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

NADO NEWS: July 1, 2011

A Publication of the National Association of Development Organizations

Registration Now Open for Two NADO Conferences

Registration is now open for NADO's National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference (August 24 – 26) and 2011 EDFS Conference (August 22 – 25) to be held in Washington, D.C. For more information on these events, please reference the articles below or visit http://www.nado.org/training.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

U.S. Senate Cancels Fourth of July Recess to Address Deficit

On June 30, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) announced that the Senate will no longer take its usual Fourth of July break in order to continue work on a comprehensive deficit-reduction plan. A final deal is needed before Congress can vote to raise the debt ceiling. According to the U.S. Treasury Department, if the debt ceiling is not raised by August 2, the nation will default on its obligations.

Although it is unclear what a final debt-reduction package will include, President Obama is now fully engaged in the negotiations with Sen. Reid, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH). Even if the leadership is able to strike a deal, their biggest challenge will be to get the 520 senators and House members, most of whom have no role in finding a solution to the current impasse, to endorse the deal. The

87 House GOP freshmen have already positioned themselves to refuse any proposition that includes any type of "revenue raisers."

Short-Term FAA Extension Signed Into Law

On June 29, President Obama signed the "Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2011, Part III" (P.L. 112-21), which will extend programs under the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for three weeks until July 22. The previous extension (P.L. 112-16) was set to expire on June 30. The measure was needed because the two chambers have been unable to agree on a long-term reauthorization measure (H.R. 658). This is 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 September 30, 2007.

Senator Merkley Leads Letter to Support EDA FY2012 Funding

On June 17, Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) led a letter to Senate appropriators expressing strong support for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and requesting funding for EDA in the FY2012 appropriations process. Other senators that signed the letter included Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI), Sen. John Kerry (D-MA), Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), and Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO).

The letter is available online at http://www.nado.org/senator-merkley-leads-letter-to-support-eda-funding-in-fy2012/.

NADO Joins Letter to Support Reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

On June 28, NADO joined 43 other organizations in urging Senate leaders to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) along with staff from the offices of Senators Murray (D-WA), Harkin (D-IA), Enzi (R-WY) and Isakson (R-GA) have been working over the past two years in a bi-partisan effort to renew and improve the WIA. A key goal of this reauthorization proposal is to improve, align and coordinate employment, education, training and vocational rehabilitation services. A copy of the letter is attached to this edition of *NADO News*.

NADO Urges Senate Committee to Increase Spending for Rural Development

On June 24, NADO joined several organizations in a letter urging Senate appropriators to increase discretionary spending allocations for the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. The letter, sent to the Senate Committee on Appropriations Chairman Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI) and Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-MS), advocates for important agriculture and rural development programs citing job creation and protection of rural America. A copy of the letter is attached to this edition of *NADO News*.

28 Senators Sign Letter of Support for CDBG

On June 1, a group of 28 senators, led by Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME), sent a letter to leaders of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development in support of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The letter called on the committee to "support the highest possible funding" for the program and

cited its ability to "revitalize communities with proven results." The full letter is attached to this edition of *NADO News*.

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

FEDERAL NEWS AND NOTES

DOT Announces Third Round of TIGER Grants

On June 30, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced that \$527 million will be available for the third round of the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program grants. To date, the TIGER program has funded roads, bridges, freight rails, transit buses and streetcars, ports, and bicycle and pedestrian paths. DOT is expected to publish a notice of funding availability within the week. Unlike the FY2010 Appropriations Act, the FY2011 Continuing Appropriations Act does not provide any funding for projects solely for the planning, preparation, or design of capital projects; however, these activities may be eligible to the extent that they are part of an overall construction project that receives TIGER funding. Applications will be due in the fall. Additional information on the TIGER program is available at http://www.dot.gov/tiger/.

Rural Utilities Service Announces Maximum Award for Rural Broadband Loan Program

On March 14, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Rural Utilities Service announced the availability of \$326 million in loan funds for the Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees Program for FY2011. On June 28, the Rural Utilities Service announced that the maximum loan amount under the program will be \$75 million. Additional information concerning the June 28

announcement is available at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-28/pdf/2011-16073.pdf. Information on applications for the Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees Program is available at

http://frwebgate2.access.gpo.gov/cgibin/PDFgate.cgi?WAISdocID=8q4Afa/2/2/0&WAISaction=retrieve.

Rural Business Cooperative Service Now Accepting Value-Added Producer Grant Applications

On June 28, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Rural Business Cooperative Service announced the availability of \$37 million in competitive grant funds for FY2011 to help independent agricultural producers enter into value-added activities. Awards may be made for either planning activities (maximum \$100,000) or working capital expenses (\$300,000). USDA encourages applications which support communities in urban or rural areas with limited access to healthy foods, and with high rates of poverty and hunger. The application deadline is August 29. Additional information is available at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-28/pdf/2011-16121.pdf.

FEMA Soon Accepting Applications for AFG Program Grants

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will soon be accepting applications for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. The goal of the AFG program is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. Past grants have been used to obtain equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources. The 2011 AFG Get Ready Guide, a resource to assist applicants submit a successful grant, will soon be available at http://www.fema.gov/firegrants.

Delta Regional Authority Announces Economic Development Assistance Program

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) is now accepting applications for the States' Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) for development projects from the 252 Delta Counties and Parishes served by the DRA. The purpose of the program is to help Delta communities create jobs and improve infrastructure in their communities. Interested applicants should contact their Local Development District to begin the application process. Projects are due to Local Development Districts by August 4, 2011. For program and eligibility guidelines, review the States' Economic Development Assistance Program FY2011 Manual available at www.dra.gov.

FTA Now Accepting Applications for Bus State of Good Repair Initiative

On June 24, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the availability of \$750 million in unallocated FY2011 discretionary funds for the Section 5309 State of Good Repair Bus and Bus Facilities Initiative. Funds may be used to finance capital projects to purchase or rehabilitate buses and related equipment and to construct or rehabilitate bus-related facilities. Proposals must be submitted by July 29. Additional information is available at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-24/pdf/2011-15918.pdf.

FTA Announces Apportionment of New Starts and Small Starts Program Funds

On June 24, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the apportionment of the FY2011 Capital Investment (New Starts and Small Starts) program funds, which will be used for construction of new or extension of existing fixed guideway systems, or corridor based bus systems. The total apportionment of \$1.58 billion is allocated among 29 different projects throughout the U.S. Additional information is available at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-24/pdf/2011-15912.pdf.

FTA Now Accepting Proposals for Livability Programs

On June 27, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced the availability of \$150 million in FY2011 discretionary funds for the Bus and Bus Facilities Livability Initiative Program, which provides money to purchase or replace buses and to build bus-related facilities. FTA also announced the availability of \$25 million in FY2011 discretionary funds for the Alternatives Analysis program, which assists potential sponsors of Capital Investment (New Starts and Small Starts) projects. Proposals for both programs are due by July 29. Additional information is available at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-06-27/pdf/2011-16015.pdf.

Article: Life Expectancy Falling in 561 Rural Counties

On June 20, author Bill Bishop posted the article "Life Expectancy Falling in 561 Rural Counties" on the website *Daily Yonder*. In the article, Bishop analyzes a study conducted by researchers at the Institute for Health Metrics Evaluation at the University of Washington on life expectancy rates in the U.S. The researchers found that longevity in the U.S., and particularly in rural counties, is falling behind most other industrialized countries. To read the full article, go to

http://www.dailyyonder.com/longevity-falling-across-rural-america/2011/06/19/3382.

NADO NEWS AND NOTES

Upcoming Webinar: Rural-Urban Connections in the Sacramento Region

Sign up here for "Rural-Urban Connections in the Sacramento Region," a free webinar to be held on Tuesday, July 12, from 2pm – 3:30 pm EDT. The NADO Research Foundation's webinar will explore how the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is incorporating sustainability principles into their regional planning processes. David Shabazian, Senior Planner with the Sacramento Area Council of

Governments (SACOG), 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 the agriculture sector, rural economies, regional and local food systems, resource conservation, and regional sustainability. Raef Porter, Senior Research Analyst at SACOG, will demonstrate in real-time 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. Reserve your place for the webinar at

https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/552780427.

View the Recording: Know Your Region Webinar on Regional Innovation Acceleration Network

On June 28, the NADO Research Foundation held the webinar "Accessing the Regional Innovation Acceleration Network" through the Know Your Region program, funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). The Regional Innovation Acceleration Network (RIAN) is an EDA-funded project developed by SSTI to serve as a virtual networking tool that bridges together people, ideas and resources as the basis for economic growth and development.

Led by Mark Skinner, Vice President and Director of RIAN, the webinar showcased RIAN's interactive site designed to help economic development practitioners identify their regional innovation colleagues, where they operate and how to connect with them. He also discussed how RIAN facilitates the growth of existing innovation networks and, for those regions where networks have yet to develop, provides the means for peer-to-peer sharing of information between existing and emerging Venture Development Organizations.

To view the recording of this and other webinars that have been conducted through the Know Your Region program, visit http://www.knowyourregion.org/workshop-modules.

Rural Development in a One America Policy

On July 1, NADO Executive Director Matthew Chase posted the article "Rural Development in a One America Policy" on the blog, *AgriPulse*. In the article, Chase discusses the renewed attention by our nation's policymakers on rural development and the valuable role rural America plays in economic development. He also looks at the need to rethink our national rural development policy to include rural regions so that the assets found in these areas can be enhanced and leveraged to improve our nation's competitiveness. The full article is posted on the NADO website at http://www.nado.org/rural-development-in-a-one-america-policy/.

Clinton Global Initiative Features Rural Economy

The Clinton Global Initiative's CGI America forum featured a track on the rural economy during the June 29-30 leadership summit in Chicago, IL. Led by President Bill Clinton, CGI focuses on organizing global leaders to forge solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. The CGI America event was the organization's first event focused solely on domestic issues within the United States. As part of the CGI agenda, each participating organization is asked to make a Commitment to Action.

Along with President Clinton, the event featured Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack; Govs. Haley Barbour (MS), Mitch Daniels (IN), Mike Beebe (AR) and John Hickenlooper (CO); President/CEOs from Dow Corning Corporation, Duke Energy, Serious Energy, Zappos.com, TIAA-CREF; and Peter Peterson of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation.

NADO Executive Director Matthew Chase and Mike McKeever, Executive Director of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, participated in the rural economy track, including the breakout session on urban-rural linkages.

Vote for Discussion Topics at the National Rural Transportation Conference

Join regional transportation professionals from across the nation at the National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference, August 24 – 26 in Washington, DC. This year, organizers are soliciting attendee input on small group discussion topics for a facilitated networking session. Submit your ideas and vote for topics online to shape the conference agenda. Visit 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, livable communities, and many more.

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 http://www.nado.org/training. Contact NADO Program Managers Carrie Kissel, at 202.624.8829 or ckissel@nado.org, and Kathy Nothstine, at 202.624.5256 or knothstine@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, D.C. Visit 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

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.

Join NADO at the Loews Miami Beach October 8 – 11 for our 2011 Annual Training Conference (ATC)

NADO's 44th Annual Training Conference 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 http://www.loewshotels.conference agenda. Visit 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!

Save the Date for DDAA Training Session

Mark your calendars now for the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA)'s 2011 Employment Law Seminar, to be held September 18 – 21 at the Hotel Indigo in downtown Nashville, TN. The seminar is a two-day training session on employment law and practices led by three experienced and skilled practitioners. Additional information on DDAA is available at http://www.ddaa-ldd.org/.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

NADO is pleased to announce the members of the 2011-2012 Board of Directors for the Midwest, West Region and Associate categories. The East, Southeast and Southwest Regions have contested elections. Ballots will be mailed by June 30 and due by July 15.

MIDWEST REGION

Congratulations to the winners in the Midwest Region. Bob Proud, Clermont County
Commissioner was the only elected official nominated for the board and will automatically serve on the board. The elected official is indicated in **bold** and newly elected board members are indicated with an *.

- Bill Bolin, Executive Director, South Central Kansas EDD, Inc. (Wichita, KS)
- Sandeep (Sean) Dey, Executive Director, West Michigan Shoreline RDC (Muskegon, MI)
- Doug Elliott, Executive Director, East Central Iowa COG (Cedar Rapids, IA)
- Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner, Chairman, Ohio Valley RDC (Waverly, OH)
- Tom Higginbotham, Executive Director, Northeast Nebraska EDD (Norfolk, NE)
- Chester Jourdan, Executive Director, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (Columbus, OH)
- Suzan Nash, Executive Director, Western Illinois Regional Council (Macomb, IL)
- William (Tye) Parsons, Executive Director, Northwest Missouri Regional COG (Maryville, MO)
- Jill Saegesser, Executive Director, River Hills EDD & RPC (Jeffersonville, IN) *
- Myron Schuster, Executive Director, Northwest RPC (Spooner, WI)
- Jayme (Jay) Trusty, Executive Director, Southwest RDC (Slayton, MN)

WEST REGION

Congratulations to the winners of the West Region. The elected official is indicated in **bold** and newly elected board members are indicated with an *.

- Lisa Dawson, Executive Director,
 Northeast Oregon EDD, (Enterprise, OR)
- Lynne Keller Forbes, South Eastern COG (Sioux Falls, SD) *
- Laura Lewis Marchino, Assistant Director, Region 9 EDD of SW Colorado, Inc (Durango, CO)
- Robert Nash, Executive Director, Superior California Economic Development (Redding, CA)
- Betty Riley, Executive Director, South Central Oregon EDD (Klamath Falls, OR)
- Ken Sweet, Executive Director, Northern Arizona COG (Flagstaff, AZ)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Congratulations to the following associate members who were elected to serve as the associate representatives on the NADO Board of Directors:

- Jack Couch, Liaison, Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts, (Louisville, KY)
- Penny Redington, Executive Director, Texas Association of Regional Councils (Austin, TX)
- Linda Salmonson, Economic
 Development Manager, East River
 Electric Power Co-op, Inc. (Madison, SD)

EAST REGION

East Candidates: Ten candidates are running for nine seats. At least one of these individuals must be an elected official of a general-purpose local government who is a member of the policy board of a general, sustaining, platinum or platinum plus NADO member. Elected officials are indicated in **bold** and newly nominated member are indicated with an *.

- Danny L. Brown, Chairman, Russell County Board of Supervisors, Cumberland Plateau PDC (Lebanon, VA)
- David Bottar, Executive Director, Central New York RP & D Board (Syracuse, NY) *
- Catherine Dimitruk, Executive Director, Northwest RPC (St. Albans, VT) *
- Tom Kennedy, Executive Director, Southern Windsor County RPC (Ascutney, VT)
- Michael King, Executive Director, North Country Council (Bethlehem, NH)
- James Mylott, Executive Director, Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council (Parkersburg, WV)
- Kenneth Reynolds, Member and Past Chairman, Mount Rogers PDC (Marion, VA)*
- Ed Silvetti, Executive Director, Southern Alleghenies PDC (Altoona, PA)
- Wayne Strickland, Executive Director, Roanoke Valley – Allegany RC (Roanoke, VA)
- Robert Thompson, Executive Director, Androscoggin Valley COG (Auburn, ME)

SOUTHEAST REGION

Southeast Candidates: Fourteen candidates are running for twelve seats. Calvin Newsom, Supervisor, Marion County and Southern Mississippi PDD, was the only elected official nominated for the board and will automatically serve on the board. Newly nominated members are indicated with an *.

- Joe Barker, Executive Director, Southwest Tennessee Development District (Jackson, TN)*
- Timmy Baynes, Executive Director, Kerr-Tar Regional COG (Henderson, NC)
- Charles Blume, Executive Director, Apalachee RPC (Blountstown, FL)
- Suzanne Burnette, Executive Director, Lee-Russell COG (Opelika, AL)

- Jim Dove, Executive Director, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (Athens, GA)
- Patricia Hartung, Executive Director,
 Upper Savannah COG (Greenwood, SC)
- F. Clarke Holmes, Chief Executive Officer, Central Mississippi PDD (Jackson, MS)
- Scott Koons, Executive Director, North Central Florida RPC (Gainesville, FL) *
- Wendell Lawrence, Executive Director, Lincoln Trail ADD (Elizabethtown, KY)
- Joe McKinney, Executive Director, Land-Of-Sky Regional Council (Asheville, NC)
- Ron Mitchum, Executive Director, Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester COG (North Charleston, SC)
- Steve Russell, Executive Director, North Central PDD (Winona, MS) *
- Lenny Stoltz, Executive Director, Bluegrass ADD (Lexington, KY)
- Russell Wimberly, Executive Director, South Alabama RPC (Mobile, AL)

SOUTHWEST REGION

Southwest Candidates: Eight candidates are running for seven seats. At least one of these individuals must be an elected official of a general-purpose local government who is a member of the policy board of a general, sustaining, platinum or platinum plus NADO member. No elected official was nominated. Newly nominated members are indicated with an *.

- Debora Glasgow, Executive Director,
 South Western Oklahoma Development
 Authority (Burns Flat, OK) *
- John Guthrie, Executive Director, Western Arkansas PDD (Fort Smith AR)
- Jeffrey Kiely, Executive Director, Northwest New Mexico COG (Gallup, NM)
- Stan McGee, CAO, Acadiana Regional Development District (Lafayette, LA)
- Tim Pierce, South Plains AOG (Lubbock, TX)

- Hubert Quintana, Executive Director, Southeastern New Mexico EDD/COG (Roswell, NM)
- Blaine Smith, Executive Director, Assn. of S. Central Oklahoma Govts. (Duncan, OK)
- Betty Voights, Executive Director, Capital Area COG (Austin, TX)

NADO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

 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 <u>Learning Conference</u>
 August 24 – 26, 2011, Marriott Metro Center, Washington, DC
- 2011 Annual Training Conference October 8 – 11, 2011, Miami Beach, FL

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