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## News Release

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### States to Develop Innovative Strategies to Improve Transportation and Land Use Planning

#### New NGA Center Policy Academy to Focus on Improved Performance, Increased Mobility, Lower Emissions and Higher Value Investments

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**WASHINGTON**—Many states confront a transportation system that is not meeting the needs of its citizens because it is out of date, stressed beyond capacity, financially unsustainable or inefficient. To work against these substantial issues, the NGA Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) has selected five states – **Colorado, Maryland, Tennessee, Washington** and **West Virginia** – to develop and implement innovative solutions through its Policy Academy on *Shaping a New Approach to Transportation and Land Use Planning*.

Through the Policy Academy, the selected states will work over a 10-month period to:

- Establish new governance models, such as a cabinet-level office or a new regulatory body, that will work to align infrastructure development and state goals;
- Create a new planning framework that addresses the state's unique needs and concerns for mobility, accessibility, emissions, financial stability, demographics, climate and topography;
- Adapt new funding and financing approaches, that better reflect user costs and benefits, manage demand and help pay for transportation system management and maintenance; and
- Develop enhanced goals and metrics that best reflect the state's transportation goals.

"The U.S. transportation system is facing significant challenges that affect states in all regions of the country – areas both urban and rural – and impact consumers and industries across multiple economic sectors," said **John Thomasian, director of the NGA Center**. "States that begin to adjust their approach to transportation and land use planning have the opportunity to increase mobility and transportation choices, enhance economic growth and competitiveness, lower emissions, improve quality of life and make smart investment decisions. Through this Policy Academy, the selected states will help confront the country's most challenging transportation issues."

A Policy Academy is a highly interactive team-based process for helping a select number of states develop and implement an action plan to address a complex public policy issue. Participating states receive guidance and technical assistance from NGA Center staff and faculty experts as well as consultants from the private sector, research organizations, academia and the federal government. The strategies and policies developed by the selected states are intended to serve as ideas and best practices for all states.

The *Shaping a New Approach to Transportation and Land Use Planning* Policy Academy is made possible through funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, with additional funding from the Surdna Foundation.

To learn more about this initiative and other NGA Center Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Division efforts, visit [www.nga.org/center/eenr](http://www.nga.org/center/eenr).

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*Founded in 1908, the National Governors Association (NGA) is the collective voice of the nation's governors and one of Washington, D.C.'s, most respected public policy organizations. Its members are the governors of the 50 states, three territories and two commonwealths. NGA provides governors and their senior staff members with services that range from representing states on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on key federal issues to developing and implementing innovative solutions to public policy challenges through the NGA Center for Best Practices. For more information, visit [www.nga.org](http://www.nga.org).*

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