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HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- **COVID-19 Relief Negotiations Stall Leading Up to November Election**
- **NADO to Host Upcoming Webinars with EDA and the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to Discuss Strengthening EDA-HBCU Partnerships**
- **Application Window Extended to November 13 for Local Foods, Local Places Program**
- **Federal Transit Administration Announces HOPE Projects**
- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 2019 Data Preview**
- **Upcoming Events Added to Equity & Inclusion Resources**
- **Job Announcements**

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

COVID-19 Relief Negotiations Stalled Leading Up to November Election

Both chambers of Congress left for recess this week without reaching an agreement on a COVID-19 relief package. On Tuesday, the President also [indicated](#) that a stimulus deal will not be reached before election day. Significant disagreements remain between House and Senate leadership and the Administration concerning additional relief legislation, particularly regarding the size of the overall aid package, implementation of a COVID-19 testing strategy, funding for state and local governments, and liability protections for schools and businesses.

NADO NEWS AND NOTES

NADO to Host Upcoming Webinars with EDA and the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to Discuss Strengthening EDA-HBCU Partnerships

The [U.S. Economic Development Administration \(EDA\)](#), [White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities \(HBCUs\)](#), and [NADO](#) are organizing region-specific webinars called *EDA and HBCUs: Cultivating Strategic Engagement for Regional Economic Development*. These webinars are an extension of the [White House National HBCU Week and Conference](#) that was held virtually from September 21 – 25 and are designed to provide the HBCU community with valuable information describing EDA tools, programs, and partners, and how HBCUs can effectively engage with these to support the development of inclusive, innovative, and competitive regional economies. At the end of the one-hour panel discussion, EDA and HBCU presenters will participate in a 30-minute Q&A session with audience members. Registrants are invited and encouraged to submit questions in advance for the Q&A session to EDA at edi@eda.gov.

This webinar, along with any resulting collaboration with EDA and its other regional partners, is intended primarily for HBCU personnel and leadership whose roles and responsibilities include economic and community development programming and strategic planning. EDD staff are also invited to attend these sessions to learn more about partnership opportunities with HBCUs. Click the links below to register. HBCUs located in Ohio and Missouri may register for any of the following regional presentations. Contact Brett Schwartz at bschwartz@nado.org with any questions.

HBCUs and EDDs within EDA's Austin Region: [Click here](#) to register

- **Thursday, November 12 from 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET**

HBCUs and EDDs within EDA's Atlanta Region: [Click here](#) to register

- **Tuesday, November 17 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET**

HBCUs and EDDs within EDA's Philadelphia Region: [Click here](#) to register

- **Wednesday, November 18 from 2:00 – 3:30 pm ET**

Application Window Extended to November 13 for Local Foods, Local Places Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [Local Foods, Local Places](#) program helps communities revitalize neighborhoods through development of local food systems. It aims to support projects that do all of the following: create livable, walkable, economically vibrant main streets and mixed-use neighborhoods; boost economic opportunities for local farmers and main street businesses; and improve access to healthy, local food, especially among disadvantaged populations. The program will provide selected communities planning assistance that centers around a two-day community workshop. At each workshop, a team of experts help community members develop an implementable action plan that promotes local food and neighborhood revitalization. Workshops have typically been held in person in the selected communities, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, EPA is conducting all workshops online until it is safe to

resume in-person visits. Application window extended! Apply by **November 13, 2020**. Click [here](#) for more information.

Upcoming Events Added to Equity & Inclusion Resources

Several upcoming events and webinars have been added to the [Equity and Inclusion Resources for RDOs web page](#) created by NADO and the NADO Research Foundation. Many of these organizations typically share presentation materials or slides after events, in case you miss them. These upcoming events include:

- On **November 18, 1:00-7:00 p.m. ET**, the Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group will hold the virtual summit [All Land is not Created Equal: Unleashing Family and Community Wealth through Land Ownership](#). The summit will include discussion on the role of land in wealth inequality, about heirs' property and fractionated land, and about strategies and policies that can address this issue to build rural regions and urban communities that are more inclusive and resilient.

Learn More about the 2020 NADO Impact and Excellence Awards Projects in a New Story Map

NADO has released a [new interactive Story Map](#) that features projects awarded through NADO's 2020 [Aliccann Wohlbruck NADO Impact Awards](#) and the [Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards](#). The Impact Awards program honors NADO members for their creative approaches to advancing regional economic development and improved quality of life. The Excellence Awards recognizes noteworthy transportation, mobility, and goods movement projects in rural and small metropolitan regions. Click [here](#) to learn the stories behind every project recognized this year and congratulations again to all of the awardees! Contact Brett Schwartz at bschwartz@nado.org or Rachel Beyerle at rbeyerle@nado.org with any questions.

Federal Transit Administration Announces HOPE Projects

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced [25 projects](#) that will receive a total of \$8.5 million in funding through the Helping Obtain Prosperity for Everyone (HOPE) program. HOPE funding supports planning, engineering and technical studies or financial planning to improve public transportation service in areas experiencing long-term economic distress. The funding also supports coordinated human service transportation planning or new transportation services such as rides to opioid abuse recovery and treatment. Rural-focused projects that will improve access to jobs and healthcare are planned for central California; south central Colorado; Putnam County, Florida; central Mississippi; eastern North Carolina, New Mexico; southeastern Ohio; and Tennessee.

NADO Research Foundation Publishes Transportation Case Studies on Preparing for Vehicle Connectivity and Automated Vehicles

From 2019 to 2020, the NADO Research Foundation (NADO RF) conducted research and developed case studies on a variety of transportation technology topics related to Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). These case studies highlight federal, state, regional, local, and nonprofit agencies using ITS to address practical transportation issues. A full, downloadable report will be released soon, but the following technology case studies related to transportation network management and operations in rural and small metro areas are available now:

- [Using Vehicle Connectivity Technology for Roadway Weather Response](#)
- [Partnerships Support Rural Technology Deployment Along Wyoming's I-80 Corridor](#)
- [Testing Vehicle and Infrastructure Connectivity in Marysville, Ohio](#)
- [Minnesota Plans for Connected and Automated Vehicles](#)

Previously, NADO RF released rural transportation technology case studies related to [mobility and transit](#), [safety and health](#) and [travel information](#). This research was conducted with support from the U.S. Department of Transportation's ITS Joint Program Office. Contact [Carrie Kissel](#) or [Rachel Beyerle](#) with questions about the project.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 2019 Data Preview

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently released a [preview](#) of 2019 Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatality data. The total number of traffic fatalities decreased by two percent from 2018 to 2019. Despite overall declines, data indicates a slight increase (0.1 percent) in rural fatalities. Fatalities are reported by person type, crash characteristics, passenger restraint use, and state or territory.

Census Update

Data collection for the 2020 Census has concluded. Learn more about [response rates](#) and receive news about your state by subscribing to Census Updates on the Census 2020 [homepage](#). In addition, NADO will continue to keep you informed of key census updates through NADO News.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development Council in West Virginia Seeking Executive Director

The Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development Council (Region 9), located in Martinsburg, West Virginia, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Executive Director. Region 9 is one of West Virginia's 11 regional planning and development councils serving the counties of Jefferson, Berkeley, and Morgan, including the 9 municipal governments therein. The Executive Director position is an at-will position and is appointed by and answerable to the Region 9 Full Council Board. The Executive Director is responsible for hiring, maintaining, and supervising a staff of approximately 5 persons; overseeing all fiscal duties; and assessing the needs of local governments for project/program identification. The Executive Director provides oversight and management over a variety of programs and projects including infrastructure development/ financing, economic development, community development and administration of the Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization (HEPMPO). The Executive Director also represents the Council's interests through interaction and coordination with all federal, state, and local entities. For more information on this opportunity and necessary qualifications, click [here](#).

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