

NADO NEWS: February 22, 2013

A Publication of the National Association of Development Organizations

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- **NADO Executive Officers Visit with Federal Officials**
- **Update on Sequestration**
- **Rep. Michael Michaud to Reintroduce the Northern Border Regional Commission Reauthorization Act**
- **U.S. House Education and Workforce Committee to Introduce WIA reauthorization bill**

NADO Executive Officers Visit with Federal Officials

Earlier this week, the NADO Executive Committee held its winter meeting in Washington, D.C. During their visit, the group conducted outreach meetings with key congressional committee and federal



agency leaders, including the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Senate Agriculture Committee, HUD, EPA, and OMB. They focused on budget and policy issues for community and economic development (including EDA, USDA, and DOT funding). In addition, the group spent time discussing NADO's local and national priorities with EDA Assistant Secretary Matt Erskine and with senior White House and Congressional officials. NADO Executive Committee members Left to Right in

photo: President John Leonard (GA), Treasurer Terry Bobrowski (TN), First Vice President Peter Gregory (VT), Second Vice President Steve Etcher (MO), Secretary Jeff Kiley (NM), Immediate Past President Russ Cowley (UT), and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development and Chief Operating Officer Matt Erskine.

Don't Miss the Early Bird Rate for 2013 Washington Policy Conference: NADO on the Hill, March 11 – 13



The 2013 NADO Washington Policy Conference: NADO on the Hill will be held March 11 – 13 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA. **Register before March 1st to receive the early bird discount.** This year we are doing something different! We have reserved the afternoon of Tuesday, March 12th for an exciting opportunity that will

bring NADO members to the halls of Congress for informal visits with their members of Congress and/or

their key staff. The afternoon will conclude with a special NADO on the Hill reception for all conference attendees and will include as many of your Congressional members and staff as possible. Be sure to be a part of this exciting afternoon of outreach to members of Congress and our first-ever reception on the Hill.

NADO on the Hill is designed to help members start and build lasting relationships with their newly-elected representatives or continue to build upon existing relationships. NADO staff will provide key tips before the conference that will help you secure a meeting with your representative and/or their key staff. We will provide transportation from the conference hotel to the Hill for the afternoon's meetings and reception. NADO staff will be on hand to help attendees navigate the Hill and to assist those in need of guidance with scheduling meetings.

In addition, this year's conference will offer many opportunities for attendees to hear about current federal policy and budget developments and meet one-on-one with federal agency staff during the Federal Roundtable Reception. Click [here](#) for more information about conference registration.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Update on Sequestration

Sequestration appears likely to take effect as scheduled on March 1. While this seems assured, implementation across federal agencies is far from clear. Under current law, the Department of Defense will face a 7.3 percent cut across all programs, while non-defense agencies will face a 5.1 percent cut. The agencies do not currently have flexibility in implementing cuts, meaning the reductions would come evenly from every account, including personnel and grants. In a recent letter to Sen. Barbara Mikulski, Deputy Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank provided details on how sequestration could affect the agency. Among many program details, Dr. Blank indicates that all EDA employees could be furloughed a total of 6.5 days during the rest of the fiscal year. NADO members should be prepared for a reduction in grants and the possibility of reduced staff at EDA regional offices. You can view the complete text of Dr. Blank's letter [here](#).

Currently, Federal agencies are working on implementation plans to address sequestration. This week, the Department of Homeland Security announced that furloughs would be necessary under current law, which could lead to personnel at border crossings and airports working modified schedules. The Department of Defense announced that its 800,000 civilian employees will be furloughed one day per week for the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends on September 31, 2013. Negotiations between the White House and Congress have not made substantial progress toward averting sequestration completely, but members have been working on plans to provide more flexibility to federal agencies. Such flexibility would allow agencies to shift money between accounts to save the most critical priorities from the spending cuts. This could be used to prevent employee furloughs in critical areas. This flexibility could allow the Defense Department to prevent cuts to the operations and maintenance of our fighting forces. The Department of Homeland Security could use it to prevent furloughing TSA and Border Patrol agents. The other federal agencies have not released detailed plans.

While it remains unlikely that any agreement will be reached before the March 1 deadline, Members of Congress have stated that the expiration of the Continuing Resolution on March 27 is the more important date. Sequestration will take several weeks to implement, so leaders in both parties have

indicated that if a compromise is reached by March 27 as part of another CR, than the worst effects of sequestration can be avoided.

NADO legislative staff will continue to monitor negotiations over sequestration and provide updates as information becomes available.

Rep. Michael Michaud to Reintroduce the Northern Border Regional Commission Reauthorization Act

Rep. Michael Michaud (D-ME) announced he will introduce the Northern Border Regional Commission Reauthorization Act. Rep. Michaud's legislation would provide for a five year reauthorization with \$30 million in funding each year. The Northern Border Regional Commission was first authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill to help address the community and economic development needs of the most severely distressed portions of the Northeastern United States. Under the five-year authorization measure, the new federal-state regional commission was established to target resources to promote economic growth strategies and projects within the northern portions of the four-state region of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

U.S. House Education and Workforce Committee to Introduce WIA reauthorization bill

On February 25, the U.S. House Education and the Workforce Committee will introduce the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act. The SKILLS Act would reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and include proposals that would streamline federal workforce programs and create a single source of support for employers and job seekers. Click [here](#) to learn more about the SKILLS Act. Click [here](#) to read the text of the legislative proposal.

Major Provisions of the SKILLS Act:

- Eliminate and streamline 35 federal employment and training programs and create a Workforce Investment Fund to serve as a single source of support for employers, workers, and job seekers.
- Strengthen the role of employers in workforce training decisions by eliminating 19 federal mandates governing workforce investment board representation.
- Require state and local workforce investment leaders to outline the strategies they will implement to serve at-risk youth, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and other workers with unique challenges to employment.
- Promote accountability by establishing common performance measures and requiring an independent evaluation of programs at least once every five years.

Last week, U.S. House Education and Workforce Committee Ranking Member George Miller (D-CA) introduced the [Workforce Investment Act of 2013 \(H.R. 798\)](#). House Democrats introduced a similar bill in the 112th Congress, but it was not considered by the full committee.

NADO legislative staff will continue to monitor this legislation and provide additional analysis on how this legislation could impact regional development organizations and local governments.

White House Releases Transportation Plan

This week, President Obama released the transportation plan that he announced during the State of the Union address on February 12. The White House proposes the establishment of a national infrastructure bank and the creation of a new class of subsidized bonds to help attract private infrastructure investment. The plan proposes to spend \$50 billion in new infrastructure investments, which include

\$40 billion on a “fix it first” program to repair structurally deficient bridges, roads, and transit systems. However, the plan does not provide specifics on how to pay for the \$50 billion in new spending. Additionally, the proposal does not address how eliminate the growing deficit in the Highway Trust Fund. Click [here](#) to view the full press release.

FEDERAL NEWS AND NOTES

DOT Releases MAP-21 Guidance on Older Drivers and Pedestrians

This week, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released the *MAP-21 Older Drivers and Pedestrians Special Rule Interim Guidance*. The Guidance addresses how to determine if the Special Rule applies to a particular state, how to report information to FHWA, and how the state should carry out the provisions if it is subjected to the Special Rule. Click [here](#) to view the full guidance.

EPA’s Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Applications Due March 1

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Office of Sustainable Communities’ [Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program \(SGIA\)](#) is an annual, competitive solicitation open to state, local, regional, and tribal governments (and non-profits that have partnered with a governmental entity) that want to incorporate smart growth techniques into their future development. Once selected, communities receive direct technical assistance from a team of national experts. The assistance is tailored to the community’s unique situation and priorities. Through a [multiple-day site visit and a detailed final report](#), the multi-disciplinary teams provide information to help the community achieve its goal of encouraging growth that fosters economic progress and environmental protection. On January 28, EPA announced a new Request for Letters of Interest. Applications are due March 1. This year’s categories for assistance include: 1. Community Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change; 2. Redevelopment for Job Creation; 3. The Role of Manufactured and Modular Homes in Sustainable Neighborhood Design; and 4. Medical and Social Services Facilities Siting. Click [here](#) for more information and instructions on how to apply. If you have questions about this solicitation, please contact Abby Hall (hall.abby@epa.gov, 415-972-3384).

Application Period Now Open for the National Award for Smart Growth Achievement

The application period for the 12th annual [National Award for Smart Growth Achievement](#) is now open. This EPA-sponsored competition is open to public- and private-sector entities. Through the National Award for Smart Growth Achievement, EPA recognizes and supports communities that use innovative policies and strategies to strengthen their economies, provide housing and transportation choices, develop in ways that bring benefits to a wide range of residents, and protect the environment. The application deadline is April 12, 2013. There is one application form for four categories: Built Projects; Corridor and Neighborhood Revitalization; Plazas, Parks, and Public Spaces; and Policies, Programs, and Plans. In addition, the review panel will choose an Overall Excellence winner from those that apply in these four categories. To download the official guidelines and application form, as well as learn about previous years’ winners, [click here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Dale at dale.sarah@epa.gov.

NADO NEWS AND OTHER NOTES

New Report Highlights Strategies to Improve Municipal Stormwater Permits

American Rivers has released a new report [Permitting Green Infrastructure : A Guide to Improving Municipal Stormwater Permits and Protecting Water Quality](#) which “provides clear examples of new developments in municipal stormwater permits that foster on-site management of stormwater by encouraging or requiring that runoff be controlled through the practices commonly referred to as ‘low impact development’ or ‘green infrastructure’.” This report contains model permit language, as well as legal and regulatory standards to guide municipalities in improving their local systems. To read the report, [click here.](#)

Join NADO on Social Media!

Is your organization using social media? NADO is using Facebook and Twitter to share updates, news, conference information, and more. “Like” NADO on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/NADO.org> and <http://www.facebook.com/RPOAmerica> and we will like you on our page. Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/NADOweb> and <http://twitter.com/#!/RPOAmerica> and we will follow you back.

NADO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2013 Washington Policy Conference: NADO on the Hill

March 11 – 13, 2013

Marriott Crystal Gateway – Arlington, VA

<http://www.nado.org/events/2013-nado-washington-policy-conference/>

2013 Economic Development Finance Service Conference

April 23 – 25, 2013

Hyatt Regency Greenville – Greenville, SC

<http://www.nado.org/events/edfs2013/>

2013 National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference

April 24 – 26, 2013

Hyatt Regency Greenville – Greenville, SC

<http://www.nado.org/events/rpo2013/>

2013 NADO Annual Training Conference

August 24 – 27, 2013

Hilton San Francisco Union Square – San Francisco, CA

2014 NADO Washington Policy Conference

March 24 – 26, 2014

Marriott Crystal Gateway – Arlington, VA

2014 NADO Annual Training Conference

August 23 – 26, 2014

Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center – Denver, CO