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**East Central Iowa Council of Governments Receives  
National Association of Development Organizations 2015 Innovation Award**

**WASHINGTON, DC – The East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG), based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa received a 2015 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation for the Region 10 Multi-Disciplinary Safety Team.**

The Region 10 Multi-Disciplinary Safety Team is a low-cost safety effort funded through ECICOG’s rural transportation planning work program. It includes key stakeholders from our region, such as transportation, safety, and enforcement officials. The team meets regularly to discuss and address local safety concerns, review data on crashes, citations, and roadway characteristics for decision making about safety intervention strategies such as enforcement, education, and engineering, and plan for or react to local celebrations, flooding, storm damage, or other events.

The Region 10 Multi-Disciplinary Safety Team was formed by ECICOG after learning improving the safety of the regional transportation network is a primary transportation issue in our region. This issue arose when ECICOG was gathering public input for the Comprehensive Regional Development Strategy, a joint planning document that serves as both the region’s Long-Range Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

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 Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation’s regions and local communities. Award-winning projects were honored during NADO’s 2015 Annual Training Conference, held October 24-27 in New Orleans, LA.

“For nearly 30 years, NADO’s Innovation Award has provided regional development organizations the opportunity to be recognized for their hard work and dedication to promoting economic development in rural and small metropolitan communities across the country. Building on the unique strengths and challenges of each region and community, award recipients continue to promote sustainable economic growth not only now, but for many years to come. And I am pleased to announce that this year over 100 regional development organizations were selected to receive NADO’s 2015 Innovation Award,” said NADO 2014-2015 Board President Terry Bobrowski, Executive Director of the East Tennessee Development District in Alcoa, TN.

For more information about the award-winning project, contact Mary Rump at the East Central Iowa Council of Governments at (319) 365-9941.

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**Since 1967 the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) has provided advocacy, education, networking, and research for the national network of 540 regional development organizations. NADO members provide professional, programmatic and technical assistance to over 2,300 counties and 15,000 municipalities.**