



70th Annual Local Government Conference
November 9-20, 2020

Regional Rural Transportation Planning

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National Association of Development Organizations

70th Annual Local Government Conference - November 9th – 20th, 2020 - *Fires, Foundations and Futures*

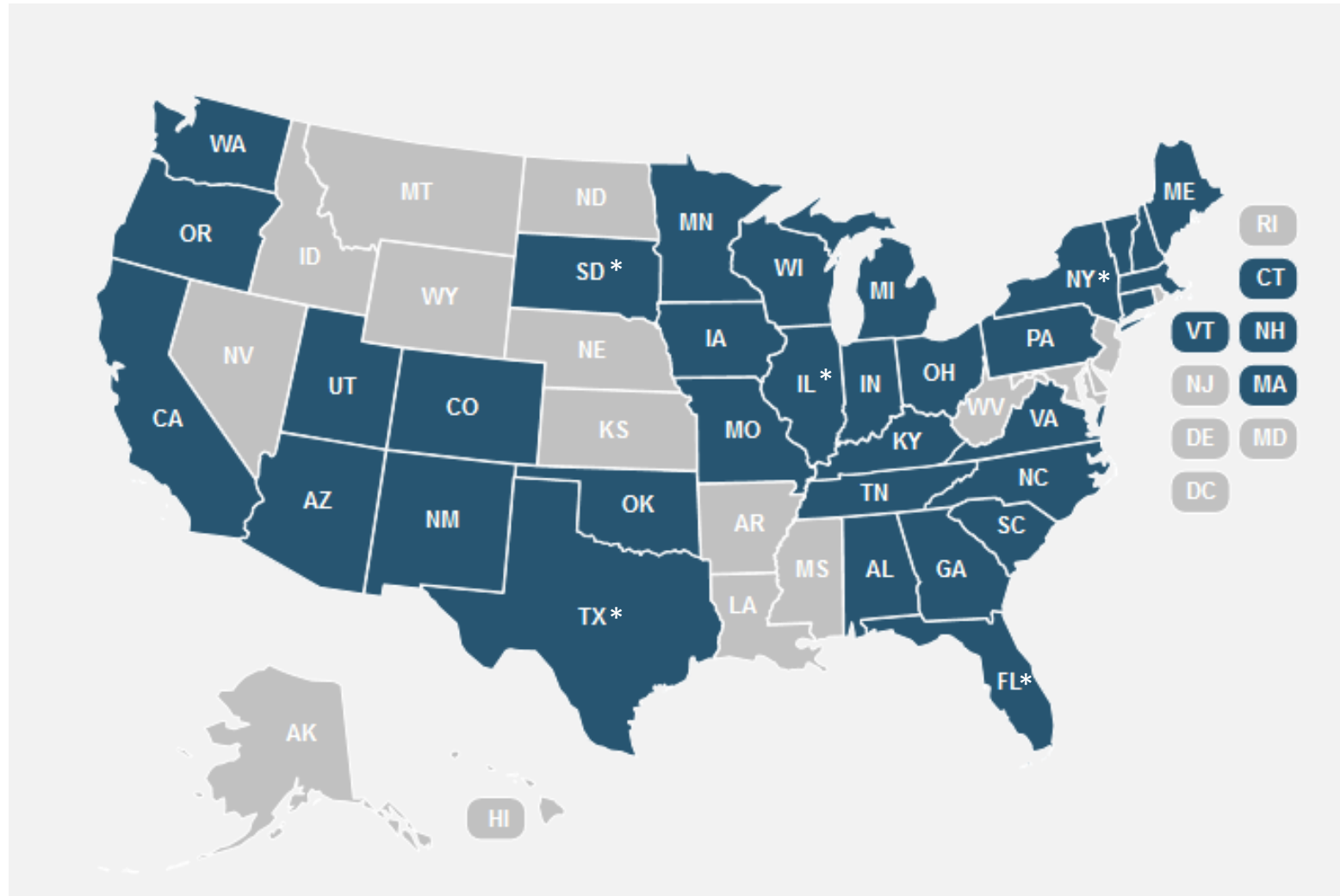
About NADO

- National association for 540 regional development organizations, including emerging network of Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs or RPOs)
- Promote public policies that strengthen local governments, communities and economies through the regional strategies, coordination efforts and program expertise of the nation's regional development organizations

About NADO

- Through the NADO Research Foundation, develop training and resources related to:
 - Rural/small metro transportation planning, RPO America
 - Small business finance
 - Economic development planning
 - Regional resiliency
 - Developing quality of place

Regional Transportation Planning Models



How Did We Get Here?

- **ISTEA (1991)**
 - Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act
- **TEA-21 (1998)**
 - Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century
- **SAFETEA-LU (2005)**
 - Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
- 2003 FHWA/FTA planning regulations were adopted implementing language on rural planning and state-local consultation. (4-year process)
- Same language used in 2007 regulations
- In essence requires meaningful input by local officials in the transportation planning process/decision making—separate from public outreach efforts

MAP-21 & FAST Act RTPOs

- Structure: policy committee, fiscal agent
- Basic regional planning, TA duties outlined
- State outreach to local officials separate from public outreach
- States:
 - “Cooperate” with RTPOs on LRTP
 - “Consult” with RTPOs on Interstate, Bridge, NHS, 5310, 5311 projects in STIP
 - “Cooperate” with RTPOs on other projects in STIP for areas with a population under 50,000
 - “Consult” with RTPOs on Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Forming an RTPO

- Usually found within an existing organization
 - Fiscal agent, administrative support
 - Professional planning support
 - Lower 48: An organization *like* an ARDOR, a borough, a multi-jurisdictional human services agency, sometimes a metropolitan planning organization (AMATS, FMATS), or a standalone agency

Forming an RTPO

- Determine policy board makeup
 - Existing regional organization's board?
 - Majority local governments
 - Transportation mode operators, owners, or key stakeholders
 - Major stakeholder reps: health, business, other
 - State DOT (voting or non-voting)
- Can set up technical committee to advise board
 - Local government professional staff
 - Transportation mode representatives
 - State agencies

Why Regional Planning?

Regional/Rural Planning Organizational

- **R**-Relationships
- **P**-Priority
- **O**-One
- *Communication is Essential*

Why Regional Planning?

- Clear sense of planning/programming process and roles
- Regional cooperation = larger voice
- Access to a general resource on transportation
- Awareness of big picture trends in demographics, economy

Why Regional Planning?

- Technical assistance to rural places
 - Traffic counts, parking counts, safety studies, ADA audits, local roads issues
 - Convene local transit providers or road managers
 - Learn major state/fed program categories: answer questions about what projects are eligible or assist with grant writing
 - Joint purchasing opportunities

Why Regional Planning?

- Communicate with businesses:
 - Identify pain points that can realistically be addressed
 - Transportation + economic development opportunities
 - Avoid surprises

Lessons Learned

- Be clear about how RTPOs fit into state's consultation process
- Be consistent about roles
- Develop regional priority list:
 - What can we agree on?
 - What issues/projects are most important?
- Be realistic and strategic—may need to focus on specific corridors or priorities rather than needs of region's entire network

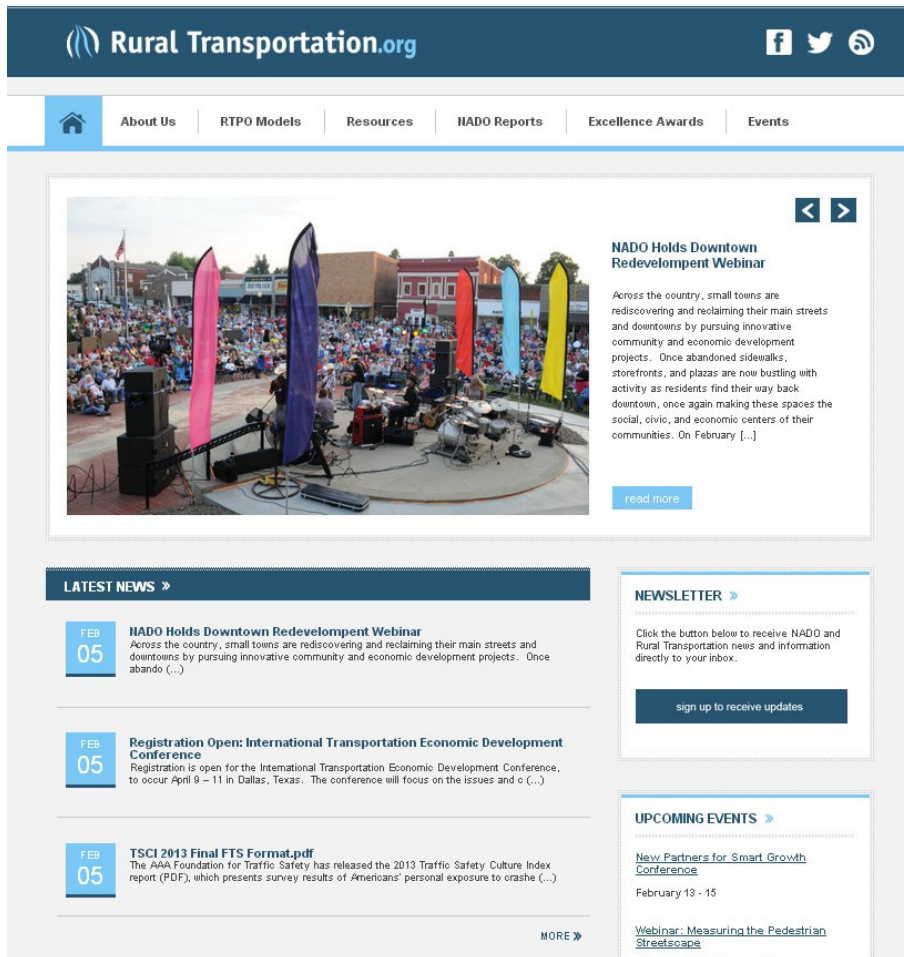
Lessons Learned

- Build buy-in strategically
 - Quick wins
 - Champions
 - Consistent participation
 - Quality meeting agendas
- Invest in new RTPOs: training, mentoring, regular statewide meetings

Lessons Learned

- Level of state investment & match: you get what you pay for
 - Meet federal requirements for consultation/cooperation
 - Pain points for state
 - RPC capabilities
 - Local government needs
 - Baseline tasks for all RTPOs
 - Flexibility: Rural planning work programs, pilots, special studies

Resources for Regional Planning



The screenshot shows the homepage of Rural Transportation.org. The header includes the logo and navigation links: About Us, RTPO Models, Resources, NADO Reports, Excellence Awards, and Events. The main content area features a large image of a downtown redevelopment webinar with a speaker and a large audience. Below this is a 'LATEST NEWS' section with three items: 'NADO Holds Downtown Redevelopment Webinar', 'Registration Open: International Transportation Economic Development Conference', and 'TSCI 2013 Final FTS Format.pdf'. There is also a 'NEWSLETTER' sign-up section and an 'UPCOMING EVENTS' section.



The screenshot shows the NADO RPOAMERICA website. The header features the NADO logo (National Association of Development Organizations) and the RPOAMERICA logo (A Program Affiliate of NADO, Serving America's Rural Transportation Planning Professionals). The main content area is titled 'Rural Transportation News' and includes a sub-header 'Learn about new resources on RTPO planning, NADO awards, safety, health, connected and autonomous vehicles, and more!'. A 'Visit our website' button is present. Below this is a section titled 'NADO Research Foundation Releases 2017 Regional Transportation Planning Organizations Peer Exchange Summary'. The text describes the release of a summary document from the Regional Transportation Planning Organizations Peer Exchange (PDF) that occurred on June 30, 2017. An image of people walking and biking on a path is shown with the caption 'Regional Transportation Planning Organizations Peer Exchange Summary' and 'Courtesy Coastal Regional Commission'.

Connect with NADO

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Visit us online: www.NADO.org

www.RuralTransportation.org | www.CEDScentral.com

Upcoming events:

National Regional Transportation Conference, July 20 – 22, 2021 in
Kansas City, MO (or virtual)

Check our websites for other upcoming webinars/events