May 12, 2017

THIS WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

- President’s FY2018 Budget Request Expected Week of May 22

- New NADO Research Foundation Case Study Series Will Feature Innovative and Creative Approaches to the CEDS

- National Regional Transportation Conference: Early Bird Deadline Approaching

- NADO 2017 Annual Training Conference Registration Now Open

- USDA Releases Proposed Re-alignment of Programs; Rural Development Impacted

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

President’s FY2018 Budget Request Expected Week of May 22
President Trump is expected to release a full budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2018 the week of May 22. While the “skinny budget” released in March provided an outline of discretionary spending proposals, more detailed recommendations will be provided in the full budget.

NADO NEWS AND NOTES
New NADO Research Foundation Case Study Series Will Feature Innovative and Creative Approaches to the CEDS
The NADO Research Foundation has launched the “CEDS Spotlight” case studies series which will highlight best practices and innovative elements of CEDS planning, development, and implementation from EDDs and other regional development organizations across the country. The first case study features how the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission, located in Altoona, PA, developed an interactive and updateable online CEDS platform. Click here to read the case study. Stay tuned as we feature a variety of CEDS that are embracing change and novel approaches for improving their regional economic development efforts. Do you have a best practice or innovative approach to developing, designing, and implementing the CEDS? Contact NADO RF Program Manager Brett Schwartz at bschwartz@nado.org.

National Regional Transportation Conference: Early Bird Deadline Approaching
The National Regional Transportation Conference (June 28 - 30 in Denver) is the premier training event for rural and small metro transportation planning regions. The early bird registration deadline and hotel room block deadlines are May 26!

Use these links to access important conference information:
- Agenda (PDF)
- Registration
- Hotel room block reservations by May 26
- Exhibitor and sponsor information (PDF)

Contact NADO Associate Director Carrie Kissel with questions, at ckissel@nado.org.

NADO 2017 Annual Training Conference Registration Now Open
Registration for NADO’s 2017 ATC in Anchorage, September 9 – 12 is now open. Visit the ATC page to see the preliminary agenda and register. The page will be updated regularly as we fine-tune sessions and speakers are recruited.

Have questions or need more information:
Contact Vicki Glass about hotel rooms (vglass@nado.rog)
Contact Ian Schramm for help with registration (ischramm@nado.org)
Contact Laurie Thompson for questions about conference content (lthompson@nado.org)
**Don’t Be Left Out! Less Than One Month Remaining to Submit Your 2017 NADO Innovation Award Application**

The [2017 NADO Innovation Awards](https://www.nado.org) submission window is now open and will run through **June 3**. The NADO Innovation Awards program, started in 1986, recognizes member organizations that demonstrate innovative approaches to regional economic and community development. Previous award-winning projects have showcased innovative efforts in a variety of program areas including business and economic development, community health initiatives, emergency planning, brownfields, sustainability, technology, transportation, workforce development, and many others. Submit your applications online [here](https://www.nado.org). Questions? E-mail Brett Schwartz at bschwartz@nado.org. Explore last year’s winners in an interactive Story Map designed by Esri by clicking [here](https://www.nado.org).

**SWREDA 2017 Conference Registration to Open May 15**

With support from the U.S. Economic Development Administration’s Austin Regional Office, NADO is partnering with the Southwest Region Executive Directors Association (SWREDA) to conduct the **2017 SWREDA conference** **July 26 – 28** in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Topics will cover new strategies in achieving innovation, managing organizational culture changes, economic diversification during boom and bust cycles, bridging the economic development-workforce gap, grants management, helping businesses compete globally, managing information in the digital world, incorporating resiliency into your CEDS, food systems, and more. In addition, projects from each of the five states will be recognized for their impacts to local communities and regions with the Star of the Southwest Awards during a special roundtable reception where attendees can talk one-on-one with the winners about the projects.

The conference agenda is near completion and can be found on [NADO’s SWREDA Conference page](https://www.nado.org) as well as on the [SWREDA website](https://www.swrea.com). Visit either site regularly for details as the agenda is firmed up over the coming weeks.

The conference will be held at the [Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center](https://www.hilton.com) and room rates are $98 single/double.

**FEDERAL NEWS AND NOTES**

**USDA Releases Proposed Re-alignment of Programs; Rural Development Impacted**
This week, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced a major reorganization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Under the proposal, the the position of Undersecretary for Rural Development will be eliminated, no longer having a seat in the USDA Cabinet. Rural Development will be housed in an office that would report directly to the Secretary. A new sub-cabinet post is created dedicated to promoting U.S. agricultural exports. It is not clear how the functions of Rural Development will be carried out within the new organization structure. Click here to read USDA’s report to Congress. NADO will provide additional information as it is made available.

EDA Opens Application Period for Regional Innovation Grants
This week, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) published a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for its 2017 Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) program. EDA is accepting applications to the i6 Challenge and Seed Fund Support (SFS) Grant. The i6 Challenge supports building companies and job creation by turning ideas and research into products, services, and employment opportunities. The SFS grants support technical assistance and operational costs in the formation of cluster-based seed funds leading to the financing of innovative startups. The NOFA is available here. Applications are due June 23. The EDA Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship will host an informational webinar on May 22 at 3:00 p.m. ET. Click here to register.

EDA Announces Funding Opportunity Supporting Foreign Direct Investment
The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced funding availability for the FY 2017 International Engagement Ready Communities Competition. The program contributes to community-based efforts in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and enhancing export promotion. Through collaboration between EDA, SelectUSA, and Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee (TPCC), the program contributes to research on international engagement strategies and creating best practice reports and a competitiveness assessment tool. Organizations involved in economic or infrastructure development are eligible to apply including state and local governments, tribal organizations, institutions of higher learning, and related public or private entities. Applications are due June 12. For more information, click here to access the notice of funding availability.

Centers for Disease Control Recommends Approaches for Community Activity
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control has developed the website https://www.thecommunityguide.org. This website offers tools, publications, and resources on many topics. One set of resources focuses on Combined Built Environment Features Help Communities Get Active recommends using street connectivity, sidewalk and trail infrastructure, bicycle infrastructure, public transit infrastructure and access, mixed land use environments that increase the diversity and proximity of local destinations where people live, work, and spend their recreation and leisure time, and access to parks, and other public or private recreational facilities to produce improved health outcomes. Find recommendations and references for a healthy built environment here.

Executive Order Establishes Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy
Recently President Trump signed an executive order establishing the Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy (OTMP) to support American workers and manufacturers. The OTMP will advise the President on trade-related strategies and policies as well as handle special projects as requested by the President. The new office will also act to improve the executive branch’s domestic procurement and hiring policies in accordance with the Buy American and Hire American Executive Order. Click here to view the executive order establishing the OTMP.

ADDITIONAL NOTES
Join the Conversation on Infrastructure Next Week
Next week, May 15 – 19, public and private organizations will be highlighting infrastructure – roads, bridges, rail, airports, water and sewer systems, energy grid, telecommunications, and much more – through Infrastructure Week. Organizations will urge policymakers to make critical investments in projects and policies to bolster economic competitiveness and national security. A diverse group of stakeholders are prepared to host events, attract media attention, and offer education to move infrastructure forward as a key national priority. To include your organization in the national conversation, click here to find ways to participate. On social media, organizations will be recognizing Infrastructure Week through #timetobuild.

Upcoming Webinar to Cover Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse in Rural Communities
On a webinar scheduled for May 17 from 2 – 3 p.m. ET, the Rural Health Information Hub (RHIhub) and NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis will introduce a new Rural Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse Toolkit designed to help rural communities plan, implement, and sustain substance abuse services. Developed by NORC on behalf of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), the toolkit identifies model programs and resources that will benefit rural communities seeking to implement substance abuse prevention and treatment programs. A key focus area of the toolkit is to provide best practices for implementing prevention programs and increasing access to treatment and support services in rural communities. This webinar will feature two examples of successful programs funded by FORHP, including lessons learned. Click here to learn more and to register.

NADO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2017 National Regional Transportation Conference
June 28 – 30, 2017
Grand Hyatt Denver, Denver, CO

2017 Economic Development Finance Service (EDFS) Conference
June 28 – 30, 2017
Grand Hyatt Denver, Denver, CO
2017 SWREDA Conference
July 26 – 28, 2017
Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center, Baton Rouge, LA

2017 NADO Annual Training Conference | NADO’s 50th Anniversary
September 9 – 12, 2017
Dena’ina Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage, AK

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