



**NADO's 2026 Annual Training Conference
Peppermill Resort Spa Casino | Reno, NV
October 19 – 22, 2026**

Monday, October 19

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conference Registration & Information Desk Open

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. NADO Research Foundation Advisory Committee Meeting

9:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mobile Workshop

Tahoe Prosperity Center: Regional Collaboration in a One-of-a-Kind Economy

Visit the Tahoe Prosperity Center for a mobile workshop exploring how regional collaboration drives economic development in the uniquely complex Lake Tahoe Basin which spans two states, is governed by a bi-state agency, and relies on coordinated, cross-jurisdictional solutions. The tour will highlight how partnerships across sectors, guided by shared data and community input, are advancing priorities like workforce housing, broadband access, small-scale biomass innovation, economic resilience, and community vitality. Participants will also learn about Tahoe Prosperity Center's Business Walks, a hands-on way to gather insights from local businesses.

Limited to 40 participants. Meet the tour group at 9:45 a.m. for a bus departure at 10 a.m. The group will return to the hotel by 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. *Pre-registration is required; additional fee of \$65.*

9:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. Mobile Workshop

From Wagon Ruts to Main Street Wins: A Visit to Gardnerville

Discover how the organization Mainstreet Gardnerville is breathing new life into a historic downtown on this guided tour of Gardnerville, NV (pop. 5,800). Explore how this former 19th-century wagon-train stop has evolved into a vibrant 21st-century community through a blend of business investment, strategic grant funding, and the dedication of local volunteers. Along the way, you'll see firsthand the projects and partnerships that are helping preserve the town's character while supporting its growth. The tour will include a lunch at a Basque restaurant which celebrates the region's rich immigrant heritage.

Limited to 50 participants. Meet the tour group at 9:45 a.m. for a bus departure at 10 a.m. The group will return to the hotel by 2:45 p.m. Lunch will be provided. *Pre-registration is required; additional fee of \$65.*

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mobile Workshop

Virginia City Bonanza: Bringing the Past to the Future

In 1859, Virginia City, NV was founded to support a community of miners that had come to extract the Comstock Lode, one of the first major silver deposits found in the United States. After the depletion of the Comstock Lode, the town looked to other sources of economic prosperity and found its rich history as a mining town deserved preserving. Since that time Virginia City has been through a variety of economic booms and changes over its history. On this tour, explore the city's historic downtown and key landmarks that were integral to its development as a mining hotspot. The tour will offer participants an understanding of how historic preservation can be utilized as a transition strategy toward other drivers of growth and opportunity.

Limited to 40 participants. Meet the tour group at 10 a.m. for a bus departure at 10:15 a.m. The group will return to the hotel by 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. *Pre-registration is required; additional fee of \$65.*

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Learning Labs

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. NADO Executive Committee and Research Foundation Board Meeting

12:15 – 3:00 p.m. Mobile Workshop

Downtown Reno Revitalization: From Brownfields to Economic Engines

This tour will offer an inside look at how the City of Reno is transforming vacant, underutilized, and legacy sites into drivers of economic growth and community vitality. Participants will explore a variety of sites and projects to learn how targeted investments are reshaping downtown Reno into a more vibrant, walkable, and economically resilient district. Attendees will gain practical insights on unlocking redevelopment through public realm investment; activating vacant corridors with façade and tenant programs; navigating complex adaptive reuse projects; leveraging partnerships to accelerate revitalization; and utilizing federal (U.S. EPA) and state brownfield grants and technical assistance.

Limited to 50 participants. Meet the tour group at 12:15 p.m. for a bus departure at 12:30 p.m. The group will return to the hotel by 3:00 p.m. Please eat lunch in advance. *Pre-registration is required; additional fee of \$45.*

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Learning Labs

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. NADO Board of Directors Meeting
All NADO members are encouraged to attend to learn more about the governance of your Association.

3:15 – 4:15 p.m. Conference Opening Plenary

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. NADO 101

6:00 – 8:30 p.m. Opening Reception

Tuesday, October 20

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conference Registration & Information Desk Open

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. Keynote Plenary

10:15 – 10:30 a.m. Coffee Break with the Exhibitors

10:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Mobile Workshop

Inside Energy: Geothermal Energy at the Peppermill Resort Spa and Casino – Tour I

As part of its 2007 expansion project, the Peppermill Resort Spa and Casino (the conference venue) invested \$9.7 million to install a geothermal energy system that provides the energy that heats the domestic hot water for the Tuscany tower, including the 43,000 square foot Spa Toscana and Fitness Center, as well as two outdoor swimming pools and spas. This tour will show participants the inner workings of geothermal energy at the Peppermill and provide insights on how communities across the country can access this renewable energy source. *Note: The conference includes two geothermal energy tour options; the programming and information will be the same for each tour.*

Limited to 20 participants. Meet the tour group at 10:15 a.m. for departure at 10:30 a.m. The group will return by 12:30 p.m. *Pre-registration is required; additional fee of \$20.*

10:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Mobile Workshop

Engines of Change: Reno's National Automobile Museum

Roll over to the National Automobile Museum, located in downtown Reno, which celebrates the past, present, and future of the automobile. Built on the legacy of William F. "Bill" Harrah and supported by a global community of enthusiasts, the museum has inspired visitors since 1989 through engaging exhibits and programs. Participants will enjoy a special presentation from the museum's president covering its history, governance, fundraising efforts, and impact on downtown Reno's economic development. Afterward, attendees can explore exhibits featuring more than 200 vehicles from the late 1800s to today, including cars once owned by Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, and President John F. Kennedy.

Limited to 50 participants. Meet group at 10:15 am for a bus departure at 10:30 a.m. The group will return to the hotel by 12:45 p.m., though participants are welcome to stay longer at the museum and return on their own. *Pre-registration is required; additional fee of \$40.*

10:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mobile Workshop

From Waste to Worth: Inside Wastewater Reuse at Reno-Stead Water Reclamation Facility

The City of Reno's Utilities Services Department owns and operates the Reno-Stead Water Reclamation Facility which processes 2 million gallons of wastewater per day. Join a tour of this award-winning facility to learn more about responsible use and reuse of valuable water resources in the Reno area. The visit will include a presentation on the site's growth plan and approach to interagency cooperation followed by a walking tour of the facility. Participants will learn how resilient approaches to resource management can expand opportunities for long-term economic competitiveness.

Limited to 20 participants. Meet the tour group at 10:15 a.m. for a bus departure at 10:30 a.m. The group will return to the hotel by 1:00 p.m. *Pre-registration is required; additional fee of \$45.*

- 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.** **Concurrent Sessions**
- 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.** **Lunch on Your Own**
- 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.** **SERDI Council of Peers Meeting**
- 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.** **Mobile Workshop**

MidTown Reno on Foot: Placemaking, Small Business, and the Creative Economy

This guided walking tour of MidTown Reno will explore how placemaking, locally owned businesses, and creative entrepreneurs have helped transform the district into a vibrant economic and cultural hub. Participants will learn how public art, adaptive reuse, and community driven development support small business growth and foster a resilient creative economy. The tour will highlight real world examples of how place-based strategies can shape dynamic neighborhoods.

Limited to 30 participants. Meet the tour group at 1 p.m. for a hotel departure at 1:15 p.m. The group will return to the hotel by 4:00 p.m. *Pre-registration is required; additional fee of \$40.*

- 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.** **Concurrent Sessions**
- 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.** **Nominating Committee**
All NADO members are invited to attend and hear from the candidates for NADO’s Board of Directors Officer positions.
- 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.** **Mobile Workshop**

Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center: A Visit to the World’s Largest Industrial Park

The Tahoe Reno Industrial Center is a 107,000-acre park that encompasses a developable 30,000 acre industrial complex and is the largest industrial park in the world. It hosts Tesla Gigafactory 1 and data centers for Blockchains, Google, Jet.com, and Switch. The industrial center is poised to expand in the age of AI with a 1100-Megawatt powerplant and water rights to provide for cooling needs. Participants will discover how this unique development stays ahead in a constantly shifting landscape, as well as practical lessons that can inform regional planning elsewhere

Limited to 30 participants. Meet the tour group at 2:30 p.m. for a bus departure at 2:45 p.m. The group will return to the hotel by 5:30 p.m. *Pre-registration is required; additional fee of \$45.*

- 2:45 – 3:00 p.m.** **Refresh and Connect Break**
- 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.** **Concurrent Sessions**
- 4:15 – 5:15 p.m.** **NADO Membership Chapter Meetings**
Chapter Meetings offer an opportunity for you to connect with peers from your region, share solutions to challenges, talk about new funding opportunities, and provide NADO leadership with feedback and insights about particular topics. All NADO members are encouraged to attend their Chapter Meeting. (NADO Membership Chapters align with the EDA Regional Offices).
- 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.** **EDD CoP Peer Cohorts Meetup**

Open to all participants in the NADO EDD CoP Peer Cohorts, this meetup will give participants the opportunity to meet and network in person.

8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

NADO Karaoke Night

Back by popular demand! Show off your talents on the stage at Peppermill's in-house music venue, the EDGE Nightclub. Start practicing your routine now!

Wednesday, October 21

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Conference Registration & Information Desk Open

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

DDAA Breakfast

All attendees from a Local Development District located in the 13-state Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) footprint are invited to attend this breakfast and hear from ARC's leadership.

8:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Mobile Workshop

Truckee River Walking Tour

The Reno Department of Wildlife will host a guided walking tour at the Oxbow Nature Study Center focused on connections between outdoor recreation, tourism, and local economic development. Participants will explore local trails while learning how natural amenities create opportunities to promote recreational access and sustainable development. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and come prepared with sunscreen and water.

Limited to 25 participants. Meet in the lobby at 8:30 a.m. for a bus departure at 8:45 a.m. The group will return to the hotel by 11:45 a.m. *Pre-registration is required; additional fee of \$35.*

9:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Mobile Workshop

Inside Energy: Geothermal Energy at the Peppermill Resort Spa and Casino- Tour II

As part of its 2007 expansion project, the Peppermill Resort Spa and Casino (the conference venue) invested \$9.7 million to install a geothermal energy system that provides the energy that heats the domestic hot water for the Tuscany tower, including the 43,000 square foot Spa Toscana and Fitness Center, as well as two outdoor swimming pools and spas. This tour will show participants the inner workings of geothermal energy at the Peppermill and provide insights on how communities across the country can access this renewable energy source. *Note: The conference includes two geothermal energy tour options; the programming and information will be the same for each tour.*

Limited to 20 participants. Meet the tour group at 10 a.m. for a 10:15 a.m. departure. The group will return by 12:15 p.m. *Pre-registration is required; additional fee of \$20.*

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Morning Networking Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

President's Award Lunch

NADO President Matthew Dolge will announce the recipient of the 2026 President's Award which recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to regional development. All attendees are invited to attend the luncheon.

1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

3:15 – 4:00 p.m.

NADO Annual Business Meeting

All NADO members are encouraged to attend to learn more about the governance of your Association.

4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Impact Awards Reception

All attendees are invited to attend this reception to learn about the 2026 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award projects. Many will be on hand to share the details of the project. Light snacks and beverages will be provided along with our annual raffle.

Thursday, October 22

8:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Conference Registration & Information Desk Open

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Plenary Breakfast

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions & Conversation Café

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Plenary Closing