

# Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

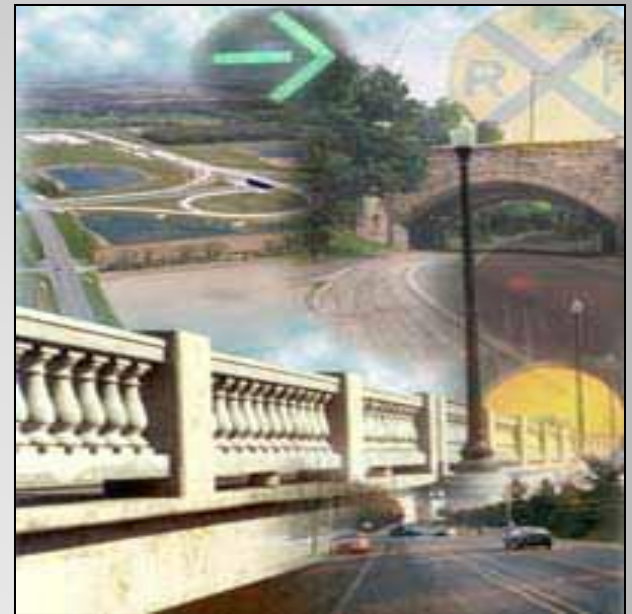
MUMPO 2012 Orientation

***The Forum for Transportation  
Decision making for the Metropolitan  
Planning Area***



**The MPO**

- The development of strategies for operating, managing and financing the area's multi-modal transportation system
- These strategies ensure that the area's long-term goals and needs are met



## Transportation Planning

- An MPO is a transportation decision-making body made up of representatives from local governments and transportation authorities
- An MPO is designated in urbanized areas with a population greater than 50,000 people
- An Urbanized area with a population over 200,000 is designated a Transportation Management Area (TMA)

**What is an MPO?**

1. To ensure that proposed transportation plans and programs are developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3-C) planning process
2. Establish a vision and goals
3. Evaluate multi-modal alternatives
4. Involve the public
5. Make sound transportation decisions

**What are the MPO's functions?**

- Policy Board
  - Local Elected and Appointed Officials
  - Representatives of Major Modes of Transportation (public and private)
  - State Officials
  - Citizens
  - Tribal Governments
- Supported by:
  - MPO Staff
  - Technical Committees
  - Citizens Committee

**MPO Composition** (required after 1991)

- Establish policy and be a forum for decision making
- Develop a regional vision
- Establish a list of priorities
- Ensure that the decisions reflect the concerns of citizens of the region

## **Role of the board**

- Define existing transportation system, land use, and economics
- Project future socio-economic data and population
- Determine transportation vision, goals and needs
- Match needs to projected resources
- Consider benefits and costs
- Resolve conflicts in resource allocation

**What are the MPO's functions?**

- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Congestion Management Process (CMP)
- Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Public Participation Plans (PPP)
- Air Quality Conformity Analysis & Finding (non-attainment and maintenance areas)

**What are the Metropolitan Planning Products Required by Law and Regulation?**

- Lists the metropolitan area's 1-2 year program of planning studies
- Identifies sources of funding, schedules and responsible agencies
- Coordinates the planning undertaken by all participants in the regional process
- Describes all federally-funded studies
- Lays out MPO's Strategic Plan

## **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

- Multi-modal coverage
- Documents conclusions and decisions of the planning process
- Includes long term and short term policies, strategies, and actions
- Covers capital improvements and operations
- Addresses movement of people and goods
- 20-year planning horizon at time of adoption
- Financially constrained

# The Transportation Plan

- At least a 20-year horizon
- Updated every 4 years
- Identification of transportation facilities
- Fiscally constrained
- Early and continuous public involvement
- Air Quality Conformity

## **Transportation Plan Requirements**

- A project must be consistent with the approved transportation plan
- A list of multi-modal transportation projects to be implemented within the short-term (4 years)
- Includes all projects proposed for federal funding
- Includes all regionally significant projects
- Identifies funding for each project by programmatic source

## **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

- Covers at least 4 years
- Updated at least every 4 years
- Consistent with approved Transportation Plan
- Can be amended and modified
- Include all regionally significant projects
- Conforms to air quality requirements
- Is financially constrained by year
- Is approved by MPO and Governor
- Becomes part of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

## Requirements for the TIP

- Provide timely information about transportation issues and processes
- Seek public review and comment, including groups traditionally underserved by transportation
- Respond to public comments
- Provide access to key decisions
- Continuing involvement of the public in developing plans and TIPs



## Objectives of Public Involvement

- MPOs must periodically evaluate and update public participation plan (PPP)
- Plan must be proactive and provide for:
  - Complete information and timely public notice
  - Early and continuing involvement
  - Full public access to key decisions
  - Explicit consideration and response to input
  - Electronic availability
  - Include visualization techniques

## **Federal Requirements for Public Participation**

- The MPO is responsible for actively seeking the participation of all relevant agencies and stakeholders in the planning process
- No single agency has the sole responsibility for the construction, operation, or the maintenance of the entire transportation system.

**Transportation Planning and how the MPO, state DOT, and other agencies relate**

- The MPO prioritizes what it believes is important for its urbanized area
- Transportation improvements should reflect the goals and objectives of the MPO planning area.
- The FHWA does not impede on local decisions

***If there was one theme to remember,  
this is it....***

**Thank You**  
**Questions??????**

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