2021 NADO Transportation Priorities

1. Strengthen the roles of Rural Development Organizations (RDOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) in the statewide transportation planning process and in surface transportation reauthorization legislation, and strengthen existing planning processes through which regional and rural planning is already occurring.

2. Increase funding for planning (PL) funds, the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP), State Planning and Research (SPR), and other funding programs that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), RTPOs, and RDOs use.

3. Maintain current population thresholds, whereby MPOs are designated within urbanized areas with populations of 50,000 or more, while RTPOs and RDOs are designated in other areas.

4. For the duration of the COVID-19 emergency and for at least three years thereafter, planning funds and other funding that MPOs, RTPOs, and RDOs utilize should be provided at 100% federal share (no local match).

5. Provide increased federal funding to allow communities to plan, coordinate, rehabilitate, and maintain highways, public transportation, non-motorized transportation, short line rail, and road safety improvements that benefit underserved and rural regions.

6. Provide increased federal funding for affordable, accessible telecommunications services and high-speed broadband connectivity in underserved rural areas, and use existing transportation planning processes – with an emphasis on working through RTPOs and RDOs – to plan and deliver increased broadband access to traditionally underserved and rural areas.

7. Support the application of new and emerging technologies in transportation to improve safety and mobility in rural and small metropolitan communities.

For more information about RTPOs and RDOs, please contact: Mirielle Burgoyne, NADO Deputy Executive Director/Director of Government Relations at mburgoyne@nado.org