



2011 Annual Business Meeting
Marriott Metro Center • Washington, DC
Thursday, August 25
4:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order**
John Marshall, Chair of the National RPO Council of Peers and
Transportation Manager, Western Piedmont COG and Unifour RPO
- II. Minutes from the 2010 Annual Business Meeting**
Mr. Marshall
- III. Nominating Committee Report**
Shawn Seager, Deputy Director—Metropolitan Planning Organization,
Mountainland Association of Governments
- IV. Election of Officers**
Mr. Marshall
- V. List of 2011 Members of the National RPO Council of Peers**
Amy Kessler, Director of Community Development and Regional Planning,
North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission
- VI. Other Business**

**National RPO Council of Peers
October 20, 2010 • St. Louis, MO
MEETING MINUTES**

Council Members

John Marshall
Chris Fetzer

Rick Hunsaker
Jake Gilmer
Debora Glasgow
Mark Kushner (for Len
Pavelka)
Gena McCullough
Craig O’Riley (for Stu
Anderson)

O.J. Papucci
Michael Parks
Tom Piper
Jim Reed
Bethany Remmers
Marlie Sanderson
Nancy Surprenant
Connie Willman

Ronda Allis
Bret Allphin (for Misty Casto)
Allison Beasley
Randall Embry
Robert Hiatt

NADO Staff

Matthew Chase
Carrie Kissel

Amy Linehan
Kathy Nothstine

I. Call to Order and Welcome

John Marshall, Chair of RPO America and Planning Director for the Western Piedmont Council of Governments called the meeting to order and welcomed participants.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chris Fetzer, Vice Chair of RPO America and Planning Director for the Northern Arizona Council of Governments, presented the minutes from the April 29 – 30, 2010 meeting that took place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Jim Reed, Central Texas Council of Governments, made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Michael Parks, Brazos Valley Council of Governments, and was unanimously approved.

III. Guest presentation: Staffing and Administrative Capacity of MPOs: Lessons and Trends for Small MPOs and RPOs

Alex Bond, Center for Urban Transportation Research, University of South Florida, gave a presentation on the recently released FHWA report [Staffing and Administrative Capacity of MPOs: Lessons and Trends for Small MPOs and RPOs](#). Mr. Bond presented information gathered in the report, including the organizational structures, staffing levels and specializations, funding sources for small MPO operations, and governance of small MPOs as potential lessons learned for other small MPOs and RPOs, as well as areas that might be newly designated as transportation planning regions following the 2010 Census and authorization of the federal surface transportation programs.

IV. Report on NADO and NADO Research Foundation Program Activities

NADO Executive Director Matthew Chase provided an overview of the status of federal transportation programs and authorization of the surface transportation bill, including issues with identifying funding

sources for the programs, outlook for reauthorization and the inclusion of a regional transportation planning provision, the impact of the 2010 Census results on planning, and the Department of Transportation-Housing and Urban Development-Environmental Protection Agency Sustainable Communities Partnership.

In addition, NADO Senior Program Manager Carrie Kissel provided an update on NADO Research Foundation activities, including recently signed agreements with the Federal Highway Administration to conduct research on rural and small metropolitan approaches to livable and sustainable communities, project prioritization and performance-based planning, and the special conference session occurring on October 22, the National Symposium for RPOs and MPOs. In addition, Ms. Kissel informed the group of a large research project NADO had undertaken to collect program information from regional planning and development organizations nationwide. The result of that effort was the creation of a collection of maps showing which regional organizations housed rural transportation planning organizations (RPOs) and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs).

V. Peer Exchange Roundtable

Mr. Chase facilitated a discussion among RPO Council members and other meeting attendees on strategies for addressing economic development and transportation planning. Mr. Chase explained that the Economic Development Administration was looking to rethink the required Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document and planning process, and that a more integrated approach to include issues like transportation, land use, housing and other elements might be considered a best practice. Meeting participants shared their experiences with integrating transportation with economic development and with their most recent CEDS process.

VI. RPO Council Meeting Schedule

Ms. Kissel informed the group that the RPO Council members would be invited to participate in two peer exchange events occurring in the spring, to be held as part of the NADO Research Foundation project to conduct research and training on livable communities and rural and small metropolitan transportation. These two peer exchanges would consist of a small group of individuals visiting one or two organizations in another state to find out about their planning practices. These events would occur in lieu of the RPO Council Spring Meeting that had occurred in person the past few years, but that a full-Council teleconference would be scheduled to ensure that dialogue continued among the entire group.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Kissel, NADO Senior Program Manager, for

Laura Lewis Marchino, Secretary, National RPO Council of Peers
and Assistant Director, Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, Inc.

RPO America Nominating Committee:

Allison Beasley, Planning Director, Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District

Russ Cowley, Executive Director, Six County Association of Governments (UT)

Steve Etcher, Executive Director, Boonslick Regional Planning Commission (MO)

Peter Gregory, Executive Director, Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission (VT)

Mike Pennington, Executive Director, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland

Shawn Seager, Senior Transportation Planner, Mountainland Association of Governments (UT)

Tim Ware, Executive Director, Mid-East Commission (NC)

2011 Slate of Candidates:

Chair: Chris Fetzer, Deputy Director, Northern Arizona
Council of Governments

Vice Chair: Amy Kessler, Director of Community Development and
Regional Planning, North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and
Development Commission

Secretary: Tom Reinauer, Transportation Director, Southern Maine
Regional Planning Commission



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