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Rural Transportation News

March 2022



National Regional Transportation Conference

Mark your calendars!

The National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation and RPO America will hold the National Regional Transportation Conference in Kansas City, MO, July 19 - 21, 2022. Join us for 2.5 days of learning and peer networking on rural, small metro, and regional transportation issues covering a variety of transportation modes and topics. Information on conference logistics is posted to <https://www.nado.org/events/2022-national-regional-transportation-conference> and will be updated regularly.



Share your presentation ideas!

NADO is seeking presentation abstracts from regional organizations, state and local transportation partners, transit agencies, consultants who work with regional and local partners, and other stakeholders. [Click here to submit a presentation abstract.](#) The deadline to submit has been extended to **March 31!**

[Submit presentation abstracts](#)

Apply for recognition for your work!

The NADO Research Foundation and RPO America have opened the application period for the Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards. NADO members may submit awards until **April 8**. [The online application is available here.](#) Recipients will be honored at a reception during the National Regional Transportation Conference.

[Apply for a 2022 Excellence Award](#)

Upcoming Webinar: Planning Environment Linkages

Planning and Environment Linkages

With support from the Federal Highway Administration, the NADO Research Foundation will hold a webinar on Planning Environment Linkages: Interagency Partnerships and Public Engagement on Tuesday, April 5, 2:00 – 3:15 p.m. Eastern Time.



Register for the free webinar [here](#).

About the webinar

Regional transportation planning organizations in rural and small metro areas can benefit from incorporating environmental considerations into the transportation planning process. Often referred to as Planning Environment Linkages (PEL), this work entails planning for environmental, community, and economic goals early in transportation decision-making process. PEL has the potential to decrease project costs, schedule times, and redundant efforts. Interagency partnerships and robust public involvement are two steps that regional organizations can take to enhance PEL in their work.

In this webinar, attendees will learn: PEL information and resources available from the Federal Highway Administration, how interagency coordination works in one state-regional-local partnership, and successes and challenges of public engagement in a rural and small city region.

Panelists will include:

- Lana Lau, Environmental Protection Specialist, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Project Development & Environmental Review
- Brian Hare, Director of the Center for Program Development and Management, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
- Beth Burks, Executive Director, Humboldt County Association of Governments

Who should attend: regional transportation professionals from rural and small metropolitan organizations, state DOT planning and environmental staff, local government planning and public works staff in small and medium-sized communities, consultant partners, and other stakeholders.

More information

Register for the Planning Environment Linkages webinar at <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/2692168935809759755>.

View more resources on PEL here: <https://ruraltransportation.org/category/resources/environment/>.

The Federal Highway Administration provides PEL resources and information here: https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/env_initiatives/PEL.aspx.

This work is supported by the Federal Highway Administration under contract number 693JJ321P000004. Any opinions, findings and conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this webinar are those of the participants and do not necessarily reflect the views of FHWA or the NADO Research Foundation.

Image: Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission

Thank you to our NADO members for their eye-catching photography!
The images in this newsletter include entries and winners from the annual NADO Photo Contest.

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