Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Planning
Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs)
State Programs Meeting 8/7/13

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Topic Agenda

1. Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Planning – new or revised provisions in MAP-21
2. Duties of RTPOs
3. Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program (TPCB)
MAP-21

- SAFETEA-LU expired on 9/30/09
- MAP-21 Passed on July 6, 2012
- MAP-21 Effective Date October 1, 2012
Statewide & Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning – *New or Revised Provisions*

- Formerly “Statewide Transportation Planning” (SAFETEA-LU), now “Statewide & Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning”
- New provision - States may establish and designate Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) for purposes of conducting rural transportation planning.

It’s Optional
Consultation becomes Cooperation
Statewide & Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning – New or Revised Provisions (Cont.)

• Scope of the Statewide Planning Process

“In carrying out planning…with respect to nonmetropolitan areas, each State shall cooperate with affected local officials with responsibility for transportation or, if applicable, through regional transportation planning organizations.” (49 U.S.C. 5304(e)(1))
Transit at the Table I and II

Metropolitan Planning Process

- State DOTs
- Other (Modes, stakeholders, civic and business associations, etc.)

MPOs

Transit Agencies

- Transit agency involvement with the MPO is important
- Increased transit participation in the MPO process can:
  - Improve transit agency staffing resources
  - Improve transit agency influence
  - Leverage additional funding opportunities.
Statewide Planning Process  
*State DOT*

Transit Agencies serving rural/non-urbanized areas  
(population under 50,000)

Who is in the black box? What role do they play?

Regional Planning Dev. Org  
RTPOs  
Local Governments

*You mean we've all been playing different songs? I wonder how long that's been going on...*
Statewide & Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning

Long Range Statewide Transportation Plan
Shall be developed in cooperation with (49 U.S.C. 5304(f)(2)(b)(i))

— In nonmetropolitan areas - affected nonmetropolitan officials with responsibility for transportation or, if applicable, through Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO)
— In metropolitan areas – with MPOs.
Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Shall be developed

- In nonmetropolitan areas - in cooperation with affected nonmetropolitan local officials with responsibility for transportation or if applicable, through RTPO's. (5304(g)(2)(B))
- In metropolitan areas, in cooperation with MPOs. (5304(g)(2)(A))
Statewide & Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning - RTPOs

- **Optional** – State Designation of Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs)
  - States may establish and designate RTPOs to enhance statewide planning.
  - An RTPO shall be established as a multi jurisdictional organization of nonmetropolitan local officials and reps of local transportation systems.
  - RTPO’s shall establish a policy committee, the majority of which are non-metro local officials, and as appropriate, reps from the State, private business, transportation service providers, economic development practitioners and the public in the region.
Statewide & Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning - RTPO’s (cont.)

- RTPO shall establish a fiscal and administrative agent, such as an existing regional planning and development organization to provide professional planning, management, and administrative support

- RTPO Duties-
  - Regional long-range multimodal transportation plans
  - Regional TIPs
  - Coordination of local planning, land use and econ. dev.
Statewide & Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning - RTPO Duties (cont.)

– Technical assistance to local officials
– Participating in National, multi-state, State policy and planning development processes
– Provide a forum for public participation in regional and statewide planning
– Sharing plans and programs with neighboring RTPOs and MPOs and tribal organizations
– States without RTPOs shall consult with the affected nonmetropolitan local officials.
Statewide & Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning

**Funding to support RTPOs**

- Statewide Planning & Research (SP&R) Funds
  - States can use SPR funds to fund RTPOs (5305(e))
- Statewide and non-metropolitan planning and metropolitan planning are eligible for Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds.
- Statewide and non-metropolitan planning and metropolitan planning are not eligible for National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) funds.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

• If my state already has Rural Planning Organizations, will they still need to designate to be considered a RTPO?
  – Yes; MAP-21 changes to the statute describe the establishment and designation of an RTPO as an activity taking place after MAP-21 – a “State may establish and designate” RTPOs.

• Will FTA and FHWA produce guidance on the topic of RTPOs?
  – Yes; Clarifying information such as FAQs and/or guidance will be prepared after the joint planning regulations are finalized.
For more information

- Webinars – *Transportation Planning Information Exchange Series*
- Fact sheets and Q&As
- Planning NPRM
Contact Information

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