Conference organizers are applying to offer AICP CM credits at all workshops, sessions, and plenaries!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  Registration

8:45 a.m. – Noon  Mobile Workshop: Improving Transportation Planning and Active Transportation through Better Community Engagement: Lessons from Golden, Colorado
The tour will travel to Golden, Colorado to learn from community officials how a robust engagement process led to community members identifying Complete Streets and other efforts to support active transportation as priorities. Learn how community visioning led to strategic planning and bicycle and pedestrian project implementation during this workshop. (Pre-registration required; additional $35 fee to cover transportation to Golden.)

9:00 a.m. – Noon  Workshop: Doing Transportation and Economic Development Differently
Rural wealth creation emphasizes asset-based economic development that is inclusive and builds livelihoods that stick. This session will introduce participants to the rural wealth creation approach. Participants will learn to identify assets and underutilized resources, and map out the intersection of economic systems to the transportation sector and opportunities to build that sector. Finally, attendees will identify their own next steps for doing transportation and economic development differently, including additional partners to engage. Session sponsored by USDA Rural Development under a cooperative agreement with Region Five Development Commission.

Speakers:
- Dawn Espe, Region Five Development Commission (MN)
- Staci Headley, Region Five Development Commission (MN)
Updated May 25, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.  **Session: Partnerships with State and Local Governments: RTPO Ideas that Work**
Learn from practitioners some of their experiences for making regional processes meaningful to participants, increasing local engagement in statewide planning processes, and connecting with state transportation planning and programming processes to provide a voice in statewide planning and improve the likelihood of projects advancing.

Speakers:
- Matt Day, Triangle J Council of Governments (NC)
- Jeff Sudmeier, Colorado DOT
- Debora Glasgow, Southwestern Oklahoma Development Authority

10:30 a.m. – Noon  **Session: Innovative Uses of GIS and Technology in Planning**
Panelists will use case studies to describe methods to use GIS and other technology in transportation planning. Attendees will learn how one small metro region used data from travelers’ smartphones to learn how, when, and where study participants traveled in and around the region, to improve planning and travel options. Participants will also hear about a method to analyze and map bicycle friendliness in a small town based on facilities and speed limits, as well as information on other technology tools and tips to improve planning for multimodal networks.

Speakers:
- Chandra Ravada, East Central Intergovernmental Association (IA)
- Amy DeBay, City Explained, Inc. (CO)
- Brian Morton, Center for Urban and Regional Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill

Noon – 1:30 p.m.  **Lunch on Your Own**

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  **Opening Plenary: Innovations and New Approaches Changing Transportation**
The transportation sector is seeing rapid changes, with ride-hailing apps, connected infrastructure, and autonomous vehicles offering opportunities for mobility, safety, and efficiency. The opening plenary will set the stage for understanding how these transformative trends are affecting regions across the United States, including in rural and smaller metro areas.

Speakers:
- Valerie Lefler, CEO, Liberty Mobility Now (NE)
- National Conference of State Legislatures (invited)

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.  **Concurrent Session: Planning for Regional Resilience**
Resilience is the ability of region or community to anticipate, withstand, and bounce back from any type of shock or disruption it faces. During this session, hear from Colorado state officials and federal staff about best practices and strategies for building resilience to natural and economic disasters (particularly in rural communities) through improved planning, forging partnerships, and embracing a regional perspective.

Speakers:
- Rob Pressly, Colorado Resilience and Recovery Office
- Laura Blomquist Rodriguez, Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade
- Justin Fazzari, Economic Development Administration – Denver Regional Office
Concurrent Session: Achieving Safety Results by Addressing Behavioral Issues
RTPOs are increasingly addressing safety in their planning areas and at a minimum, have usually adopted the state’s zero deaths concept to frame their transportation safety activities. To achieve this vision, planners identify infrastructure solutions, but behavioral concerns, such as distraction, impairment, and unbelted drivers/occupants are also major issues in rural regions. This session will provide participants with information and resources on the role they can play to drive down fatalities and serious injuries through collaboration across the 4Es, behavioral funding sources, and education campaigns. Session sponsored by the National Center for Rural Road Safety.

Speaker: Nicole Waldheim, Cambridge Systematics

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
RPO America Business Meeting | National RPO Council of Peers Meeting
All attendees are invited to join the RPO Council members to hear an update on federal policy and national trends, as well as to weigh in on future directions for RPO America.

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards Reception
This roundtable reception offers attendees an opportunity to learn about the projects honored with an Excellence in Regional Transportation Award, as well as to network with other attendees.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Registration

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.  
Concurrent Session: Freight Planning Practices
State DOTs and their regional partners are increasingly working to address freight planning and analysis. In this session, attendees will hear about emerging freight analysis practices in planning, as well as hear about one of the first state freight plans to receive federal approval following the FAST Act, and how these statewide freight efforts relate to regional planning partners.

Speakers:
- Andrea White, Iowa Department of Transportation
- Andrew Shepler, Ohio Department of Transportation

Concurrent Session: Bicycle and Pedestrian Access in a Multimodal Context
This session will present information and resources on improving access in rural and small town transportation contexts. Planning for bicycling in multimodal networks with various facility designs, disability access to transportation facilities, and more topics will be addressed. Through an interactive format, attendees will learn where to find information useful for rural and small metro contexts as well as hear about experiences from peers.

Speaker: Shari Schaftlein, Office of Human Environment, Federal Highway Administration

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.  
Concurrent Session: RTPO Roles in Megaregion Planning and Multi-region Planning
Analysts have identified megaregions where networks of metropolitan places share economic patterns and other characteristics. Rural and smaller metropolitan places fit into megaregion planning, too, since there are many rural regions inside identified megaregions, as well as outside but near megaregions. Rural places may provide agricultural and natural resource products, as well as finished goods to metropolitan
markets. Workers commute between regions and access other regions for services and amenities. Metropolitan and rural regions alike may see benefit from new collaboration models to share information, plans, and priorities over multiple adjacent regions or within megaregions.

Speakers:
- James Garland, Office of Planning, Federal Highway Administration
- Dan Landon, Nevada County Transportation Commission (CA)

Concurrent Session: Innovative Regional Transit

Presenters will share case studies about models for improving access and mobility within and between rural regions. Learn from the nation’s first rural Bus Rapid Transit case study how the corridor was developed and funding secured, as well as experiences improving transit through marketing and mobility management.

Speakers:
- Dan Blankenship, Roaring Forks Transportation Authority (CO)
- Dave Doran, Southeast Idaho Council of Governments

11:00 a.m. – Noon

Concurrent Session: Engagement Methods to Identify Mobility Challenges and Strategies

Attendees will learn about both in-person and online engagement methods. Citizen planning academies can generate interest in planning for and investing in transportation. Transportation organizations can make use of online methods such as Twitter chats to gather information about barriers and potential solutions, as well as podcasts to make information available to stakeholders and provide training.

Speakers:
- Kathleen Osher, Transit Alliance (CO)
- Rachel Beyerle, Easterseals Transportation Group (DC)

Concurrent Session: Aligning Transportation and Economic Development Plans and Measuring Progress

Increasingly, regions are looking for ways to integrate planning efforts to maximize available funding for planning in their region, to align objectives and strategies so that projects meet the same regional goals, and to reduce planning fatigue among local leaders, stakeholder groups, and the public. Hear about noteworthy practices for aligning planning efforts such as transportation plans and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies. Developing partnerships, managing service areas with different boundaries, and creating metrics for decision-making and reporting mechanisms are some of the efforts the speakers have approached in their own regions.

Speakers:
- Mary Rump, East Central Iowa Council of Governments
- Charlie Baker, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (VT)
- Justin Fazzari, Economic Development Administration – Denver Regional Office

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Plenary Luncheon: Innovative Transportation Practice in Colorado

Hear from Colorado DOT Deputy Executive Director Mike Lewis how the state is paving the way for innovation through creative public and private partnerships to accelerate the adoption of transformative technologies, as well as working to serve rural areas.
1:45 – 4:00 p.m.  **Workshop: Public Engagement through Storytelling**
This session will introduce participants to Community Heart & Soul™, a resident-driven community development method supported by the Orton Family Foundation. Field-tested for more than a decade, Heart & Soul increases participation in local decision-making and empowers residents to shape their communities based on what matters most. Participants will learn how to identify and engage missing voices; explore how personal stories are used to understand what matters most to a community; and learn strategies for employing a community’s heart and soul to drive local decision-making and action.

1:45 – 5:30 p.m.  **Mobile Workshop: Transportation and Resilience**
Tour Longmont, Colorado’s flood reconstruction projects along the St. Vrain Creek including new bridges, the St. Vrain Greenway, and Dickens Farm Nature Area (including a kayak course, trails, and habitat pond) all of which were damaged or destroyed during the 2013 Colorado Flood. Hear presentations from Longmont flood recovery, transportation, and economic development staff regarding local recovery efforts including the St. Vrain Blueprint, an economic development and resiliency plan that won the Community Resiliency Project of the Year from the Colorado Chapter of the American Planning Association. Presentations will be held at Left Hand Brewing, one of the top 50 craft brewers in the country located on the banks of the St. Vrain Creek. *(Pre-registration required; additional $35 fee to cover transportation to Longmont.)*

1:45 – 2:45 p.m.  **Session: Data for Regional Planning**
Attendees will learn about the latest updates on available data products and tools for use in regional transportation planning. These include the Census Transportation Planning Products Program that illuminate where and how people live and work, 2016 National Household Travel Survey that includes rural and small metro households, and more products that offer applicable information for planners.

Speaker: Penelope Weinberger, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (DC)

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.  **Session: Minnesota’s Highway 169: A Case Study in Innovative Transportation and Economic Development**
State Highway 169, a major north-south transportation route that follows the Minnesota River, has flooded seven times in the past 20 years, forcing road closures and detours that crippled local and regional businesses. This major freight corridor carries 700 truckloads per day of agricultural inputs to rural areas, and harvested corn and soybeans to gateway cities. Commuters also log an additional 6,500 trips daily. Learn about the partnership model among transportation and economic development stakeholders and funders to reconstruct the highway, bringing about a long-term fix to a transportation bottleneck with significant economic implications. This corridor provides a useful case study for other regions on economic resilience, adaptation to extreme weather through innovative project implementation, and effective partnerships to move projects from concept to construction.

Speaker: Nicole Griensewic-Mickelson, Region Nine Development Commission (MN)
FRIDAY, JUNE 30

7:15 – 8:00 a.m.  Networking Breakfast

8:00 – 11:00 a.m.  Registration

8:00 – 10:15 a.m.  Regional Transportation Planning Organizations’ Peer Exchange
   This special session sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration offers an opportunity for regional and state practitioners along with other stakeholders and partners to get together and talk shop. Attendees will meet with others from their multi-state region to ask questions and share their experiences, led by a facilitator for each group. The peer exchange will focus on exchanging ideas related to regional transportation planning practice and planning for transportation to serve rural economies.

   Peer exchanges are often the most sought after professional development experience, since participants can bring up the issues of importance to them and get information they need during the conversation. The results of the discussions will be captured in a NADO Research Foundation special report.

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.  Federal Agency Update: What’s Happening Now, and What’s Next?
   This session will provide context for how transportation policy and infrastructure investment is occurring now, important information and resources that are available, regulatory and guidance issues, and directions that federal agencies may be going in the future. We are pleased to be joined in this closing panel by representatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation and Economic Development Administration.

   Speakers:
   • Shari Schaftlein, Office of Human Environment, Federal Highway Administration
   • Scott Allen, Office of Planning, Federal Highway Administration
   • Dwayne Weeks, Federal Transit Administration (invited)
   • Cindy Edwards, Economic Development Administration – Denver Regional Office
Special thanks to our conference sponsors!

This conference is sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Commission, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Development District Association of Appalachia, Economic Development Administration, Federal Highway Administration, NADO and the NADO Research Foundation, and RPO America.

For more information about the National Regional Transportation Conference, visit https://www.nado.org/events/rpo2017.