

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

NADO NEWS: August 5, 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 23 – 25) to be held in Washington, D.C. For more information on these events, please reference the articles below or visit <u>http://www.nado.org/training.</u>

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

President Signs Debt Deal

After nearly three months of debate, on Tuesday, August 2, the risk-of-default deadline set by the U.S. Treasury Department, President Obama signed into law a debt limit and deficit reduction bill in order to avert a government default. The House passed the legislation on Monday, August 1, by a vote of 269-161. The Senate passed the legislation on Tuesday August 2, by a vote of 74-26, clearing the bill for the President.

The "Budget Control Act of 2011" (P.L. 112-25) raises the \$14.3 trillion debt ceiling through 2012 and immediately cuts \$900 billion, of which \$500 billion would be subject to a congressional resolution of disapproval. It sets up a joint congressional committee which will recommend more than \$1.5 trillion in further cuts. It also requires congressional votes on a proposal for a balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution by the end of 2011. Statutory caps will be placed on discretionary appropriations for fiscal years 2012 through 2021. These savings will amount to \$917 billion over 10 years, starting with a \$25 billion reduction in FY2012 and a \$47 billion reduction in FY2013.

The overall discretionary spending cap for FY2012 will be \$1.043 trillion, \$6 billion less than FY2011 levels. Defense spending will be capped at \$684 billion in FY2012 and \$686 billion in FY2013, compared with \$689 billion in FY2011. Non-defense spending will be capped at \$359 billion in FY2012 and \$361 billion in FY2013, compared with \$360 billion in FY2011.

The 12-member joint congressional committee, with equal numbers of Republican and Democratic members, will recommend legislation to cut future deficits by at least \$1.2 trillion over 10 years. The committee must send its recommendations to Congress by December 2 with final votes in the House and Senate on the proposal by December 23. If the committee does not complete its work, automatic, across the board spending cuts would be initiated. The first automatic cuts would take effect January 2, 2013, and would fall equally on defense and non-defense accounts.

The law will cut federal spending by approximately \$2.1 trillion over the next decade.

FAA Extension Deal Finally Reached

On Friday, August 5, after the almost two-week shutdown of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) programs, the Senate passed H.R. 2553, the "Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2011, Part IV", clearing the bill for the President. House and Senate negotiators were finally able to reach a deal on an extension late Thursday, August, 4, restoring the federal government's authority to collect airline excise taxes and fund airport construction. The measure will extend FAA programs until September 16 to give the House and Senate additional time to work out their differences in a long-term authorization including a dispute over labor language in the House-passed bill (H.R. 658). The House passed bill would rescind a 2010 National Mediation Board rule that made it easier for airline and railway employees to unionize.

The shutdown, which began July 23, immediately affected all non-essential federal aviation programs, resulting in the suspension of some 4,000 FAA employees. In addition to the FAA furloughs, an estimated 70,000 workers (including construction workers and airline/airport support workers such as food vendors) were put out of work and the FAA was forced to issue stop-work orders on approximately \$7 billion in contracts. Essential operations, like air traffic controllers, operated normally.

The Congressional standoff was over a House provision in the extension bill requiring a minimum distance for Essential Air Service (EAS) airports of 90 miles from the nearest medium or large hub airport which will eliminate 10 airports in current EAS communities. There will also be a \$1,000 per passenger cap on EAS subsidies. Airports requiring a subsidy of more than that will be excluded from the program. This will cut about \$16 million from about \$150 million a year in subsidies for commercial flights to remote and rural areas. The final deal focused on a provision in the extension that would allow the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to issue waivers if petitioned by legislators with airports located within the 90 mile minimum limit that will lose EAS subsidies. It will not apply to the \$1,000 per passenger subsidy cap.

If a deal had not been reached, the shutdown was expected to cost between \$25 million to \$30 million per day in excise taxes totaling approximately \$1.2 billion in lost tax revenue for the federal government by the time Congress returned after Labor Day. When the chambers return from their August recess, they will have about a week and a half to either further extend programs or reconcile the long term FAA authorization.

Surface Transportation Bill Will Wait Until September

Additional extensions of SAFETEA-LU (P.L. 109-59), the long-term surface transportation authorization that expired September 2009, became more of a reality after both the House and Senate adjourned without having introduced new reauthorization legislation. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman John L. Mica (R-FL) and Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) have both released outlines on their prospective plans but no legislative text has been introduced. Chairman Mica is expected to introduce a sixyear, \$230 billion measure and Chairman Boxer is expected to introduce a two-year, \$109 billion measure.

Legislation extending surface transportation programs will likely be introduced when the Congress returns after Labor Day. The current extension (P.L. 112-5) expires on September 30, 2011.

FEDERAL NEWS AND NOTES

HUD Accepting Applications for Sustainable Housing and Communities Grants

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Sustainable Housing

and Communities announced the availability of \$95 million for the FY2011 Regional Planning and Community Challenge Planning Grant programs. This year, the Regional Planning Grant program will place a priority on partnerships and funding may be used to prepare regional plans for sustainable development, or to modify existing regional plans so that they are consistent with the Administration's Partnership for Sustainable Communities livability principles.

Separately, this year's Community Challenge grants may be used for a number of efforts which promote sustainability at the local and neighborhood levels, such as amending or replacing master plans, zoning and building codes to promote mixed-use development, building affordable housing, or rehabilitating older buildings. \$3 million of Community Challenge funds will be set aside for jurisdictions with populations less than 50,000. Pre-applications for the Regional Planning Grants are due by August 25, and applications for the Community Challenge Planning Grants are due September 9. Additional information concerning these grant opportunities is available at

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/pro gram_offices/sustainable_housing_communitie s/Apply_for_a_Grant.

HUD to Hold Webcasts on Sustainable Communities Grants

On July 28, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that \$95 million will be made available for Community Challenge Grants and Regional Planning Grants in FY2011. Both programs work to expand housing choices, improve connections between employment centers and homes, and reduce barriers to achieving affordable, economically vital, and sustainable communities. HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities (OSHC) will hold two webcasts on the Community Challenge Grant and the Regional Planning Grant programs: Community Challenge Grant Webcast: Thursday, August 11, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. EST Regional Planning Grant Webcast: Friday, August 12, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EST

Links to access the webcasts will be made available on OSHC's website one hour before the webinars at <u>www.hud.gov/sustainability</u>.

FEMA Accepting Submissions for the 2011 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is now accepting submissions for the 2011 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards (formerly the National Citizen Corps Achievement Awards). The awards program showcases the work of FEMA partners at all levels of government, and includes nongovernmental, nonprofit, faith-based and private sector organizations, and individuals, families, and communities. Submissions are due by August 26, and should emphasize achievements that occured between January 1, 2010 and June 1, 2011. Additional information, FAQs, and lists of past winners are available at http://citizencorps.gov/councils/awards/2011/a wards2011.shtm.

USDA Rural Development Seeks Public Input

Earlier this year, President Obama issued Executive Order No. 13563, Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review, which requires all federal agencies to review existing regulations and outlines principles that promote public participation in government. In response, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is holding stakeholder outreach meetings throughout the U.S. A number of in-person, teleconference, and roundtable meetings are scheduled throughout the month of August. Rural Development encourages the submission of written comments on how Rural Development can enhance program administration and delivery. For a list of upcoming meetings and additional information on this initiative and to submit comments, visit

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RD_StakeholderO utreach.html.

EDA Invites Comment on SC2 Pilot Challenge – Due Tuesday, August 9

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-pressoffice/2011/07/11/obama-administrationlaunches-strong-cities-strong-communitiessupport-l.

OMB Requests Comments on RUS Water and Waste Loan and Grant Program

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) submitted a request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of a proposed information collection for the Rural Utilities Service (RUS)'s Water and Waste Loan and Grant Program.

In conformance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, OMB invites comments on the proposed information collection for the Water and Waste Loan and Grant 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 31. Additional information is available at <u>http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-08-</u> 02/pdf/2011-19539.pdf.

OMB Requests Comments on HUD Loan Guarantee Recovery Fund

HUD's Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development submitted a request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval of a proposed information collection for Loan Guarantee Recovery Fund applications.

In conformance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, OMB invites comments on the proposed information collection for the Loan Guarantee Recovery Fund 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 October 3. Additional information is available at <u>http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-08-</u> 03/pdf/2011-19591.pdf.

CDFI Fund Solicits Comments on Healthy Food Financing Initiative

The Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund is seeking comments concerning the Healthy Food Financing Initiative – Financial Assistance (HFFI-FA) Supplemental Questionnaire which was distributed in FY2010. The HFFI aims to eliminate food deserts, defined as urban and rural areas in the U.S. with limited access to affordable and nutritious food. Written comments must be submitted by October 3. Additional information is available at <u>http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-08-</u>04/pdf/2011-19749.pdf.

RUS Amends Emergency Restoration Plans Requirements

The USDA 's Rural Utilities Service is amending the requirements for Emergency Restoration Plans (ERPs). The requirements currently mandate that all borrowers include a plan to comply with the eligibility requirements to qualify for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Grant Program in the event of a declared disaster. The new amendment will ensure that RUS borrowers have a plan to maintain their eligibility to receive financial assistance from FEMA in the event they incur eligible costs for disaster related system repair and restoration. Additional information on the new requirements is available at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-08-04/pdf/2011-19661.pdf.

NADO NEWS AND NOTES

REGISTRATION STILL OPEN / EARLY BIRD EXTENDED TO AUGUST 9TH: 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), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), and Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI). <u>Click here to access the on-line conference</u> <u>registration.</u> The early registration and hotel discounted room rate deadline are extended to August 9.

Conference highlights include:

- Closing federal program update with representatives from EDA, SBA, USDA and CDFI confirmed. Excellent chance to meet with them one-on-one!
- Special Small Business Loan Fund Showcase set for Tuesday, August 23rd, 2 – 4:30 pm. Several loan funds will share their success stories with representatives from federal agencies and congressional staff, and all conference attendees are invited to attend.
- Small business finance legislative update will be provided by NADO's legislative team.
- Many opportunities for networking with your peers to share ideas and solutions about challenges and issues you are faced with today.

Contact NADO Deputy Executive Director Laurie Thompson at 202.624.5948 or <u>Ithompson@nado.org</u> if you have any questions.

National Rural Transportation Conference (August 24 – 26)

Celebrate RPO America's five-year anniversary and learn timely information about regional transportation issues at the <u>National Rural</u> <u>Transportation Peer Learning Conference</u>, occurring August 24 – 26 at the Marriott Metro Center in Washington, DC.

With potential changes coming up for statewide and regional planning and surface transportation in general, there are a few conference events not to miss:

- Opening Plenary: Emerging Issues in Transportation will feature transportation industry leaders who will share perspectives on the policy context for transportation programs
- A special session will provide information on TIGER grants and other federal funding opportunities from the U.S. Department of Transportation
- Future of Statewide and Metropolitan Planning will focus on reauthorization

proposals and their impacts on planning practice and projects

 Closing Plenary: Federal Town Hall will feature the directors of several offices within USDOT discussing issues affecting rural and small metropolitan transportation and the direction of their programs and resources.

In addition, attend training sessions on a variety of topics and take advantage of the opportunity to network and share practices with fellow regional transportation planning staff, directors, state DOT planners, and federal agency representatives.

For more information, visit

http://www.nado.org/training/rpo2011 or contact NADO Program Managers Carrie Kissel, at <u>ckissel@nado.org</u> or 202.624.8829, or Kathy Nothstine, at <u>knothstine@nado.org</u> or 202.624.5256.

RPO America Nominating Committee Convenes

On August 2, 2011, the RPO America Nominating Committee met to nominate a slate of candidates for officer positions of the National RPO Council of Peers.

The individuals serving on the nominating committee are:

- 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, Deputy Director Metropolitan Planning Organization,

Mountainland Association of Governments (UT)

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

The slate of officer candidates recommended by the nominating committee include:

- 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

The RPO America membership (which includes all dues-paying members of NADO) will vote on the slate of candidates and other business and hear an in-depth policy update from NADO legislative staff at the RPO America Annual Business Meeting, to be held Thursday, August 25 in Washington, DC during the National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference.

For more information on RPO America, visit <u>www.RuralTransportation.org</u> or contact NADO Senior Program Manager Carrie Kissel at <u>ckissel@nado.org</u> or 202.624.8829.

Save the Date for DDAA Training Session

Mark your calendars now for the Development District Association of Appalachia's (DDAA) 2011 Employment Law Seminar, to be held September 18 – 20 at the Hotel Indigo in 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/.

NADO's 2011 Annual Training Conference (ATC) October 8 – 11: Final Slate of Mobile Workshops Announced

As has become tradition, NADO's ATC takes attendees out of the hotel to various locations in and around the conference city to learn about economic and community development projects and initiatives first hand. Known as Mobile Workshops, these events have become a conference mainstay. Since our first Mobile Workshop in 2003 to the Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway in Minneapolis, we have conducted 36 additional Mobile Workshops during ATCs.

In addition to learning about the economic impact of National Scenic Byways in four states, attendees have learned about the decisionmaking process for determining distribution center (and a Starbucks roasting plant) locations, the economic importance of reclaiming brownfields, the process and partnerships required for successful sustainable development communities, the complexities of port operations, the inner workings of emergency operations centers, the secrets of successful entrepreneurs, the relationship between cultural activities and the local economy, and the importance of downtown revitalization projects. Workshops have included buses and vans, boats and ferries and, always, good walking shoes and a thirst for learning.

This year we are planning on six Mobile Workshops! Here is a peek at the workshops, including dates, times and cost:

 Balancing Ecology and the Economy – A Case Study of the Everglades: Florida's Everglades were designated a national park in 1947. Everglades National Park (EVER), the third largest national park in the lower 48 states, was dedicated for its biologic diversity rather than its visual appeal. EVER is the largest subtropical wilderness in the U.S., and is home to rare and endangered species. Workshop attendees will learn about the on-going struggle to balance the ecology and the environment with development. Adjacent land use concerns, coupled with the expected impacts of climate change (causing rising sea levels), prompted the creation of the Research Natural Area, a 46 square mile ecological preserve and sanctuary for species affected by fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. This workshop will include lunch and refreshments on board the bus. Limited to 50 attendees, **Saturday, October 8. 9 am – 5 pm. \$50.**

- Coral Reef Madness: Balancing Coral Reef Protection in a Tourism Based Economy: Sail aboard the M.V. "Key Largo Princess" and view the underwater world of John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, the only undersea park in the United States. 70-feet long, this glass bottom has viewing windows large enough for everyone to observe panoramic views of life under water on a reef simultaneously. Learn how the reef system is being maintained, preserved and showcased as part of Florida's tourism industry. Limited to 50 attendees.
 Saturday, October 8. 9 am – 5 pm. \$50.
- Location, Location, Location: Incorporated in 2003, the City of Doral sits on 15,000 acres in the backyard of Miami International Airport. Taking its name from the Doral Hotel and Country Club and golf course, the former swampland is now home to 36,000 residents and was named "Best City in Florida for Business Start-ups" by BusinessWeek. Attendees will meet with the city planning department and learn about the city's approach to green master planning and its strategy for transitioning into a viable city. With household median incomes of \$80,000, 56 companies hiring more than 10 new employees each in 2010, Fortune 500 companies and government agencies, a financial district with 54 banks and 48 thriving hotels, the city has big plans

for its future. Limited to 30 attendees. Sunday, October 9. 12 – 3:30 pm. \$25.

- Eclectic South Beach: Head out the hotel door for a <u>guided walking tour of Ocean</u> <u>Drive</u>, the heart of South Beach's Art Deco district. Versace's mansion, funky boutiques and lively eateries are just a part of the District's 800+ restored buildings. Discover the history behind the colorfully vibrant buildings while learning about the different types of architecture found in the unique beachfront community. Be prepared: wear comfortable shoes and your best sunscreen! Limited to 25 attendees. Monday, October 10, 2:45 – 4:45 pm. \$25.
- Gateway of the Americas: ATC attendees will have a chance to go behind the scenes to learn about the international operations at the Port of Miami. With a total economic impact of approximately \$17 billion annually, 2010 revenues that exceeded \$101 million, and a total of 176,000 jobs generated, the Port has a significant impact on the global economy. Known as the "Cargo gateway of America," the Port also boasts robust cruise ship activity with over 4.1 million passengers boarding or disembarking cruise ships in 2009. The cargo side of the port provides services to over 25 of the world's leading cargo lines that ship to 250 ports in more than 100 countries. The cruise business has prompted a massive Capital Investment Program, with two ultra-modern terminals up and running. The pending completion of the Panama Expansion Project will add another 30,000 jobs and no doubt help secure the Port's position as the number 2 economic engine in the region. Attendees will learn about Port daily operations and how it is preparing for the expected changes resulting from larger container ships passing through the Canal. Limited to 50 attendees. Monday, October 10, 1:45 -4:15 pm. \$25.
- Little Havana: Known as a center for social, cultural and political activity, Little Havana is a part of Miami that must be experienced. Over one million Cubans call Miami their home and many of them came to Miami after leaving Cuba under Fidel Castro's control. This walking tour will bring attendees to the heart of Little Havana, where they can experience the culture first hand. A guide will talk about the many monuments that honor fallen heroes, introduce you to the aromatic Cuban coffee and cigars, and bring you to the doorstep of Miami's Cuban community. Tour will include lunch at a locally owned Cuban restaurant. Limited to 25 attendees. Tuesday, October 11, 10 am – 1 pm. \$25.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Two mobile workshops that were in the planning phase (*Commerce Flows on the River* and *Locally Grown Businesses*) have been cancelled due to scheduling problems; if you registered for them, you will be contacted shortly by NADO staff and will have a chance to sign up for any of the final six. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Visit <u>here</u> to register on line and view the conference agenda, as well as learn more about the conference hotel – the Loews Miami Beach.

Questions?

...about conference registration: contact Tawanna Harley at 202.624.7841 or <u>tharley@nado.org</u> ...about hotel rooms: contact Vicki Glass at 202.624.8574 or <u>vglass@nado.org</u> ...about the conference content: contact Laurie Thompson at 202.624.5948 or Ithompson@nado.org

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership Upgrades:

Piedmont Triad Regional Council (Winston Salem, NC) upgraded to Platinum Membership. Matthew Dolge is the Executive Director. For more information, visit <u>www.nwpcog.org</u>.

East Central Iowa Council of Governments (Cedar Rapids, IA) upgraded to Sustaining Membership. Doug Elliott is the Executive Director. For more information, visit www.ecicog.org.

NADO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- <u>2011 EDFS Training Conference</u> August 23 – 25, 2011, Marriott Metro Center, Washington, DC
- <u>2011 National Rural Transportation Peer</u> <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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