



# NADO NEWS

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

## NADO NEWS: July 22, 2011

### A Publication of the National Association of Development Organizations

#### **REGISTER NOW: Economic Development Finance Service Conference (August 23 – 25)**

NADO's Economic Development Finance Service (EDFS) conference is specifically designed for regional planning and development organization staff that manage federally funded loan programs, including Economic Development Administration (EDA), Small Business Administration (SBA), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), and Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI). [Click here to access the conference agenda.](#)

#### Conference highlights:

- A small business loan fund showcase which will convene representatives from exemplary and innovative loan funds and federal agency staff to share examples of the positive impact that these programs are having in rural regions nationwide.
- Sessions on working with growth companies, loan fund consolidation, collection and recovery and loan workouts, accountability, building loan fund capacity, microloan funds, and more.
- Plenary sessions on the state of small business finance, as well as a federal program update from NADO's legislative team.
- A federal networking plenary with participation from the agencies that fund your loan programs.

- Facilitated networking sessions will give attendees a chance to roll up their sleeves and talk shop.

The EDFS conference is a great opportunity for your loan fund staff to develop professional peer networks, hear directly from federal agency staff about program requirements, exchange information about program management, and learn about new strategies for building strong and successful loan fund portfolios.

Registering for the conference is convenient and easy. The early bird rate (rate increases after July 25) for EDFS members is \$250; the cost for non-EDFS members is \$275. [Click here to access the on-line conference registration.](#) The 2011 EDFS Peer Networking and Training Conference is sponsored by SBA, Bank of America and NADO and the NADO Research Foundation. SBA's funding should not be construed as an endorsement of any products, opinions or services. All SBA-funded projects are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

#### **REGISTER NOW: National Rural Transportation Conference (August 24 – 26)**

The [National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference](#) will occur August 24 – 26, also at the Marriott Metro Center in the heart of Washington, DC. With the future direction of statewide and regional planning in question, there is no better time to hear updates from Washington and learn successful practices to

enhance small metro and rural planning programs. The [early registration](#) and [hotel room block](#) deadlines are August 1. The early registration rate is only \$225.

**NEW!** A special session on August 24 will provide information on **TIGER grants and other federal funding opportunities** from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Through a series of workshops, peer training, and networking sessions, conference participants will hear updates on the direction of federal policy and learn information on air quality, freight and economic development, sustainable communities, regional transit, scenario planning, and other issues.

As the only annual training event on rural transportation planning and programs, the conference will bring together transportation, regional planning and economic development professionals, local officials, state DOT staff and stakeholders from regional, rural transportation planning organizations (RPOs) and small metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) across the nation for three days of learning and networking with peers. In addition, we'll have updates on the Administration's and Congress's priorities for surface transportation reauthorization, including such issues as regional and statewide planning and performance measurement.

National Rural Transportation Conference links:

- [Register online now](#)
- [Conference agenda](#)
- [Vote for discussion topics for the final morning's Conversation Cafe](#)
- [Conference hotel and travel information](#)
- Conference organizers will apply to offer **AICP CM credits** again this year

Conference sponsors include the Appalachian Regional Commission, Development District Association of Appalachia, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, National Association of Development

Organizations (NADO) and NADO Research Foundation, and NADO's RPO America, along with other planning partners.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

### Senate Rejects House's "Cut, Cap and Balance" Measure

On July 19, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the "Cut, Cap, and Balance Act of 2011" (H.R. 2560). Mostly a symbolic vote, the measure would allow an increase in the debt limit only if Congress passed a balanced-budget constitutional amendment. It would cut spending by \$111 billion in fiscal 2012 and enforce statutory caps that limit spending as a percentage of gross domestic product over the next 10 years. The measure was rejected by the U.S. Senate on July 22. Even if the measure had passed the Senate, President Obama had already promised to veto the bill.

Meanwhile, the ongoing high-level debt limit negotiations continued this week under mounting pressure to strike a deal before the August 2 deadline. President Obama has asked congressional leaders to come to the White House over the weekend to continue negotiations.

### Senate EPW Committee Releases Outline on Surface Transportation Reauthorization

On July 19, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) Chairman Barbara Boxer (D-CA), released an outline of the EPW Committee's long-term surface transportation reauthorization measure, referred to as "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century" (MAP-21). The outline broadly describes overall funding levels, core programs, performance measurements, project delivery, and planning processes. The proposal would maintain funding at the current levels, include reforms to the nation's transportation programs, and provide assistance for transportation projects under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and

Innovation Act (TIFIA) program to leverage state, local and private-sector funding. The outline is available on line at [http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore\\_id=6faa8089-51ae-4e8a-ae20-4055294798f3](http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=6faa8089-51ae-4e8a-ae20-4055294798f3).

### **FAA Headed for Partial Shutdown**

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is headed for a partial shutdown starting at midnight on July 22 after Congress left town without approving the 21<sup>st</sup> extension of funding for the FAA programs. The shutdown will immediately affect all non-essential federal aviation programs, and will suspend some 4,000 FAA employees starting July 23. Essential operations, like air traffic controllers, will operate normally.

The Congressional standoff is over a House provision requiring a minimum distance for Essential Air Service (EAS) airports of 90 miles from the nearest medium or large hub airport which would eliminate 10 airports in current EAS communities. There would also be a \$1,000 per passenger cap on EAS subsidies. Airports requiring a subsidy of more than that would be excluded from the program. This would cut about \$16 million from about \$150 million a year in subsidies for commercial flights to remote and rural areas.

Senators with rural constituencies put up a protest over the House bill including Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Chairman Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), who sent a letter to House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman John L. Mica (R-FL) saying that including the EAS provisions would guarantee Senate rejection of the bill. A copy of the letter is available at [http://rockefeller.senate.gov/press/2011\\_0719%20Letter%20to%20Congressman%20Mica.pdf](http://rockefeller.senate.gov/press/2011_0719%20Letter%20to%20Congressman%20Mica.pdf). Chairman Mica responded by issuing a press release stating that the Senate would be to blame if FAA programs were not extended. A copy of the release is available at <http://www.transportation.house.gov/News/PR>

[Article.aspx?NewsID=1359](#). Both the House and the Senate will be back in session on Monday, July 22.

## **FEDERAL NEWS AND NOTES**

### **EDA Accepting Applications for Research and National Technical Assistance Program Funds**

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) is now accepting applications for funding under three Research and National Technical Assistance programs. These programs fund research and technical assistance to promote competitiveness and innovation in distressed regions throughout the U.S. Applications for all three programs are due August 15. Applications are being accepted for the following programs:

- Promoting Sustainable Working Waterfronts: A Toolkit for Community and Economic Development Practitioners. Additional information concerning this opportunity is available at <http://www.eda.gov/PDF/Waterfronts.pdf>.
- Research Design Project to Assess and Evaluate Economic Development Investments. Additional information concerning this opportunity is available at <http://www.eda.gov/PDF/Performance.pdf>.
- Best Practices in Attracting Foreign Direct Investment and Expanding Exports in the U.S. Regions and the Role of Regional Industry Clusters. Additional information concerning this opportunity is available at <http://www.eda.gov/PDF/FDIandExports.pdf>.

### **EDA Invites Comment on SC2 Pilot Challenge**

On July 11, the Obama Administration announced the launch of Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2), a pilot initiative aimed at coordinating the resources of multiple federal agencies to strengthen the capacity of local governments and stimulate economic growth. Through the SC2 Pilot Challenge, the Economic

Development Administration (EDA) will offer \$1 million each to six cities—one in each of EDA's six regions—to conduct a challenge competition to develop a blueprint for economic development for each city and region. EDA invites public comments on the structure of the SC2 Pilot Challenge. Comments are due August 9. Additional information concerning the EDA request for comments is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-07-11/pdf/2011-17319.pdf>. Additional information concerning SC2 is available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/07/11/obama-administration-launches-strong-cities-strong-communities-support-l>.

#### **Lessons on How to Compete for a USDOT TIGER Grant**

On Monday, July 18, 2011, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) held the webinar *Lessons on How to Compete for a USDOT TIGER Grant* in preparation for the release of its FY2011 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants. The purpose of the webinar was to identify key elements of competitive applications and provide information on developing benefit cost analysis. Additionally, information outlining the process for this fall's round of application evaluations was presented. A taping from the webinar is available online at <http://mediasite.yorkcast.com/webcast/Viewer/?peid=d52bbcdc6c9440a3b521eb0c33286e541d>

#### **Upcoming Webinar: 2011 TIGER Discretionary Grants**

On Wednesday, July 27, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will hold a webinar on the 2011 TIGER Discretionary Grants from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EDT.

During the webinar, representatives from the U.S. DOT's Office of the Secretary will discuss the program, selection criteria, evaluations, and application process for the next round of TIGER

Discretionary Grants. Due to capacity limitations, registration is required. Please go to [https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/webconferenc/web\\_conf\\_learner\\_reg.aspx?webconfid=23251](https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/webconferenc/web_conf_learner_reg.aspx?webconfid=23251) to register. For more information, contact Jennifer Symoun, SAIC, 703-676-6849 or [jennifer.e.symoun@saic.com](mailto:jennifer.e.symoun@saic.com). For more information on TIGER Grants visit <http://www.dot.gov/tiger/>.

#### **DOL Requests Comments on Workforce Programs**

The Department of Labor (DOL)'s Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is conducting a preclearance consultation program and inviting comments concerning the collection of information for State Integrated Workforce Plan Requirements for Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Wagner-Peyser Act and DOL Workforce Programs, and for Unified Plan Requirements. The preclearance consultation program helps to ensure that data can be provided in the requested format, the reporting burden is minimized and collection instruments are understood, and assesses the impact of collection requirements on respondents. Comments are due September 19. Additional information is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-07-19/pdf/2011-18137.pdf>.

#### **RBS to Amend Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program Regulations**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) announced that it is amending its regulations for the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program in order to ensure that the agency has sufficient rights for reimbursement when an agency-guaranteed portion of a loan is sold to a holder. This rule will go into effect on September 2 unless RBS receives significant adverse comments by August 18. Information on the final rule is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-07-19/pdf/2011-18010.pdf>. Additional information is available at

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-07-19/pdf/2011-18007.pdf>.

### **OMB Requests Comments on Evaluation of the WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker Program**

The U.S. Department of Labor submitted a request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of a proposed information collection in order to evaluate the Adult and Dislocated Worker Program in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

In conformance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, OMB invites comments on the proposed information collection for the Adult and Dislocated Worker Program in order to ascertain: (a) whether the information collection is necessary for the property performance of the agency; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.

Written comments must be submitted by August 17. Additional information is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-07-18/pdf/2011-18008.pdf>.

## **NADO NEWS AND NOTES**

### **Realities of Modern Rural Economy**

On July 19, NADO Executive Director Matthew Chase posted the article "Realities of Modern Economy" on the Council on Foundations Rural Conference blog. In his article, Chase commends the concept of a stronger philanthropic presence in small town and rural America but stresses the need for more aggressive and thoughtful strategies to replicate successful investments and initiatives across the nation's rural landscape. The full post is available online at

<http://www.cofinteract.org/rephilanthropy/?p=3043>.

### **New NADO Webinar on August 3: TIGER and Rural America**

NADO is partnering with the American Public Transportation Association, the National League of Cities, PolicyLink, Reconnecting America, Rural Assembly, Smart Growth America, and Transportation for America to offer a webinar on applying for the U.S. Department of Transportation's TIGER III grant program on Wednesday, August 3 at 2:00 p.m.

Since some federal grant programs have reserved a portion of funds for projects from rural areas, this webinar will focus on successful strategies for rural grant applications. The webinar will provide an overview of TIGER, discuss innovative rural transportation projects, and showcase two successful rural projects from earlier TIGER grant cycles. Registration is available at

[https://cc.readytalk.com/r/ef34xmeoa3xp\\_until\\_August\\_1](https://cc.readytalk.com/r/ef34xmeoa3xp_until_August_1).

### **Negative Impacts to Rural Communities Anticipated from Possible AT&T-T-Mobile Merger**

In March, AT&T announced a proposed \$39 billion merger with T-Mobile. The proposed merger would reduce the total number of nationwide cell phone carriers to three, and is subject to approval by the Department of Justice and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). In his article, "If Phone Giants Merge: A Rural Take," Paul Desai examines the potential impacts of the merger to rural communities. Desai argues that the merger would result in a less competitive system, and reduce incentives to invest in rural networks. The full article is available at <http://www.dailyonder.com/rural-outlook-phone-giants-merger/2011/07/04/3410>.

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

NADO's 44<sup>th</sup> 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, 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.

You may register for the conference online by visiting [http://www.nado.org/event-registration/?regevent\\_action=register&event\\_id=1&name\\_of\\_event=2011AnnualTrainingConferenceMiami](http://www.nado.org/event-registration/?regevent_action=register&event_id=1&name_of_event=2011AnnualTrainingConferenceMiami). This link will also take you to the preliminary 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.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

*NADO is pleased to announce the newly elected members of the 2011-2012 Board of Directors for the East and Southwest Regions.*

### EAST REGION

**Congratulations** to the winners in the East Region. The elected official is indicated in **bold** and newly elected board members 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)
- 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)

### SOUTHWEST REGION

**Congratulations** to the winners in the Southwest Region.

- **Chris Brown, Judge, Hopkins County, Ark-Tex Council of Governments (Texarkana, TX) \***
- 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)

### SOUTHEAST REGION

*The Southeast Region has a runoff election between Scott Koons of North Central Florida RPC (Gainesville, FL) and Steve Russell of North Central PDD (Winona, MS). A special election ballot will be sent to member organizations via email on Friday, July 22 and must be returned to NADO no later than Friday, August 19.*

**Congratulations** to the winners in the Southeast Region. The elected official is indicated in **bold** and newly elected board 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)
- 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)
- **Calvin Newsom, Supervisor, Marion County and Southern Mississippi PDD (Gulfport, MS) \***
- Lenny Stoltz, Executive Director, Bluegrass ADD (Lexington, KY)
- Russell Wimberly, Executive Director, South Alabama RPC (Mobile, AL)

**The runoff candidates in the Southeast Region are:**

- Scott Koons, Executive Director, North Central Florida RPC (Gainesville, FL)
- Steve Russell, Executive Director, North Central PDD (Winona, MS)

## NADO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **TIGER and Rural America Webinar**  
August 3, 2011, 2:00 p.m. EDT  
Registration is available at <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/ef34xmeoa3xp>
- **2011 EDFs Training Conference**  
August 23 – 25, 2011, Marriott Metro Center, Washington, DC
- **2011 National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference**  
August 24 – 26, 2011, Marriott Metro Center, Washington, DC
- **2011 Annual Training Conference**  
October 8 – 11, 2011, Miami Beach, FL

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