



National Association of Development Organizations Planning and Environmental Linkages Resource Sheet

The National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation (NADO RF) has been conducting research on rural and small metro regional transportation planning practices and promoting the adoption of Planning Environment Linkages (PEL) innovations among smaller regional planning agencies. The NADO RF developed four issue briefs to improve the capacity of professionals working in smaller regional planning agencies to take on PEL in support of project delivery.

Public Involvement to Support Planning and Environment Linkages in Rural and Small Metropolitan Areas

Transportation agencies should engage the public early and often to find out about diverse perspectives, interests, and concerns of residents and stakeholders in a project area. Public engagement can include in-person meetings, such as hearings, charrettes, workshops, focus groups, and other formats. Surveys, questionnaires, comment boxes, and other tools are ways to gather input without the public needing to attend a meeting and can be submitted anonymously. Please find the issue brief at

https://ruraltransportation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Public-Involvement_Draft-Final.pdf

Planning and Environment Linkages: Accelerating Project Delivery through Interagency Relationships

PEL establishes coordination early in the transportation planning process. Coordination occurs during visioning, alternatives identification, public engagement, prioritization, project recommendations, scoping, project development, and final project delivery. Coordination can only happen when agencies collaborate—and that collaboration involves Tribal, federal, state, and local agencies along with members of the public and advocacy groups. Please find the issue brief at

https://ruraltransportation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/PEL-Interagency-Relationships-Issue-Brief_Draft-Final.pdf

Planning and Environment Linkages: Flexible Implementations

PEL is a flexible approach that can be implemented in various ways depending on the needs of a particular project or region. PEL could be used in different scales such as at the regional level during the transportation planning process or during the development of planning studies where planning products and decisions can be documented for future use in the environmental review process. The scope of PEL may be narrowed to focus on specific environmental concerns, such as air quality or water resources.

PEL can be integrated with other planning processes, such as land use planning or economic development planning. Please find the issue brief at <https://ruraltransportation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/PEL-Flexible-Implementations.pdf>

Planning and Environment Linkages: Climate Change

PEL can help identify and address potential environmental impacts of transportation projects, including those related to climate change. Some state DOTs, MPOs, and RPOs have developed climate action plans or similar strategic documents that outline their goals and strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. Some agencies are implementing various strategies to reduce emissions from transportation, such as promoting the use of alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies, encouraging modal shifts to public transportation and active transportation modes, and adopting policies to improve vehicle fuel efficiency. Please find the issue brief at

<https://ruraltransportation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/PEL-issue-brief-4-draft-final.pdf>

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