

National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference

April 25 – 27, 2012 | Burlington, Vermont

Learn more and register at www.NADO.org/events/rpo2012

Agenda subject to change.

Wednesday, April 25

9:00 a.m. **Registration opens**

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. **Training Workshops**

- **Visioning and Beyond: Developing Plans and Measuring Implementation**

Walk through the process of connecting a vision to measures to gauge progress in transportation plan implementation. Learn how this exercise may position your region to address potential future policy on performance-based planning.

- Melissa Levy, Yellow Wood Associates
- Peggy Reichert, Minnesota DOT

- **Meaningful Engagement and Collaboration: Develop a Participation Plan**

Efforts at engaging the public and partner agencies can be frustrating with poor attendance or dynamic with engaged stakeholders. Learn about tools and techniques for collaborating with agencies and engaging a variety of segments of the public in a meaningful way, which can be used to develop or update a participation plan for your region.

- Rachel Beyerle, Easter Seals Project Action
- Lewis Grimm, Federal Lands Highway Division
- Dorathy Martel and Vicki Rusbult, Eastern Maine Development Commission

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch on your own**

1:00 – 2:15 p.m. **Welcome & Opening Plenary**

Keynote Speaker: FHWA Deputy Administrator Greg Nadeau

Deputy Administrator Gregory G. Nadeau has focused significant attention delivering projects, including spearheading Every Day Counts. Starting in 2003, He served as the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Planning and Communications. Among MaineDOT's accomplishments during his tenure were the development of an integrated

approach to transportation system planning and the publication of *Connecting Maine*, the department's statewide multi-modal long-range transportation plan. At MaineDOT, he approached transportation planning on a systems basis utilizing all modes and minimizing impact on communities and the environment through integrated regional and community-based planning.

2:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

- **Freight and Economic Development**

Learn how small metro and rural regions have completed planning efforts to understand how freight flows in their region and how transportation relates to their regions' economies.

- Bob Thompson, Androscoggin Valley COG (ME)
- Corey Hull, Southern Georgia Regional Commission

- **Coordinated Transportation and Mobility Management**

Getting and keeping partners at the table to plan for and conduct coordinated transportation is not a simple matter. Hear about examples in two states that are improving mobility for residents.

- Jason Kelly, Northern Arizona COG
- Marlie Sanderson, North Central Florida RPC
- Moderator: Sheryl Gross-Glaser, CTAA

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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

All attendees are encouraged to attend the business meeting, as it will include important transportation program updates.

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards Reception

Thursday, April 26

7:30 – 8:00 a.m.

Networking Breakfast

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Plenary Session: Innovative RPO/MPO Practices

Through a series of several short presentations, learn about interesting and effective work that rural and small metro planning organizations are conducting to advance transportation, solve problems, achieve statewide consistency, and communicate their work.

- Annette Bair, Southwest Regional Development Commission (MN)
- Mark Paquette, Windham Regional COG, and Ken Livingston, Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. (CT)
- Katharine Otto, Southern Windsor County RPC (VT)
- Rita Seto, Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission (VT)

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

- **Rural Transportation Safety**

This session will promote understanding of safety culture and the roles that RPOs and small MPOs can take on to develop local safety plans and incorporate safety into ongoing work.

- Rosemarie Anderson, Federal Highway Administration
- Matt Coogan, New England Transportation Institute

- **Using Technology to Improve Transportation Planning**

Learn about two statewide initiatives to use web-based tools to map and communicate priorities, as well as to share data and improve geographic analysis across levels of government.

- John Thomas, Utah DOT
- Page Scott, Yakima Valley COG, and Jeff Pavey, Paladin Data Systems Corporation (WA)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

- **From Vision to Project Selection: Performance-based Planning**

Hear from case studies of state DOT and regional partnerships to identify performance areas in long-range planning and streamline the project identification and ranking process using criteria tied to desired outcomes.

- Bjorn Hansen, Centralina COG (NC)
- Alpesh Patel, North Carolina DOT

- **Using Technology to Improve Transportation Operations**
 Improve transit routes and service information using practices presented in this session on transportation applications of GPS and GIS information.
 - Nathan Belz, University of Vermont Transportation Research Center
 - Bob Chamberlin, Resource Systems Group, Inc.

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Plenary Luncheon: Transportation, Disaster Recovery, and Economic Vitality

In late August 2011, Hurricane Irene wreaked devastation on Vermont and other states, including major impacts on the state’s transportation network. Two plenary speakers will explore separate sides of the issue, the state and regional public sector response and recovery roles, as well as a private sector perspective on transportation system use, reliability, and response to the disruption caused by hurricane damage.

- Sue Minter, Deputy Secretary, Vermont Agency of Transportation
- Jim Pratt, Senior Vice President for Operations, Cabot Creamery

1:45 – 5:00 p.m.

Concurrent Mobile Workshop Training Sessions

Select one when you complete the registration form online.

- **Heritage Aviation, Burlington International Airport U.S. Customs Tour**
RURAL AVIATION SERVES INTERNATIONAL ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: In 2010 Heritage Aviation unveiled its brand new, 79,000-square-foot, eco-friendly including a LEED Gold certified general aviation facility and on-site renewable energy as part of a commitment to environmental sustainability. Heritage Aviation serves the needs of the general aviation community at Burlington International Airport (KBTX) 24/7 including ground handling, detailing, fueling, deicing, hangar space or any line services. Heritage Aviation is the area's largest and most luxurious FBO with US customs conveniently on site. Heritage has become a hub for regional economic development with its FAA Diamond award winning maintenance department and avionics division, recognized by the AEA for excellence and programs such as its recent Toronto based air charter and aircraft maintenance services partnership of Ski Vermont.
- **Church Street Marketplace**
 In 2006, Burlington was the recipient of \$12.1 million dollars in SAFTEA-LU funding for downtown and waterfront infrastructure improvements. This 1.5 hour mobile walking workshop will tour the infrastructure improvements of Church Street, Saint Paul Street, Cherry Street, Pearl Street, and, if time allows, lower College Street. Pedestrian-scale

improvements are easily recognizable throughout all three projects, as the city strived to bring the feel of Church Street – Burlington’s most iconic, walkable street – to the downtown and waterfront. During the mobile workshop, city staff, local business owners, and key stakeholders will highlight:

- planning, design, and construction challenges and opportunities
- partnerships and public involvement
- Incorporation of artistic elements
- funding challenges
- impact on economic vitality

- **Vermont Rail Systems Hub & Transload Tour**

RURAL RAIL FREIGHT LOGISTICS, OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS: In 1964 the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and Vermont Rail Systems created the first in the nation public/private rail partnership which has endured and grown. Today, while maintaining its family ownership, the 120 employees of the Vermont Rail System operate over 230 miles of railroad running freight and passenger trains, intermodal and motor carriers services, and a reload/warehouse facility located near Bellows Falls, Vermont. The synergy of these divisions has developed the Vermont Rail System into a complete logistics provider. Learn about the challenges and successes of one of Vermont’s two major rail carriers.

- **Vermont's National Scenic Byways Program Tour**

IMPLEMENTING THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN BYWAY PROGRAM : This mobile tour will provide participants a chance to see how the Lake Champlain Byway is developing visitor amenities and improving interpretation at several key locations. Presenters will also describe the efforts of other Vermont Byways as well as discuss strategies to assure the sustainability of their Byways given declining Federal support. Vermont has participated in the National Scenic Byways (NSB) planning and implementation process since the mid-1990s and now includes one nationally designated byway and eight state-designated byways. Individual Vermont Byways have implemented a variety of projects, funded with NSB grants, to improve the traveler experience, increase livability and boost economic development. These include travel information centers, toilet facilities, wayfinding signage, interpretive panels and kiosks, recreational access improvements, maps, websites, podcasts and long-term corridor plans.

- **Magic Hat Brewing Company Tour**
FREIGHT LOGISTICS FOR NATIONWIDE SHIPPING BY A SMALL VERMONT BREWERY: Since 1994 Magic Hat Brewery of South Burlington has been crafting one of America’s finest micro brews. Learn the details of Magic Hat’s national distribution success. See how the company cranks out 400 bottles of beer per minute to satisfy an ever growing demand. Learn about the ingredients and how they arrive at the brewery. Visit the company’s Artifactory and sample their offerings.

Friday, April 27

7:45 – 8:30 a.m.

Networking Breakfast

8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Conversation Café

This session will feature several simultaneous facilitated small group discussions on a variety of topics, including those listed below and more.

- Local and Regional Participation in Statewide Planning
- Public Health and Transportation
- Disaster Recovery
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning and Safety
- Private Sector Engagement
- Rural Road Safety
- Food Systems Planning

10:00 – 11:45 a.m.

Closing Plenary: Future Directions for Federal Surface Transportation Program

Hear an in-depth update on the status and outlook for reauthorization of the federal surface transportation programs, including an overview of Congressional action to date, factors affecting reauthorization, an outlook for passage, and what RPOs, small MPOs, and their partners need to be aware of.

12:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Mobile Workshop: Island Line Trail Bicycle Tours (optional, requires additional advance registration with \$25 fee that covers bicycle rental)

TYING LOCAL TRAILS TOGETHER INTO A STUNNING REGIONAL TRAIL: Come take a bike tour of Vermont's Island Line Trail and wander along (and into!) Lake Champlain. Participants will learn about innovative approaches to trail development. Learn about a pivotal US Supreme Court case, two bike ferries, and how last year's record flooding has helped to unite diverse partners in an effort to transform the trail. The trail is flat and we will pedal at a casual pace.

Conference registration: \$250 Early Bird Rate (until March 26) | \$300 Regular Rate
Register online at www.NADO.org/events/rpo2012.