

**August 25, 2017**



## THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- **Monthly NADO Legislative Update is August 29**
- **NADO and the National Association of Counties (NACo) to Host Webinar on Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Pilot Program**
- **Congratulations to the 2017 NADO Photo Contest Winners and Runners-Up!**
- **There's Something for Everyone at NADO's Annual Training Conference in Anchorage**
- **CEDS Training Presentations Now Available for Download**

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

### **Monthly NADO Legislative Update Call is August 29**

The next NADO Legislative Update will be held **August 29 at 2:00 p.m. ET**. NADO's legislative team will discuss the status of fiscal year (FY) 2018 appropriations and the congressional agenda for September. Registration is available [here](#). A recording of last month's webinar is available [here](#).

## NADO NEWS AND NOTES

### **NADO and the National Association of Counties (NACo) to Host Webinar on Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Pilot Program**

There are currently billions of dollars' worth of abandoned coal mines strewn across the county. What if we could turn these environmental health liabilities into economic assets? The new Abandoned Mine

Land (AML) Pilot Program will invest \$105 million in clean-up projects in six states (Alabama, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia) linked to economic or community development. NADO and NACo will host a webinar on **August 30 at 2:00 p.m.** to provide information on how you can work with your state mind reclamation agency to leverage these funds to clean up abandoned coal sites and help realize economic development idea in your region. Click [here](#) to register.



### **Congratulations to the 2017 NADO Photo Contest Winners and Runners-Up!**

Congratulations to the [2017 NADO Photo Contest](#) winners and runners-up! This year, over 150 images were submitted from members across the country that demonstrated what makes their regions great places to live, work, and play. Images were judged in five categories: "Strengthening the Built and Natural Environments," "Building Vibrant Places," "Investing in Our Communities," "Sustaining Our Communities," and a special "50 Year Retrospective" category to mark NADO's Golden Anniversary. A "People's Choice" winner was also chosen online by the public via our Facebook page where over 2,300 votes were cast. Click [here](#) to see the winning photos and learn the stories behind the images.

#### **Strengthening the Built and Natural Environments:**

Winner: Upper Cumberland Development District (TN)

Runner-Up: Sweetgrass Development (MT)

#### **Building Vibrant Places:**

Winner: Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission (VA)

Runner-Up: Tri-County Council for Western Maryland

#### **Investing in Our Regional Economy:**

Winner: Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning and Development Commission (LA)

Runner-Up: Lamoille County Planning Commission (VT)

#### **Sustaining Our Communities:**

Winner: Region Nine Development Commission (MN)

Runner-Up: Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission (OH)

#### **50 Years Retrospective:**

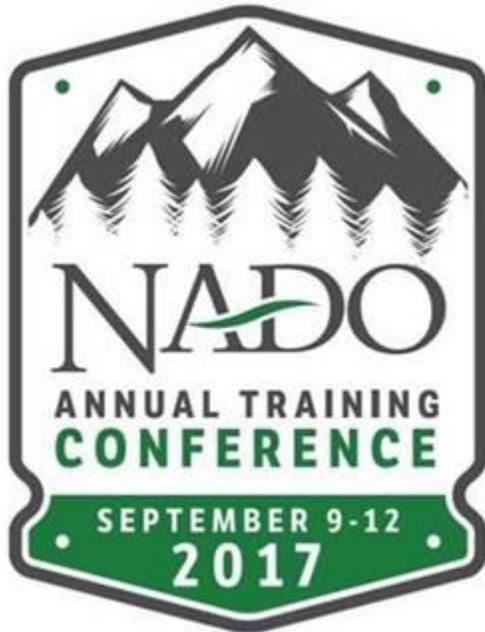
Winner: Alamo Area Council of Governments (TX)

Runner-Up: Upper Savannah Council of Governments (SC)

**People's Choice:**

Winner: Region XII Council of Governments (IA)

Thanks to all of our members who participated this year and congratulations again to our winners. Remember, it's never too early to start snapping great photos for next year's contest! Questions? Contact Brett Schwartz at [bschwartz@nado.org](mailto:bschwartz@nado.org).



**There's Something for Everyone at NADO's Annual Training Conference in Anchorage**

The [2017 NADO Annual Training Conference](#) is fast approaching! (And the early bird rate ends today, **August 25** – register [here](#) now!) Join your regional development colleagues from across the country in Anchorage, Alaska from **September 9 – 12**, with special pre-conference tours scheduled for **September 8**. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to take part in training workshops, best practice panels, and networking sessions in "The City of Lights and Flowers." The NADO Annual Training Conference is the premier event for professionals working on regional planning and economic development. This conference is a must-attend event for RDO executive directors and senior staff, along with board chairs and other board members. Sessions will cover topics of importance to your organization and region, including measuring organizational success, professional development, economic resilience, the CEDS, workforce development, infrastructure, broadband, health care, and much, much more.

Also, don't miss out on the **Regional Resilience Roundtables** scheduled for 10 a.m. – 12 p.m, on Sunday, September 12. Join your peers from around your EDA region for small group discussions about planning for resilience in your communities and integrating resilience into your CEDS. Share what has worked (and what hasn't) in making your region better equipped to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and economic shocks and disruptions.

There is also still room on two pre-conference tours which will take you out of Anchorage and into the heart of Alaska's natural beauty:

**Pre-conference Mobile Workshop: Building Tomorrow's Workforce, Preserving Sea Life:**

**AVTEC-Alaska's Institute of Technology and Alaska's SeaLife Center:** Located on the edge of Resurrection Bay, Seward is home to the state's only public aquarium that includes marine research, education, and wildlife response, and the state's only post-secondary vocational training center. Both facilities contribute enormously to the city, region, and state economy. AVTEC's "career in less than a year" has proven highly successful in providing skills and pathways to careers. The workshop will include an overview of the important impact of AVTEC to the state's future, and a tour of the facility including the state-of-the-art maritime training center and the culinary academy (including lunch!). A tour of the SeaLife Center will offer insights into the important work they do to protect and preserve sea life and their various educational programs. *(Pre-registration is required; additional fee of \$100 per person.)*

**Pre-conference Mobile Workshop: Planting the Seeds for Food Security in the Mat-Su Valley:** The heart of the Matanuska Valley, Palmer's microclimate assures its place as an agricultural center for the state. A quiet town of miners, Palmer transformed forever when President Roosevelt's New Deal brought farmers from the Midwest to the Mat-Su to try their skills at farming in this fertile region. Today, Palmer's booming agriculture industry is helping boost Farmer's Markets, bring local foods to the table (at homes and restaurants), and contribute to the state's overall economy. This workshop will cover the unique agricultural history of the Mat-Su, its impact on food security and the economy, a stroll along Palmer's Edible Rail Trail, and visits to local farms as well as a locally-sourced meal. *(Pre-registration is required; additional fee of \$85 per person.)*

For more information and to view the latest agenda, [visit the conference website](#).

Click [here](#) to register now! Attendees can book hotel rooms online for the [Hilton](#) or the [Marriott](#). Contact [Vicki Glass](#) about hotel rooms, [Ian Schramm](#) for help with registration, or [Laurie Thompson](#) for questions about conference content. See you in Alaska!



**CEDS Training Presentations Now Available for Download**

Last week, NADO RF staff provided training at the Florida EDD Training Workshop in Orlando, organized by the EDA Atlanta Regional Office and hosted by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council. Presentations focused on CEDS implementation, partnership building, communication strategies, and opportunities for plan alignment and integration. The presentation slides are now available

for download. Click [here](#) for “Implementing the CEDS: A Roadmap for Regional Economic Development” (PDF) and click [here](#) for “Opportunities for Aligning the CEDS with Other Planning Processes” (PDF). Additional CEDS training materials are available at NADO RF’s [Stronger CEDS, Stronger Regions Resource Archive](#). For more information, contact Program Manager Brett Schwartz at [bschwartz@nado.org](mailto:bschwartz@nado.org).

## FEDERAL NEWS AND NOTES

### **President Signs Executive Order Streamlining Environmental Review and Permitting**

On August 15, President Trump signed an executive order aimed at expediting infrastructure projects. The “Presidential Executive Order on Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure” instructs federal agencies to review environmental review and processing practices and find greater efficiencies to reduce project time and costs. The Administration issues the Executive Order ahead of a planned infrastructure proposal to be released this fall. The Executive Order is available [here](#). More details can be found in a press announcement [here](#).

### **Housing and Urban Development Announces Two Funding Opportunities**

The [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) (HUD) is providing two funding opportunities to help HUD-assisted renters with additional departmental resources. The Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) seeks to aid HUD clients under Public Housing and Housing Choice Vouchers with public and private resources leading to economic self-sufficiency. The Community Compass program offers technical assistance to HUD grantees and sub-grantees through a combination of several HUD divisions including Community Planning and Development, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Housing, and Public and Indian Housing. HUD has \$75 million available under FSS and expects to award 700 applicants; \$56 million is available for Community Compass and awards will be made to 20 applicants. Applications to both programs are due **September 15**. More details on FSS are available [here](#). Further information on the Community Compass program can be found [here](#).

### **Be Ready: September is National Preparedness Month**

The [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) will recognize September as National Preparedness Month. Each week will highlight different topics around disaster planning and response for both individuals and communities. Public and community stakeholders can find ways to participate through FEMA’s Disaster Preparedness Month site [here](#). Free publications are available [here](#). The hashtags #NatlPrep and #PlanAhead will be used on social media to draw awareness to the campaign.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

### **New Safety Report Released on Bicycle Safety; Webinar is August 29**

The [Governors Highway Safety Association](#) and [State Farm](#) recently released a report on bicycle safety. In analyzing national data, the report – [A Right to the Road: Understanding & Addressing Bicyclist Safety](#) – offers ways in which states and localities can improve infrastructure to improve safety of cyclists. The report features thirty steps such as increasing law enforcement training as it relates to laws protecting cyclists and tying infrastructure improvements to public education campaigns. A webinar will be held on **August 29 at 2:00 p.m. ET** to discuss the report’s findings and suggestions. To access the report and register for the webinar, click [here](#).

## **America Walks Showcases Micro Grant Project Awardees**

[America Walks](#) in partnership with the [Every Body Walk! Collaborative](#) has released summaries on its 2016 Micro Grant Project awardees. The summaries provide overviews of 22 projects receiving small awards to improve walking facilities and safety throughout the country. Click [here](#) to review the award recipients and their respective projects.

## **NADO CALENDAR OF EVENTS**



### **2017 NADO Annual Training Conference | NADO's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

September 9 – 12, 2017

Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center, Anchorage, AK

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**STAY CONNECTED**

