Congratulations to the 2011 NADO Award Winners

NADO’s Innovation Award honors projects in a variety of regional development program areas. The Excellence in Regional Transportation Award, a program of NADO’s RPO America and the NADO Research Foundation’s Center for Transportation Advancement and Regional Development, recognizes noteworthy projects and practices in rural and small metropolitan transportation planning, programming and service delivery. This year’s award winners encompass a vast range of program areas, and demonstrate unique partnerships, creative thinking, and strategic leveraging of resources to deliver results.

The 2011 NADO Innovation Award winners will be honored at the Showcase Reception at NADO’s Annual Training Conference, to be held in Miami, Florida from October 8 – 11, 2011. The 2011 NADO Excellence in Regional Transportation Award winners will be honored at the Awards Reception at NADO’s National Rural Transportation Conference, to be held in Washington, DC from August 24 – 26, 2011. Plan to attend these events to learn more about the winning projects!

2011 NADO Innovation Awards

The Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG) developed the Energy Efficiency for Local Units of Government project in order to reduce energy consumption among local governments in the region, save taxpayer dollars and create economic opportunities for Michigan’s energy industry. In its first year, NWMCOG allocated $40,000 to each county to support energy audits of county-owned buildings and to create a plan for energy efficiency improvements. The audits identified over $1.8 million in energy savings. These “no cost” improvements could help each county achieve between $12,000 and $35,000 in additional annual savings if implemented. Finally, many of the improvements are eligible to receive rebates from utility companies as part of the state-mandated energy optimization program. The project’s second year will include a competitive sub-grant process to select 10 additional units of government to receive $40,000 for audits and retrofits. All participants will designate at least 50 percent of these savings for future energy improvements.

Northwest Michigan Council of Governments
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