



# National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference



***December 3 – 5, 2014***

***Cincinnati, Ohio***

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<b>OHIO</b> Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley RDD		

# Wednesday, December 3

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<b>Conference Registration</b>	<b>Ballroom Foyer</b>
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.	<b>Concurrent Workshop Sessions</b> <b>Regional Resilience and Rural Evacuations</b> <i>Learn how regions throughout the country are creating a framework for rural evacuation protocols and how transportation serves and is affected by regional resilience efforts.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission (IL/IA)</li><li>• Katharine Otto, Southern Windsor County Regional Commission (VT)</li><li>• Krishna Kunapareddy, Boonslick Regional Planning Commission (MO)</li><li>• Moderator: Megan McConville, NADO</li></ul> <b>GIS and Technology Tools for Transportation</b> <i>Learn from peers about strategies to conduct spatial analysis to support transportation planning, such as asset management, project tracking, and mapping data from partners.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elijah Sharp, New River Valley Planning District Commission (VA)</li><li>• Bret Allphin, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District (OH)</li><li>• Troy Hearn, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet</li><li>• Carol Brent, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet</li><li>• Moderator: Jessica Blankenship, Cumberland Valley Area Development District (KY)</li></ul>	<b>Buckeye AB</b>           <b>Bluegrass AB</b>
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch on Your Own</b>	
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	<b>Opening Plenary: Collaboration to Improve and Integrate Transportation Decisionmaking</b> <i>Hear about efforts to bring local officials and stakeholders together with state decisionmakers to deliver the best possible outcomes for communities in rural and small metro regions through planning, programming, and project delivery.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moderator: Amy Kessler, North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission</li><li>• Steve Mary, Ohio Department of Transportation</li><li>• Rick Hunsaker, Region XII Council of Governments (IA)</li></ul>	<b>Regency BC</b>
2:40 – 3:50 p.m.	<b>Concurrent Breakout Sessions</b> <b>Emerging Models for Regional Transportation Planning</b> <i>As planning programs and federal and state requirements evolve, new regional transportation planning programs offer innovative ideas for other new and long-established planning organizations.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vince Rapp, Ohio Department of Transportation</li><li>• John Hemmings, Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission</li><li>• Robert Koehler, Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments</li><li>• Alex Damon, South Western Oklahoma Development Authority</li><li>• Isaac Akem, Federal Highway Administration, Oklahoma Division (invited)</li><li>• Moderator: Sherry Carver, Central Florida Regional Planning Council</li></ul> <b>Inclusionary Outreach to Transportation Stakeholders</b> <i>Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and environmental justice are two tools to help ensure transportation does not unfairly impact certain populations. In this session, learn about Title VI requirements and analysis, as well as the U.S. DOT's environmental justice work and efforts to connect people to economic opportunity.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dwayne Weeks, Federal Transit Administration, Office of Planning and Environment</li><li>• Moderator: Christine Forde, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (VT)</li></ul>	<b>Buckeye AB</b>           <b>Bluegrass AB</b>
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	<b>RPO America Annual Business Meeting, immediately followed by the National RPO Council of Peers Meeting</b> <i>All attendees are encouraged to attend the meetings and join in the discussion. Hear a legislative update on MAP-21 implementation and reauthorization.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Susan Howard, National Association of Development Organizations</li></ul>	<b>Buckeye AB</b>
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	<b>Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards Showcase</b> <i>Participants will share information about promising new practices that are making a difference in regions across the nation.</i>	<b>Regency BC</b>

**Speaker presentations and other materials will be posted to [www.NADO.org](http://www.NADO.org) and [www.RuralTransportation.org](http://www.RuralTransportation.org).**

# Thursday, December 4

7:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<b>Conference Registration Open</b>	<b>Ballroom Foyer</b>
7:45 – 8:00 a.m.	<b>Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards Photos</b>	<b>Ballroom Foyer</b>
8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	<b>Networking Breakfast</b>	<b>Regency BC</b>
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	<b>Plenary Session: Town Hall with FHWA and FTA</b> <i>Although MAP-21's original end date has passed and been extended, implementation of the law's policy changes is still underway. Hear how about the rulemaking processes that shape transportation practice, as well as informational resources available to RTPOs, MPOs, state DOTs, and partners.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ken Petty, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Planning</li><li>• Dwayne Weeks, Federal Transit Administration, Office of Planning and Environment</li><li>• Chimai Ngo, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Safety</li><li>• Moderator: Susan Howard, NADO</li></ul>	<b>Regency BC</b>
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.	<b>Concurrent Breakout Sessions</b> <b>Rural and Small Metropolitan Approaches to Performance Measurement</b> <i>As public interest in accountability increases, rural and small metro regions are responding by increasingly including performance measures in their regional planning processes. Hear from panelists how measures are chosen, how to find data and information, and how measures affect prioritization.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dan Landon, Nevada County Transportation Commission (CA)</li><li>• Doug Plachinski, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (MA)</li><li>• Moderator: Jim Olson (IN)</li></ul> <b>Promising Practices in Regional Transit</b> <i>Learn about the financial impacts of transit regionalization, the effective use of performance standards for regional prioritization, and best practices for building a collaborative regional network to achieve multijurisdictional transit goals.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lee Lazaro, Benton County Rural and Special Transportation (OR)</li><li>• Sarah Brodt Lenz, Minnesota Department of Transportation</li><li>• Moderator: Jason Kelly, Northern Arizona Council of Governments</li></ul>	<b>Buckeye AB</b>  <b>Bluegrass AB</b>
11:00 a.m. – Noon	<b>Concurrent Breakout Sessions</b> <b>Partnering for Performance with State DOTs</b> <i>MAP-21 made performance measurement a requirement for state DOTs and metro regions. Although there are no requirements for rural areas, increasing interest in accountability has led states to work with all their regional partners to measure performance to guide future investment.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judy Lorenzo, Washington State Department of Transportation</li><li>• Patrick Flanagan, Eastern Carolina Council of Governments (NC)</li><li>• Moderator: Chris Craig, First Tennessee Development District</li></ul> <b>New Directions in Transportation Alternatives</b> <i>MAP-21 changed ways of thinking about transportation alternatives by combining program areas and making the funds more flexible for other uses. Learn how states and regional organizations are continuing to advance transportation alternatives through bike/ped planning and transportation alternatives program decisionmaking.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Robert Will, Eastern Carolina Council of Governments (NC)</li><li>• Katie Caskey, Minnesota Department of Transportation</li><li>• Josh Pearson, Region 9 Development Commission (MN)</li><li>• Moderator: John Devine, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission</li></ul>	<b>Buckeye AB</b>  <b>Bluegrass AB</b>
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	<b>Plenary Luncheon: Modernizing Transportation</b> <i>State-level policy has been a source of inspiration for new directions in transportation. Hear about raising a new funding package for transportation, modernizing transportation, and institutionalizing dialogue among the federal, state, regional, and local levels.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deputy Secretary Brad Mallory, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation</li><li>• Judge Gary Moore, Boone County, Kentucky</li><li>• Moderator: Amy Kessler, North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission</li></ul>	<b>Regency BC</b>

**After lunch is the last chance to vote for discussion topics in Friday's Conversation Café!**

# Thursday, December 4

1:45 – 5:00 p.m.

## **Concurrent Workshops**

### **Planning for Aviation: Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport Workshop**

**Lobby**

*The Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Airport has seen commercial air service flights decrease, and its status as a hub for Delta Airlines was downgraded. But it remains an important asset for the region. Attendees will learn about the airport's master plan and its increasing role in cargo flights, as a hub for DHL. (Inquire at the conference registration desk about workshop registration, \$30 fee)*

### **Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities: Walkability, Parking Assessment Methods**

**Buckeye AB**

*Based on the successful EPA Building Blocks program, the workshop will provide attendees with the information necessary to perform assessments within their own community. Learning objectives include assessing the pedestrian environment, forming a vision for sidewalk and street improvements, evaluating parking policies, and offering advice on parking management strategies. Session sponsored by EPA. (Inquire at the conference registration desk about workshop registration, \$30 fee)*

- Kevin Nelson, Environmental Protection Agency

### **Transportation Safety Planning**

**Bluegrass AB**

*With a majority of traffic fatalities occurring on rural roads in the U.S., integrating safety into planning processes and planning agency roles is critical. In this workshop, participants will learn how to integrate safety into the transportation planning process and form a strategic safety plan.*

- Carrie Kissel, NADO
- Chimai Ngo, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Safety
- Doug Plachinski, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (MA)
- Jeannette Wierzbicki, Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OH)
- Dan Landon, Nevada County Transportation Commission (CA)

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

### **Network Appalachia Discussion**

**Hoosier AB**

*In a region known for its chronic economic distress, reliable, safe, and cost-efficient access to both domestic and global markets is essential for economic and employment success in the years ahead. Join in the dialogue with the Appalachian Regional Commission on developing a multimodal, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-sector transportation network that can stimulate economic and employment success into the very heart of the 21st century. Then, join the group for an informal dinner immediately following the session. Local Development District staff are encouraged to attend.*

- Scott Hercik, Appalachian Regional Commission

6:00 p.m.

No formal evening events are planned, but for more networking opportunities, come to the Hyatt Regency Lobby to meet up with other attendees for informal group dinners.

**Lobby**

# Friday, December 5

8:00 – 9:15 a.m.

### **Breakfast and Conversation Café: Facilitated Small Group Discussions**

**Regency BC**

*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. Be sure to vote on Wednesday or Thursday for topics you want to learn about or share information about!*

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

### **Envisioning the Future of Mobility**

**Regency BC**

*Rapid innovations in technology are changing transportation now and in the coming decades. Hear how the economy and changing demographics are impacting transportation, how shared data and new technologies can optimize systems and service, and how public and private sector actors can partner to plan for a future vision for personal mobility and goods movement.*

- Chris Zeilinger, Community Transportation Association of America
- Matthew George, Bridj
- Michael Sussman, OnTrackNorthAmerica
- Moderator: Michael Parks, Brazos Valley Council of Governments (TX)

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

### **Closing Plenary: Tackling Transportation Funding and Financing**

**Regency BC**

*The federal Highway Trust Fund keeps running out of funds, but proposals to shore up the balance remain politically controversial. Hear an update on the federal program, as well as one state's solution to raising funds, a regional sales tax supporting regionally and locally determined projects.*

- Kathy Ruffalo, Ruffalo and Associates (DC)
- Andy Crosson, Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission (GA)
- Moderator: Joe McKinney, NADO





## 2013 – 2015 National RPO Council of Peers

*The National RPO Council of Peers serves as the leadership of RPO America. The RPO Council provides advice, input, and ideas to the NADO Board of Directors, transportation policy task force, and staff. Council members are appointed by the NADO president, with the advice and consent of the NADO board.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Tom Piper, South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (AL)                                    | Richard Zink, Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board (NY)                                       |
| Lisa Sandt, Lee-Russell Council of Governments (AL)   | Travis Marshall, North Carolina DOT (NC)  |
| Jason Kelly, Northern Arizona Council of Governmnets (AZ)                                     | John Marshall, Western Piedmont Council of Governments (NC)   |
| Marjorie Kirn, Merced County Association of Governments (CA)                                  | Bret Allphin, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District (OH)                                       |
| Patricia Steed, Central Florida Regional Planning Council (FL)                                | Alex Damon, Southwestern Oklahoma Development Authority (OK)  |
| Robert Hiett, Three Rivers Regional Commission (GA)   | Pete Seikel, Central Oklahoma Economic Development District (OK)  |
| Kelli Fairless, Valley Regional Transit (ID)  | Amy Kessler, North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission (PA), <i>RPO America Chair</i> |
| Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission (IL/IA)   | Frank Hampton, Pennsylvania DOT (PA)  |
| Kelly Murray, Illinois Association of Regional Councils (IL)                                  | Mark Lester, South Carolina DOT (SC)  |
| Jill Saegesser, River Hills EDD and Regional Planning Council (IN)                            | Rick Green, Upper Savannah Council of Governments (SC)  |
| Stu Anderson, Iowa Department of Transportation (IA)  | O.J. Papucci, Santee-Lynches Council of Governments (SC)  |
| Tim Ostroski, Southern Iowa Council of Governments (IA)                                       | Eric Senger, Northeast Council of Governments (SD)  |
| Randall Embry, Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency (KY)                      | Chris Craig, First Tennessee Development District (TN)  |
| Tom Reinauer, Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission (ME), <i>RPO America Vice Chair</i> | Paula Strauss, Tennessee DOT (TN)   |
| Mike Pennington, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland (MD)              | Michael Parks, Brazos Valley Council of Governments (TX), <i>RPO America Secretary</i>                              |
| Diane Rekowski, Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (MI)                                | Jim Reed, Central Texas Council of Governments (TX)   |
| Josh Pearson, Region 9 Development Commission (MN)  | Shawn Seager, Mountainland Association of Governments (UT)  |
| Tee McCovey, Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District (MS)                      | Curt Hutchings, Five County Association of Governments (UT)   |
| Kurt Brummett, Three Rivers Planning and Development District (MS)                            | Brian Carver, Bear River Association of Governments (UT)  |
| Tom Bliss, Mo-Kan Regional Council (MO/KS)  | Bethany Remmers, Northwest Regional Planning Commission (VT)  |
| Jason Ray, Harry S. Truman Coordinating Council (MO)  | James Gilmer, Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (VA)   |
| Nathan Miller, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Commission (NH)                             | Len Pavelka, Benton-Franklin Council of Governments (WA)  |
| Cerisse Grijalva, Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments (NM)                            | Fred Rader, Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council (WV)   |
|   | Sheldon Johnson, Northwest Regional Planning Commission (WI)  |

# 2014 Excellence in Regional Transportation *Awards*

## **GEORGIA**

**Coastal Regional Commission,**  
*Technology and Rural Transit*

**Northeast Georgia Regional Commission,**  
*Northeast Georgia Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning  
Program*

**River Valley Regional Commission,**  
*River Valley Regional;*  
*Tour de Farm - Utilizing Cycling to Promote Agro-  
Tourism*

**Southern Georgia Regional Commission,**  
*Southern Georgia Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian  
Plan Implementation*

## **ILLINOIS/IOWA**

**Bi-State Regional Commission,**  
*Rural Evacuation Planning*

## **KENTUCKY**

**Kentuckiana Regional Planning and  
Development Agency,**  
*Milton Madison Bridge Project*

## **MINNESOTA**

**Minnesota Association of Development  
Organizations,**  
*Safe Routes to School Planning in Rural Districts -  
Local, Regional and State Partnership for Success*

**Region Five Development Commission,**  
*Resilient Region Policies - Sustainable Communities  
Comp Plan Language and Ordinances*

## **MISSOURI**

**Missouri Association of Councils of  
Government,**  
*Amendment 7 Project Prioritization Process*

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

**Eastern Carolina Council of Governments,**  
*Croatan Regional Bicycle + Trails Plan*

## **OHIO**

**Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley RDD, Logan-  
Union-Champaign RPC, Maumee Valley  
Planning Organization, Ohio Department  
of Transportation, Ohio Mid-Eastern  
Governments Association, and Ohio Valley  
Regional Development Commission,**  
*Ohio RTPO Pilot Program*

## **OREGON**

**NW Oregon Connector Alliance,**  
*North by Northwest Connector*

## **TEXAS**

**East Texas Council of Governments,**  
*EasTexConnects Marketing/Educational Videos*

## **VERMONT**

**Chittenden County Regional Planning  
Commission,**  
*VT Circumferential Highway Alternatives Planning  
Process*

## **VIRGINIA**

**New River Valley Planning District  
Commission,**  
*Bike Route 76*

**Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional  
Commission,**

*Sustainable Transportation Summit;  
RVAMPO Congestion Management Process (CMP)  
Plan*

*An awards program of the NADO Research Foundation and NADO's RPO America*

# Upcoming Events

*March 22 – 24, 2015*

**Development District Association of  
Appalachia Annual Meeting  
Arlington, Virginia**

*March 22 – 25, 2015*

**NADO Washinton Policy Conference  
Arlington, Virginia**

*October 24 – 27, 2015*

**NADO Annual Training Conference  
New Orleans, Louisiana**

