National
Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference

April 24 – 26, 2013
Greenville, SC
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Welcome to Greenville, South Carolina, and thank you for joining your peers for the 2013 National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference. Each year, this unique event convenes rural and small metropolitan transportation planners, professionals, and stakeholders to discuss practical issues and topics, engage one another through information exchange and networking opportunities, and learn from national experts. Workshops, plenary addresses, and best practice sessions will cover a wide variety of multimodal transportation topics. Conference organizers have also applied to offer AICP Certification Maintenance credits for the training sessions and workshops.

During our opening plenary, we are pleased to be joined by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Smart Growth Program, Director John Frece, Federal Highway Administration, South Carolina Division, Planning and Environmental Manager Patrick Tyndall, and City of Greenville Community Planner Wayne Leftwich. On Thursday, a plenary session of short presentations addressing how rural and small metro regions and their state partners can improve mobility. South Carolina Deputy Secretary of Commerce George Patrick III will discuss how the state has positioned itself in the global economy during Thursday’s luncheon keynote. Friday’s closing session will discuss how the 2012 surface transportation authorization Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) is being implemented and is shaping transportation practice.

Throughout the conference, special networking events will allow attendees to share information with peers. On Wednesday evening, the Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards Showcase and Reception provides attendees the opportunity to learn about innovative projects in several different states. Thursday afternoon’s longer workshop training sessions offer opportunities to engage in in-depth and interactive learning settings and to become familiar with the host region through training outside the hotel. Finally, the Conversation Café on Friday morning will allow participants to engage in facilitated discussion on specific topics of interest, ranging from freight planning, to local and regional participation in statewide planning, to incorporating safety in transportation planning. And as always, informal conversations with other attendees throughout the three-day event will allow new ideas to be shared and collaborations to form. Enjoy the conference!

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### Schedule at a Glance

#### Wednesday, April 24

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. **Concurrent Workshops**
- RPO Models: State-Regional Relationships in Transportation Planning
- GIS and Technology Tools for Transportation

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch on Your Own**

1:00 – 2:15 p.m. **Opening Plenary: Putting Federal Resources to Work to Create Vibrant Regions**

2:30 – 3:45 p.m. **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**
- Public Participation and Engagement
- Rural Transportation Safety

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. **RPO America Annual Business Meeting, followed by the National RPO Council of Peers Meeting**

5:00 – 6:30 p.m. **Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards Reception**

#### Thursday, April 25

7:30 – 8:00 a.m. **Networking Breakfast and Excellence Awards Photo Session**

8:00 – 9:30 a.m. **Plenary Session: RPO America Peer Symposium**

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**
- Developing Long-range Transportation Plans
- Meeting Mobility Needs through Regional Transit Solutions

11:00 a.m. – Noon **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**
- Healthy, Active Transportation
- Freight and Economic Development: Understanding Freight Flows

Noon – 1:30 p.m. **Plenary Luncheon: Positioning Regions for the Global Economy**

1:45 – 5:00 p.m. **Concurrent Workshops**
- BMW Freight and Economic Development Tour
- Downtown Greenville Economic Development Walking/Cycling Tour
- Road Safety Audit Workshop
- Getting a Perspective on the Human Landscape: Data, Public Involvement, and Project Development

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. **Network Appalachia: Access to Opportunity**

#### Friday, April 26

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. **Networking Breakfast**

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. **Conversation Café: Facilitated Small Group Discussions**

10:15 – 11:30 a.m. **Closing Plenary: Future Directions for Federal Surface Transportation Program**

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### Join the online dialogue!

Use the tag #NADOrpo on Twitter and follow us at @RPOAmerica and @NADOweb. Share your comments and conference photos at www.Facebook.com/RPOAmerica.

Visit www.RuralTransportation.org for speakers’ presentation materials and other resources.
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conference Registration  
Regency Foyer

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Concurrent Workshop Sessions  
RPO Models: State-Regional Relationships in Transportation Planning  
Regency D

Learn about the language defining Regional Transportation Planning Organizations in MAP-21, models states have used to set up their regional planning processes, and what the fundamental responsibilities are.

- Rita Seto, Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission (VT)
- Katie Caskey, Minnesota DOT
- Ronda Allis, Region 9 RDC (MN)
- Elina Zlotchenko, North Carolina DOT
- Moderator: Carrie Kissel, NADO

GIS and Technology Tools for Transportation  
Regency E

Learn the latest in applications and innovations that make technology available to assist with transportation planning, such as asset management, project tracking, and mapping population data from local partners.

- Matthew Long, Pennsylvania DOT
- Josh King, Land-of-Sky Regional Council (NC)
- Karyl Fuller, Isothermal Planning and Development Commission
- Greg Ulp, GeoDecisions
- Moderator: Bret Allphin, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley RDD

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

1:00 – 2:15 p.m. Opening Plenary: Putting Federal Resources to Work to Create Vibrant Regions  
Regency C

Hear how federal agencies are working together to deliver programs and resources to assist communities in rural and small metro regions, and from a local perspective how to overcome obstacles and to focus on implementation.

- Opening Welcome and Moderator: Misty Casto, Buckeye Hills Hocking Valley Regional Development District and Second Vice President, Development District Association of Appalachia
- Patrick Tyndall, Federal Highway Administration, South Carolina Division
- John Frece, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Discussant: Wayne Leftwich, City of Greenville

2:30 – 3:45 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions  
Public Participation and Engagement  
Regency D

Gathering input from the public is not easy. Learn about techniques to engage stakeholders and build consensus to guide future regional plans.

- Kim Thurlow, New River Valley PDC (VA)
- Peter Keating, Chittenden County RPC (VT)
- Moderator: Brian Carver, Bear River AOG (UT)

Rural Transportation Safety  
Regency E

Despite overall declines in fatalities in the U.S., over half of fatal crashes are still occurring in rural areas. This session will focus on practices to incorporate safety into rural and small metro transportation planning work.

- Jesse Day, Piedmont Triad Regional Council (NC)
- Libby Thomas, University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center
- Stuart Thompson, Federal Highway Administration
- Moderator: Nathan Miller, Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Regional Commission (NH)
Wednesday, April 24 (cont’d)

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
**RPO America Annual Business Meeting, immediately followed by the National RPO Council of Peers Meeting**  
Regency D  
All attendees are encouraged to attend the meetings and join the discussion of how regional transportation planning organizations in rural and small metro areas can demonstrate their value in the planning process. Hear a legislative update on MAP-21 implementation and reauthorization.  
- Special Guest Presentation: Kathy Ruffalo, Ruffalo & Associates

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
**Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards Showcase**  
Regency C  
Participants will share information about promising new practices that are making a difference in regions across the nation.

Thursday, April 25

7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
**Conference Registration Open**  
Regency Foyer

7:30 – 8:00 a.m.  
**Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards Photos**  
Atrium Lobby

7:30 – 8:00 a.m.  
**Networking Breakfast**  
Regency C

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.  
**Plenary Session: RPO America Peer Symposium**  
Regency C  
Through a series of several short presentations, presenters will focus on the theme, how can rural and small metro regions and their partners work on planning and project implementation to improve mobility for people and goods?  
- Jack Cebe, Alta Planning + Design  
- Pat Steed, Central Florida Regional Planning Council  
- Paul Black, Land-of-Sky Regional Council and French Broad River MPO (NC)  
- Chris Cummings, Oregon DOT  
- Moderator: Amy Kessler, North Central Pennsylvania Reg. Planning and Development Commission

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.  
**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**  
Regency D  

**Developing Long-range Transportation Plans**  
Incorporating public and local official input into a vision leads to the development of a long-term plan to guide transportation system priorities. Learn from promising practices and how MAP-21, with its new performance measurement requirements, may change future plan updates.  
- Jake Gilmer, Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (VA)  
- Darrel Johnson, Virginia DOT  
- Moderator: Sara Brown, South Central Tennessee Development District

**Meeting Mobility Needs through Regional Transit Solutions**  
Regency E  
Regional planning organizations, transit agencies, and others are increasingly turning to mobility management strategies and regional services to ensure people can travel where they need to go.  
- Ginnie Kozak, Lowcountry Council of Governments (SC)  
- Doug Pilant, Tillamook County Transportation District (OR)  
- Moderator: Robert Rychel, Middle Georgia Regional Commission

11:00 a.m. – Noon  
**Concurrent Breakout Sessions**  
Regency D  

**Healthy, Active Transportation**  
Having access to a safe transportation network with multiple modes can enhance communities and livability. Learn about resources and case studies of how to improve mobility through active transportation.  
- Rachel Beyerle, Easter Seals Project Action  
- Elijah Sharp, New River Valley Planning District Commission (VA)  
- Moderator: Lindsey Knutson, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission
Freight and Economic Development: Understanding Freight Flows

Learn how freight currently moves, how various future economic scenarios may place different demands on the transportation network, and what regional organizations can do to address freight. Session co-sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

- Paula Dowell, Cambridge Systematics
- Mark Burton, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
- Moderator: Fred Rader, Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Commission (WV)

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Plenary Luncheon: Positioning Regions for the Global Economy

In this plenary address, South Carolina Deputy Secretary of Commerce George Patrick III will discuss how the state has positioned itself in the global economy. He has extensive experience working with business, political, and military leaders as well as numerous federal, state and private entities, and has served in the South Carolina Department of Commerce since 2011.

- Keynote Address: George B. Patrick III, Deputy Secretary, South Carolina Department of Commerce
- Moderator: Steve Pelissier, South Carolina Appalachian Council of Governments

1:45 – 5:00 p.m.

Concurrent Workshops

BMW Freight and Economic Development Tour
South Carolina’s ground transportation sector has been a major economic growth engine responsible for 84,000 jobs in the state. BMW decided to locate its first manufacturing facility outside Germany in Spartanburg in 1992, which was intended to manufacture vehicles for export. Now with 7,000 direct jobs and an extensive supplier network, the company is a major part of the automotive sector, with its significant economic and transportation impacts on the Upstate region and the whole state. Learn about these issues during a plant tour and presentation. (Pre-registration required, $25 fee)

Downtown Greenville Economic Development Walking/Cycling Tour
During a walking tour, participants will learn how Greenville’s master planning process and public private-partnerships have sparked revitalization of the city’s now vibrant downtown space. Following the walking tour, participants will have the option to continue on a cycling tour to see the multi-use paved paths that have gained popularity and increased the area’s livability. (Pre-registration required, $15 fee)

Road Safety Audit Workshop
Learn the fundamentals of conducting a Road Safety Audit (RSA) in this hands-on workshop. An RSA is the formal safety performance examination of an existing or future road or intersection. It is used to estimate and report on potential road safety issues and identify opportunities for improvements in safety for all road users. After in-hotel instruction by Dan Nabors, VHB, and Stuart Thompson, FHWA, attendees will go to Travelers Rest, SC, for a setting appropriate for rural and small urban safety issues. (Pre-registration required, $25 fee)

Getting a Perspective on the Human Landscape: Data, Public Involvement, and Project Development
In this workshop, participants will learn WHERE to obtain data on the human and built environment, HOW data is used in transportation decision-making and their LIMITS of use, and use of field validation to improve quality and enhance project outcomes. Training will be led by Jeff Moore, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, and Anne Morris, Anne Morris & Associates.

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Network Appalachia: Access to Opportunity
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.

No formal evening events are planned after the workshops, but for more networking opportunities, come to the Hyatt Regency Lobby at 6:00 p.m. to meet up with other attendees for informal group dinners. Also, participants may be interested in attending the 7:05 p.m. game of the Greenville Drive (Red Sox affiliate) against the Lakewood Blue Claws (Phillies affiliate) at Fluor Field, which is modeled after Fenway Park and named “Ballpark of the Year” in 2006 by Ballparks.com. Tickets start at $9 and can be purchased at the box office. A free downtown trolley to Fluor Field runs past the Hyatt along Main Street before and after the game.
Friday, April 26

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.  Networking Breakfast  

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.  Conversation Café: Facilitated Small Group Discussions  
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. Participants will have the opportunity to network in two different discussion groups during the session.

- **Byways, Tourism, and Economic Development**  
  Facilitator: Bethany Remmers, Northwest Regional Planning Commission (VT)
- **Local and Regional Participation in Statewide Planning**  
  Facilitator: Jason Ray, Harry S Truman Coordinating Council (MO)
- **Engaging with Freight Issues**  
  Facilitator: Randall Embry, Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency (KY)
- **Aging Populations and Rural Transportation**  
  Facilitator: Robert Hiett, Three Rivers Regional Commission (GA)
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning**  
  Bob Kuipers, Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments
- **Regional Transit and Coordination**  
  Facilitator: Jason Kelly, Northern Arizona Council of Governments
- **Transportation Safety**  
  Facilitator: Zach James, Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission
- **Local and Regional Participation in Statewide Planning**  
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  Bob Kuipers, Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments
- **Regional Transit and Coordination**  
  Facilitator: Jason Kelly, Northern Arizona Council of Governments
- **Transportation Safety**  
  Facilitator: Zach James, Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission

10:15 – 11:30 a.m.  Closing Plenary: Future Directions for the Federal Surface Transportation Program  
Six months into MAP-21 implementation, hear how the new legislation is shaping transportation practice, with updates from federal agency staff that focus on significant policy issues for rural and small metropolitan areas and for planning at RTPOs, MPOs, state DOTs, and their partners.

- Harlan Miller, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Planning
- Stefan Natzke, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Human Environment
- Stuart Thompson, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Safety
- Moderator: Joe McKinney, NADO

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RPO America Subscribers

Special thanks to the following organizations for providing voluntary contributions to NADO and RPO America to support rural transportation research and training efforts, outreach, and tracking of federal policies.

**GEORGIA**
- Georgia Association of Regional Councils

**IOWA**
- Southeast Iowa RPC
- Iowa Northland Regional COG

**MISSISSIPPI**
- Southern Mississippi PDD
- Three Rivers PDD

**MISSOURI**
- Mo-Kan Regional Council
- Mark Twain Regional COG
- Boonslick RPC

**NORTH CAROLINA**
- Lumber River COG
- Mid-East Commission

**OHIO**
- Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley RDD

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- South Western Oklahoma Dev. Authority

**PENNSYLVANIA**
- North Central Pennsylvania RPDC

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**TENNESSEE**
- First Tennessee Development District

**TEXAS**
- Capital Area COG
- Brazos Valley COG

**VERMONT**
- Chittenden County RPC
- Two Rivers-Ottauquechee RC
- Southern Windsor County RPC
- Rutland RPC

**WEST VIRGINIA**
- West Virginia Assn of Regional Planning and Dev. Organizations
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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.

Ronda Allis, Region 9 Dev. Commission (MN)  Nathan Miller, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Commission (NH)
Stu Anderson, Iowa DOT  Susan Moe, FHWA, Minnesota Division
Allison Beasley, Southern Mississippi PDD  Kelly Murray, Illinois Association of Regional Councils
Kevin Belanger, South Central PDC (LA)  O.J. Papucci, Santee-Lynches COG (SC)
Tom Bliss, Mo-Kan Regional Council (MO/KS)  Michael Parks, Brazos Valley COG (TX)
Kurt Brummett, Three Rivers PDD (MS)  Len Pavelka, Benton-Franklin COG (WA)
Misty Casto, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley RDD (OH)  Mike Pennington, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland
Tim Conklin, Western Arkansas PDD  Tom Piper, South Alabama RPC
Chris Craig, First Tennessee Development District  Fred Rader, Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council (WV)
Randall Embry, Kentuckiana Planning and Development Agency (KY)  Jim Reed, Central Texas COG (TX)
Blaise Emerson, Black Hills COG (SD)  Tom Reinauer, Southern Maine RPC
Kelli Fairless, Valley Regional Transit (ID)  Diane Rekowski, Northeast Michigan COG
Chris Fetzer, Northern Arizona COG  Bethany Remmers, Northwest RPC (VT)
James Gilmer, Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (VA)  Jill Saegesser, River Hills EDD and RPC (IN)
Jana Harris, Southwestern Oklahoma Development Authority  Marlie Sanderson, North Central Florida RPC
Robert Hiett, Three Rivers Regional Commission (GA)  Lisa Sandt, Lee-Russell COG (AL)
Richard Hunsaker, Region XII COG (IA)  Shawn Seager, Mountainland AOG (UT)
Seylon Johnson, Northwest RPC (WI)  Lesah Sedillo, North Central New Mexico EDD
Amy Kessler, North Central Pennsylvania RPDC  Paula Strauss, Tennessee DOT
Marjorie Kirn, Merced County AOG (CA)  Dana Ternus, Northwest Missouri Regional COG
Mark Lester, South Carolina DOT  Scott Turnoy, Mid-Columbia EDD (OR)
John Marshall, Western Piedmont COG (NC)  Richard Zink, Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board (NY)
Travis Marshall, North Carolina DOT  
Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission (IL/IA)  

GEORGIA
River Valley Regional Commission, Mobility Management; Prison to Peanuts Bicycle Adventure
Three Rivers Regional Commission, Regional Mobility Management

KENTUCKY
Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency, Vanpooling Services

MAINE
Eastern Maine Development Corporation, Linking the Rural Regions of Four Counties in Maine to Enhance Transportation Opportunities and Improve Quality of Life

NORTH CAROLINA
Isothermal Planning and Development Commission, Pockets of Rural Poverty
Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, North Carolina Lakes District
French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization and Land-of-Sky Regional Council of Governments, From Cradle to Construction – Project Tracking
Piedmont Triad Regional Council and Piedmont Triad Rural Planning Organization, Rural Comprehensive Speed Management Planning

Western Piedmont Council of Governments, Annual Air Quality Conference

PENNSYLVANIA
North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission, Engage North Central Pennsylvania

SOUTH CAROLINA
Lower Savannah Council of Governments, Lower Savannah Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan; Resuscitation of Transit (and Senior) Services in Allendale, SC
Lowcountry Council of Governments, Regional Mobility Management in the Lowcountry – From Cooperation to Consolidation

VERMONT
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Transportation Surveys: Attitudinal Changes and Trends in Chittenden County, VT, 2000 – 2012

VIRGINIA
New River Valley Planning District Commission, Regional Transit Organization Study – Regional Transit Coordinating Council

An awards program of NADO’s RPO America and the NADO Research Foundation’s Center for Transportation Advancement and Regional Development
Upcoming Events

August 24 – 27, 2013
NADO Annual Training Conference
San Francisco, California

March 23 – 25, 2014
Development District Association of Appalachia Annual Meeting
Arlington, Virginia

March 24 – 26, 2014
NADO Washington Policy Conference
Arlington, Virginia