National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference

December 3 – 5, 2014
Cincinnati, Ohio

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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.

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WEST VIRGINIA
Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council
Wednesday, December 3

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  Conference Registration  Ballroom Foyer

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  Concurrent Workshop Sessions  Buckeye AB

Regional Resilience and Rural Evacuations
Learn how regions throughout the country are creating a framework for rural evacuation protocols and how transportation serves and is affected by regional resilience efforts.
- Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission (IL/IA)
- Katharine Otto, Southern Windsor County Regional Commission (VT)
- Krishna Kunapareddy, Boonslick Regional Planning Commission (MO)
- Moderator: Megan McConville, NADO

GIS and Technology Tools for Transportation  Bluegrass AB
Learn from peers about strategies to conduct spatial analysis to support transportation planning, such as asset management, project tracking, and mapping data from partners.
- Elijah Sharp, New River Valley Planning District Commission (VA)
- Bret Allphin, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District (OH)
- Troy Hearn, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
- Carol Brent, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
- Moderator: Jessica Blankenship, Cumberland Valley Area Development District (KY)

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  Lunch on Your Own

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.  Opening Plenary: Collaboration to Improve and Integrate Transportation Decisionmaking  Regency BC
Hear about efforts to bring local officials and stakeholders together with state decisionmakers to deliver the best possible outcomes for communities in rural and small metro regions through planning, programming, and project delivery.
- Moderator: Amy Kessler, North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission
- Steve Mary, Ohio Department of Transportation
- Rick Hunsaker, Region XII Council of Governments (IA)

2:40 – 3:50 p.m.  Concurrent Breakout Sessions  Buckeye AB

Emerging Models for Regional Transportation Planning
As planning programs and federal and state requirements evolve, new regional transportation planning programs offer innovative ideas for other new and long-established planning organizations.
- Vince Rapp, Ohio Department of Transportation
- John Hemmings, Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission
- Robert Koehler, Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments
- Alex Damon, South Western Oklahoma Development Authority
- Isaac Akem, Federal Highway Administration, Oklahoma Division (invited)
- Moderator: Sherry Carver, Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Inclusionary Outreach to Transportation Stakeholders  Bluegrass AB
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and environmental justice are two tools to help ensure transportation does not unfairly impact certain populations. In this session, learn about Title VI requirements and analysis, as well as the U.S. DOT’s environmental justice work and efforts to connect people to economic opportunity.
- Dwayne Weeks, Federal Transit Administration, Office of Planning and Environment
- Moderator: Christine Forde, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (VT)

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  RPO America Annual Business Meeting, immediately followed by the National RPO Council of Peers Meeting  Buckeye AB
All attendees are encouraged to attend the meetings and join in the discussion. Hear a legislative update on MAP-21 implementation and reauthorization.
- Susan Howard, National Association of Development Organizations

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

Speaker presentations and other materials will be posted to www.NADO.org and www.RuralTranspotation.org.
Thursday, December 4

7:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  Conference Registration Open  
Ballroom Foyer

7:45 – 8:00 a.m.  Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards Photos  
Ballroom Foyer

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

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.  Plenary Session: Town Hall with FHWA and FTA  
Regency BC

Although MAP-21’s original end date has passed and been extended, implementation of the law’s policy changes is still underway. Hear how about the rulemaking processes that shape transportation practice, as well as informational resources available to RTPOs, MPOs, state DOTs, and partners.

- Ken Petty, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Planning
- Dwayne Weeks, Federal Transit Administration, Office of Planning and Environment
- Chimai Ngo, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Safety
- Moderator: Susan Howard, NADO

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.  Concurrent Breakout Sessions  
Buckeye AB

Rural and Small Metropolitan Approaches to Performance Measurement  
As public interest in accountability increases, rural and small metro regions are responding by increasingly including performance measures in their regional planning processes. Hear from panelists how measures are chosen, how to find data and information, and how measures affect prioritization.

- Dan Landon, Nevada County Transportation Commission (CA)
- Doug Plachinski, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (MA)
- Moderator: Jim Olson (IN)

Promising Practices in Regional Transit  
Learn about the financial impacts of transit regionalization, the effective use of performance standards for regional prioritization, and best practices for building a collaborative regional network to achieve multijurisdictional transit goals.

- Lee Lazaro, Benton County Rural and Special Transportation (OR)
- Sarah Brodt Lenz, Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Moderator: Jason Kelly, Northern Arizona Council of Governments

11:00 a.m. – Noon  Concurrent Breakout Sessions  
Buckeye AB

Partnering for Performance with State DOTs  
MAP-21 made performance measurement a requirement for state DOTs and metro regions. Although there are no requirements for rural areas, increasing interest in accountability has led states to work with all their regional partners to measure performance to guide future investment.

- Judy Lorenzo, Washington State Department of Transportation
- Patrick Flanagan, Eastern Carolina Council of Governments (NC)
- Moderator: Chris Craig, First Tennessee Development District

New Directions in Transportation Alternatives  
MAP-21 changed ways of thinking about transportation alternatives by combining program areas and making the funds more flexible for other uses. Learn how states and regional organizations are continuing to advance transportation alternatives through bike/ped planning and transportation alternatives program decisionmaking.

- Robert Will, Eastern Carolina Council of Governments (NC)
- Katie Caskey, Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Josh Pearson, Region 9 Development Commission (MN)
- Moderator: John Devine, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

Noon – 1:30 p.m.  Plenary Luncheon: Modernizing Transportation  
Regency BC

State-level policy has been a source of inspiration for new directions in transportation. Hear about raising a new funding package for transportation, modernizing transportation, and institutionalizing dialogue among the federal, state, regional, and local levels.

- Deputy Secretary Brad Mallory, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
- Judge Gary Moore, Boone County, Kentucky
- Moderator: Amy Kessler, North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission

After lunch is the last chance to vote for discussion topics in Friday’s Conversation Café!
Thursday, December 4

1:45 – 5:00 p.m.

**Concurrent Workshops**

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

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

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

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

- Kevin Nelson, Environmental Protection Agency

**Transportation Safety Planning**

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

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

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**Network Appalachia Discussion**

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

- Scott Hercik, Appalachian Regional Commission

6:00 p.m.

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

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Friday, December 5

8:00 – 9:15 a.m.

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

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

**Envisioning the Future of Mobility**

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

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

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Tom Piper, South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (AL)
Lisa Sandt, Lee-Russell Council of Governments (AL)
Jason Kelly, Northern Arizona Council of Governments (AZ)
Marjorie Kirn, Merced County Association of Governments (CA)
Patricia Steed, Central Florida Regional Planning Council (FL)
Robert Hiett, Three Rivers Regional Commission (GA)
Kelli Fairless, Valley Regional Transit (ID)
Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission (IL/IA)
Kelly Murray, Illinois Association of Regional Councils (IL)
Jill Saegesser, River Hills EDD and Regional Planning Council (IN)
Stu Anderson, Iowa Department of Transportation (IA)
Tim Ostroski, Southern Iowa Council of Governments (IA)
Randall Embry, Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency (KY)
Tom Reinauer, Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission (ME), RPO America Vice Chair
Mike Pennington, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland (MD)
Diane Rekowski, Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (MI)
Josh Pearson, Region 9 Development Commission (MN)
Tee McCovey, Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District (MS)
Kurt Brummett, Three Rivers Planning and Development District (MS)
Tom Bliss, Mo-Kan Regional Council (MO/KS)
Jason Ray, Harry S. Truman Coordinating Council (MO)
Nathan Miller, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Commission (NH)
Cerisse Grijalva, Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments (NM)
Richard Zink, Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board (NY)
Travis Marshall, North Carolina DOT (NC)
John Marshall, Western Piedmont Council of Governments (NC)
Bret Allphin, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District (OH)
Alex Damon, Southwestern Oklahoma Development Authority (OK)
Pete Seikel, Central Oklahoma Economic Development District (OK)
Amy Kessler, North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission (PA), RPO America Chair
Frank Hampton, Pennsylvania DOT (PA)
Mark Lester, South Carolina DOT (SC)
Rick Green, Upper Savannah Council of Governments (SC)
O.J. Papucci, Santee-Lynches Council of Governments (SC)
Eric Senger, Northeast Council of Governments (SD)
Chris Craig, First Tennessee Development District (TN)
Paula Strauss, Tennessee DOT (TN)
Michael Parks, Brazos Valley Council of Governments (TX), RPO America Secretary
Jim Reed, Central Texas Council of Governments (TX)
Shawn Seager, Mountainland Association of Governments (UT)
Curt Hutchings, Five County Association of Governments (UT)
Brian Carver, Bear River Association of Governments (UT)
Bethany Remmers, Northwest Regional Planning Commission (VT)
James Gilmer, Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (VA)
Len Pavelka, Benton-Franklin Council of Governments (WA)
Fred Rader, Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council (WV)
Sheldon Johnson, Northwest Regional Planning Commission (WI)
2014 Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards

GEORGIA
Coastal Regional Commission, Technology and Rural Transit

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

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

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

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

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

OREGON
NW Oregon Connector Alliance, North by Northwest Connector

TEXAS
East Texas Council of Governments, EastTexConnects Marketing/Educational Videos

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

VIRGINIA
New River Valley Planning District Commission, Bike Route 76

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission, Sustainable Transportation Summit; RVAMPO Congestion Management Process (CMP) Plan

An awards program of the NADO Research Foundation and NADO’s RPO America
Upcoming Events

March 22 – 24, 2015
Development District Association of Appalachia Annual Meeting
Arlington, Virginia

March 22 – 25, 2015
NADO Washington Policy Conference
Arlington, Virginia

October 24 – 27, 2015
NADO Annual Training Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana