer Symposium: Sharing Innovations in Regional Transportation Planning Salon A
Former Maine DOT Commissioner David Cole will start this special session by describing new partnership efforts between regions and the state. Also hear about innovative programs from RPOs and small MPOs in several states and share your experiences during the symposium.
 - Keynote: David Cole, David Cole Consulting
 - Will Cockrell, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (VA)
 - Doug Elliott, East Central Iowa Council of Governments
 - Robert Hiett, Three Rivers Regional Commission (GA)
 - Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission (IL and IA)
 - Jim Saylor, SEDA-Council of Governments (PA)
 - Scott Turnoy, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (OR)
 - Moderator: John Marshall, Western Piedmont Council of Governments (NC)
- 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions Salon E
 - Regional Approaches to Sustainable Development
Integrate planning programs in your region to leverage planning and project funds, streamline decisionmaking, and coordinate across areas such as economic development, housing, land use, disaster preparedness, and regional transportation.
 - Mitch Poulsen, Bear Lake Regional Commission (ID and UT)
 - Harrison Rue, ICF International
 - Moderator: Rita Seto, Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (VT)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25 (CONT'D)

• Planning with Transit at the Table Salon 3

With the third report of FTA's Transit at the Table series on multimodal transportation planning set to be released soon, hear examples from states that are successfully working across lines in rural regions with transit agencies, regional planning organizations, and state DOT staff.

- Sue Moreau, Maine Department of Transportation
- Page Scott, Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (WA)
- Moderator: John Sprowls, FTA

• Freight and Regional Economic Development Salon D

Find out how local governments and regional planners can work with the private sector to understand shipping needs, location decisions, and how to prepare for economic impacts of changing freight patterns.

- Brad Davis, Purchase Area Development District (KY)
- Chris Steele, CWS Consulting Group, LLC
- Moderator: Tim Conklin, Western Arkansas Planning and Development District

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Luncheon: The Future of Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Salon A

With the nation's surface transportation authorization operating under short-term extensions and needing general fund support for the past two years, many are questioning the future of the industry. Hear about reauthorization proposals and priorities and what they will mean for planning and projects.

- Jim Tymon, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
- Moderator: Matthew Chase, NADO

1:45 – 2:45 p.m.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

• Peer Accountability Salon D

With funding for planning and projects becoming increasingly tighter, states are carefully weighing their budget decisions. This discussion-oriented session will explore examples of peer mentoring networks developed among RPOs, COGs, and MPOs to improve accountability and their relationships with state DOTs.

- Facilitator: Travis Marshall, North Carolina Department of Transportation
- Facilitator: Alex Rickard, Eastern Carolina Council of Governments (NC)

• Rural Transportation Safety Salon E

Fatalities across the nation have decreased in the past few years, but rural areas continue to experience a disproportionate share of serious crashes. This session will cover resources and programs that are addressing safety in different ways.

- Peter Kissinger, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety
- Tom Mason, Cheyenne Metropolitan Planning Organization (WY)
- Moderator: Matt Buchanan, Mo-Kan Regional Council (MO and KS)

• Putting Census Information to Use Salon 3

Learn about ways geography and Census data interact, including transportation planning boundaries, urban areas, MSAs and other geographic levels, and hear about the Census Transportation Planning Products program.

- Alex Bond, ICF International
- Penelope Weinberger, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
- Moderator: Jana Harris, Southwestern Oklahoma Development Authority

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25 (CONT'D)

3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

- Scenario Planning Training Session

Salon E

Scenario planning is increasingly being used as a tool to assist with regional visioning and development of an integrated planning initiative with broad-based public input. Learn the steps to conduct scenario planning and hear a case study where it's been used successfully.

- Rae Keasler, Federal Highway Administration
- Marlie Sanderson, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- Moderator: Elijah Sharp, New River Valley Planning District Commission (VA)

- Mobility in Rural and Small Metropolitan Regions

Salon D

More regions are moving to address mobility in rural and small metropolitan contexts. Share perspectives and practices from your work in this facilitated discussion session.

- Facilitator: Connie Shade, Lower Savannah Council of Governments (SC)

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.

RPO America Annual Business Meeting, immediately followed by the National RPO Council of Peers Meeting

Salon E

In this plenary session, hear a special presentation from Kathy Ruffalo, who served as a commissioner on the National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission. The business meeting will also include an election of new officers, for which all NADO members can vote, and the announcement of a new term of RPO Council members.

- Kathy Ruffalo, Ruffalo and Associates

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Resource and Networking Reception

Grand Ballroom Foyer

Learn about resources your organization can use and exchange ideas with peers and exhibitors in an informal setting.

For resources and information on rural and small metropolitan transportation planning and issues, upcoming training events, and networking opportunities, visit



Also join us at www.Facebook.com/RPOAmerica
and Twitter.com/RPOAmerica

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

8:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Conference Registration Open	Grand Ballroom Foyer
8:00 – 9:15 a.m.	<p>Networking Breakfast and Conversation Café</p> <p><i>Through this facilitated discussion session, learn from your peers about their challenges and successes in regional transportation planning practice related to a variety of topics.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o <u>Freight Transportation:</u> Fred Rader, Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Commission (WV)o <u>Local Government Technical Assistance:</u> Chris Whitaker, Region XII Council of Governments (IA)o <u>Match for Rural Transportation Projects:</u> Robert Kuipers, Northwest New Mexico Council of Governmentso <u>Project Ranking & Regional Decisionmaking:</u> Carrie Kissel, NADO Research Foundationo <u>Regional Transit:</u> Amy Peters, Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governmentso <u>Regional Safety:</u> Dana Ternus, Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governmentso <u>Sustainable Development:</u> Jake Huebsch, Region 5 Development Commission (MN)o <u>Technology and Transportation:</u> Sheldon Johnson, Northwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissiono <u>Transportation During and After Disasters:</u> Jason Ray, Harry S Truman Coordinating Council (MO)o <u>Transportation and Public Health:</u> Julio Portillo, River Valley Regional Commission (GA)	Salon A
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p>Special White House Tour (Pre-registration Required)</p> <p><i>Attendees and their guests that pre-registered for the tour will meet in the Marriott lobby at 9:30 a.m. to board buses to the White House. Each guest on the tour age 18 and over must bring photo identification. Cameras, video recorders, strollers and bags or purses of all types are prohibited.</i></p>	

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Visit www.RuralTransportation.org for speakers' presentation materials.

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2011

Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards

An awards program of NADO's RPO America and the NADO Research Foundation's
Center for Transportation Advancement and Regional Development

Brazos Valley Council of Governments (TX)
Brazos Valley Transportation Partnership

Centralina Council of Governments (NC)
Lake Norman Regional Bicycle Plan

Lower Savannah Council of Governments (SC)
Cross County Connection

MIDAS Council of Governments (IA)
Rural Intelligent Transit Systems

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
*The Planning Framework for the Evacuation
of the Transportation Needs Population in
Central Ohio*

Mo-Kan Regional Council of Governments,
Northwest Missouri Regional Council of
Governments, and Green Hills Regional
Planning Commission (MO)
*Northwest Missouri Regional Road Safety
Audit Program*

Northwest Missouri Regional Council of
Governments
Regional Sidewalk Assessment

North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning
and Development Commission
Corridor Safety Analysis

Region Nine Development Commission (MN)
Mankato Area Transportation and Planning Study

Region XII Council of Governments (IA)
Regional Retro-reflectivity Compliance

River Valley Regional Commission (GA)
Rural Georgia Safe Routes to School Initiative

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional
Commission (VA)
Roanoke Valley Greenways

Santee-Lynches Regional Council of
Governments (SC)
*Volunteer Transportation-Elderly and Individuals
with Disabilities*

Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission
Flint River Trail

Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional
Commission (VT)
Woodstock Full Circle Electric Trolley

Western Piedmont Council of Governments (NC)
*Regional Transit Authority Development and
Implementation*



2011 – 2013 National RPO Council of Peers

Ronda Allis, Region 9 Dev. Commission (MN)
Stu Anderson, Iowa DOT
Allison Beasley, Southern Mississippi PDD
Kevin Belanger, South Central PDC (LA)
Tom Bliss, Mo-Kan Regional Council (MO/KS)
Kurt Brummett, Three Rivers PDD (MS)
Misty Casto, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley RDD (OH)
Tim Conklin, Western Arkansas PDD
Chris Craig, First Tennessee Development District
Randall Embry, KIPDA (KY)
Blaise Emerson, Black Hills COG (SD)
Kelli Fairless, Valley Regional Transit (ID)
Chris Fetzer, Northern Arizona COG
James Gilmer, Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (VA)
Jana Harris, Southwestern Oklahoma Development Authority
Robert Hiatt, Three Rivers Regional Commission (GA)
Richard Hunsaker, Region XII COG (IA)
Sheldon Johnson, Northwest RPC (WI)
Amy Kessler, North Central Pennsylvania RPDC
Marjorie Kirn, Merced County AOG (CA)
Mark Lester, South Carolina DOT
John Marshall, Western Piedmont COG (NC)
Travis Marshall, North Carolina DOT
Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission (IL)

Nathan Miller, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Commission (NH)
Susan Moe, FHWA, Minnesota Division
Paul Mullen, Omaha-Council Bluffs MAPA (NE)
Kelly Murray, Illinois Association of Regional Councils
O.J. Papucci, Santee-Lynches COG (SC)
Michael Parks, Brazos Valley COG (TX)
Len Pavelka, Benton-Franklin COG (WA)
Mike Pennington, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland
Tom Piper, South Alabama RPC
Fred Rader, Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council (WV)
Jim Reed, Central Texas COG (TX)
Tom Reinauer, Southern Maine RPC
Diane Rekowski, Northeast Michigan COG
Bethany Remmers, Northwest RPC (VT)
Jill Saegesser, River Hills EDD and RPC (IN)
Marlie Sanderson, North Central Florida RPC
Lisa Sandt, Lee-Russell COG (AL)
Shawn Seager, Mountainland AOG (UT)
Lesah Sedillo, North Central New Mexico EDD
Paula Strauss, Tennessee DOT
Dana Ternus, Northwest Missouri Regional COG
Scott Turnoy, Mid-Columbia EDD (OR)
Richard Zink, Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board (NY)

NOTES

RPO America Subscribers

Special thanks to the following organizations for providing voluntary contributions to NADO and RPO America to support rural transportation research and training efforts, outreach, and tracking of federal policies.

ARIZONA

Central AZ Assn of Govts

GEORGIA

Georgia Association of Regional Commissions

IOWA

Southeast Iowa RPC

Iowa Northland Regional COG

Southwest Iowa Planning Council

MISSOURI

Boonslick RPC

Mark Twain Regional COG

Missouri Association of COGs

Mo-Kan Regional Council

MISSISSIPPI

Three Rivers PDD

Southern Mississippi Planning & Development District

NORTH CAROLINA

Lumber River COG

Mid-East Commission

OHIO

Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley RDD

OKLAHOMA

South Western Oklahoma Dev. Authority

PENNSYLVANIA

North Central PA Regional Planning and Development Commission

SOUTH CAROLINA

Upper Savannah COG

TENNESSEE

Upper Cumberland Development District

First Tennessee Development District

TEXAS

Golden Crescent RPC

Capital Area COG

VERMONT

Rutland Regional Planning Commission

Southern Windsor County RPC

Two Rivers-Ottawquechee Reg. Commission

WEST VIRGINIA

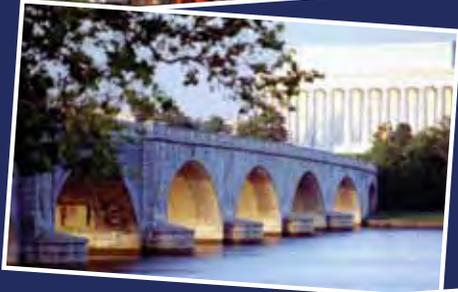
West Virginia Assn. of Regional Planning & Dev. Councils

Upcoming Events



OCTOBER 8–11, 2011

NADO Annual Training Conference
Miami Beach, Florida



MARCH 18–20, 2012

Development District Association of Appalachia Annual Meeting
Arlington, Virginia



MARCH 19–21, 2012

NADO Washington Policy Conference
Arlington, Virginia



APRIL 25–27, 2012

National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference
Burlington, Vermont



OCTOBER 13–16, 2012

NADO Annual Training Conference
Las Vegas, Nevada