



LAND-OF-SKY RPO TRANSPORTATION SPOTLIGHT

Winter 2008

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Construction Update: Bridge in Downtown Marshall Completed



The bridge over the French Broad River in downtown Marshall was completed on schedule in December, 2007. The bridge, pictured here, features railing and lighting that were included in the bridge design as a result of public comment received during the project planning process. Next time you're in Marshall, take a moment to check out this newly completed project.



Alternative Fuels 101: Natural Gas

Natural gas is probably familiar to many people for its use in industrial and residential settings. Compressed natural gas (CNG) or liquefied natural gas (LNG) is also being used as a clean burning fuel for transportation. Natural gas is produced from gas wells or in conjunction with crude oil production. Benefits of the fuel include reduced emissions, lower fuel costs, and increased safety when compared with gasoline and diesel. 85% of the CNG in use in the United States today is domestically produced, making greater energy security an added benefit of the fuel.

CNG is available at 2 locations in Western North Carolina, one in downtown Asheville and one in Arden. To find an alternative fuel station anywhere in the US, visit the US Department of Energy's Alternative Fueling Station Locator at <http://afdcmap2.nrel.gov/locator/>.

Want to learn more about CNG? See below for information on an upcoming seminar in Asheville. (CNG facts from NC State/NC Solar Center)



Natural Gas Vehicles Workshop Scheduled

The Compelling Case for Natural Gas Vehicles (NGVs), a fleet seminar, will be held on March 25, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lutheridge Conference Center in Asheville, NC. The workshop will cover a variety of issues, including the economic, environmental, and energy security benefits of NGVs, available light, medium, and heavy duty vehicles, fuel station development, and how to identify and secure available grants and tax incentives. The seminar includes a visit to the Altec-Eco Corporation Conversion Facility and Fueling Station. The cost is \$30 for those who register by March 5 (\$40 after March 5) and includes materials, lunch, and the off-site visit. Details and registration information will be available soon on the Land-of-Sky website at www.landofsky.org. For more information, contact Bill Eaker at 828-251-6622 or bill@landofsky.org.

Southeastern Regional Transportation Forum Scheduled

The Southeast Regional Transportation Forum is scheduled for May 22 – 23, 2008 at the Sheraton Raleigh Hotel in Raleigh, NC. The forum agenda is still under development, but topics will cover a range of issues that reach across Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and neighboring states. Transportation planners from rural and metropolitan areas, state transportation agency staff, economic development professionals, and elected officials are encouraged to attend. The forum is sponsored by the NADO Research Foundation, the Federal Highway Administration, RPO America, and the North Carolina Association of Rural Planning Organizations. Look for more information linked from the Land-of-Sky RPO website at www.landofsky.org.

Madison County Recreational Map Wins National Award

The Land-of-Sky Rural Transportation Planning Organization received a 2007 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Madison County Recreational Facilities Map.

NADO is a Washington, DC-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery and comprehensive strategies. The association's Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards program recognizes organizations for noteworthy projects and practices in rural and small metropolitan transportation planning, program delivery and special initiatives. Award winners were showcased during the 2007 National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference, September 26 – 28 in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

According to NADO President Leanne Mazer, Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland in Cumberland, Maryland, "The Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards showcase the significant effect of transportation programs and projects like the Madison County Recreational Facilities Map, which are key to promoting integrated and efficient transportation systems that foster economic growth in our nation's regions and communities."

LOSRPO staff worked with the Madison County Tourism Development Authority (TDA) and the Madison County Parks and Recreation Department to complete the mapping project. The final map features a county map on each side, with one side indicating motorcycle routes and recreational facilities and the other side indicating hiking trails and bicycle routes. Look for copies of the map at the North Carolina Welcome Center on I-26, the Madison County Visitor Center, the Hot Springs Visitor Center, and several businesses throughout the county.



21st Century Transportation Committee

The 21st Century Transportation Committee was established by the NC General Assembly in 2007 to study the transportation infrastructure needs of the State. The Committee is charged with studying and reporting on a number of issues, including new and innovative approaches to transportation funding, ways to maintain the continued safety of the current system, a review of public transportation needs, an examination of multi-modal transportation needs, and other transportation-related issues. The 24-member committee includes two members from Western North Carolina: Henderson County Commissioner Chuck McGrady and Asheville Mayor Terry Bellamy. For more information, and to view minutes and meeting schedules, visit the 21st Century Transportation Committee's website at <http://www.ncleg.net/CommitteeFrontPages/21stCenturyTransportation/index.html>.

Land-of-Sky Regional Transportation Calendar— Winter/Spring 2008

March 2008

March 19, 2008 Joint Meeting of the Land-of-Sky RPO TAC and TCC, 1:30 p.m., Land-of-Sky Regional Council Offices (see below regarding new location)

March 21, 2008 Land-of-Sky Regional Council Offices closed

March 25, 2008 CNG Workshop, Asheville, NC

April 2008

April 24 and 25, 2008 NCARPO Quarterly Meeting, Wilmington, NC

April 29, 2008 Ozone Season Kickoff Event and Press Conference - 8:30 to 11:30am at Land-of-Sky Regional Council Offices. Presentations on the latest air quality conditions, issues and programs. Contact Bill Eaker at 251-6622 or bill@landofsky.org for information. No cost. Sponsored by the Clean Air Campaign, NC Div of AQ, WNC Regional AQ Agency, Progress Energy, Clean Air Community Trust and Clean Vehicles Coalition.

Land-of-Sky Regional Council Moves to New Location

Land-of-Sky Regional Council has moved to a new location. Our new office is located at 339 New Leicester Highway, Suite 140, Asheville, NC 28806. Our phone, fax, and email addresses remain the same. For detailed directions to our new location, visit the Land-of-Sky website at www.landofsky.org.

Available from the RPO

Services

- Transportation Plans
- Proposal & Grant Writing
- Facilitation & Public Input
- GIS Mapping & Data
- Land Use/Transportation Plans
- Transit Plans
- Parking Plans
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Plans
- Intelligent Transportation System Plans
- Transportation Corridor Plans
- Traffic Impact Analysis
- Traffic Accident Analysis
- Transportation Capacity Analysis
- Traffic Count Analysis
- Travel Pattern Surveys
- Trip Generation Analysis

Data & Mapping

- Road Networks
- TIP Projects
- Transit Routes
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Routes
- Railroad
- Traffic Volume/Counts
- Transportation Plans
- Traffic Accidents
- Land Use Plans
- Demographics
- Employment
- Parking
- Air Quality



Land-of-Sky RPO

Lead Planning Agency
Land-of-Sky Regional Council

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About Land-of-Sky Rural Transportation Planning Organization

The Land-of-Sky Rural Transportation Planning Organization (LOSRPO) is a voluntary organization of local governments that plans rural transportation systems and advises the North Carolina Department of Transportation on rural transportation policy. Members of the LOSRPO include: Buncombe, Haywood, Madison, and Transylvania Counties; and the municipalities of Brevard, Hot Springs, Marshall, Mars Hill, and Rosman. There are four core duties that the LOSRPO has to its members and the general public:

- Develop long-range transportation plans for local areas and the region.
- Provide a forum for public participation in the transportation planning process.
- Develop and prioritize projects the organization believes should be on the State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Provide transportation related information and services to local governments and others.

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee

Daryle Hogsed	Transylvania County Commissioner
Eddie Fox	Madison County Commissioner
Skeeter Curtis	Haywood County Commissioner
Jimmy Harris	Mayor of Brevard
John Chandler	Mayor of Mars Hill
Bill Stanley	Buncombe County Commissioner
Alan Thornburg	NCDOT Division 13 Board Member

Rural Technical Coordinating Committee

Artie Wilson	Transylvania County Manager
Kris Boyd	Haywood County Planner
Darhyl Boone	Mars Hill Town Manager
D.D. Galloway	NCDOT Regional Traffic Engineer
Steve Garrison	Madison County Manager
Jim Coman	Buncombe County Senior Planner
Joe Albright	Brevard City Manager
Dan Baechtold	French Broad River MPO Coordinator
Jay Swain	NCDOT Division 13 Engineer
Joel Setzer	NCDOT Division 14 Engineer
Sarah Smith	NCDOT Coordinator

Land-of-Sky RPO

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