Future Demands on Interstates

A Briefing on the Role of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in Predicting and Programming for Future Demands on Interstates

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Purpose

• What is an Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?
• MPO requirements
• Relationship of MPOs to the larger picture of transportation planning
• Relation to Section 6021 (Future Interstates Study) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015
What is an MPO?

- A transportation **policy-making and planning body** with representatives of local, state & federal government and transportation authorities
- A forum for cooperative decision making involving key stakeholders
- Federal **requirement** in Census urbanized areas of 50,000 or more
- At >200,000, designated a Transportation Management Area (TMA)
- After the 2010 Census, as many as 420 MPOs
- The Policy Committee or Board is the designated MPO, not the staff
What is an MPO?

• The history of MPOs...
  – In 1964, Congress stipulated that metropolitan areas had to have a transportation planning process that was comprehensive, cooperative, continuing (3C)
  – In 1973, Congress created a home for the 3C process, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, which was required to bring local officials into decision making
  – In 1991, ISTEA gave MPOs more authority and changed the way we do planning
  – 2016 Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act)
Who is the MPO?

- Elected Officials
- State Agencies
- Municipalities, Counties & Regional Agencies
- Transit Operators
- Federal Agencies
- Public
- Private Sector
- Interest Groups
“Typical” MPO Governance Structure

MPO Policy Board

- Executive/Management Committee
- Citizens Advisory Committee
- Planning Committee (Subcommittees)
- Other Special Standing and ad hoc Committees
- MPO Professional Staff
MPO Federally Required Products

• Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
  – Goals, Objectives, Actions
  – 20+ years, Fiscally Constrained
• Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
  – 4+ years, Projects to implement the LRTP
• Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
  – Tasks to accomplish planning activities
• Participation Plan
  – Communication with the public(s) and key affected groups
  – Environmental Justice/Limited English Proficiency
MPO Federally Required Products

• Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan
  – How to make best use of transit operations

• Congestion Management Process (CMP)
  – Required only in TMAs
  – Identifies congestion in all modes, and mitigation strategies

• Air Quality planning in non-attainment areas
  – The LRTP and TIP are subject to conformity analysis
• Methodologies: “intergovernmental roles”
• Considerations: “future demands on transportation infrastructure determined for nation planning purposes, including commercial and private flows to serve future economic activity and growth”

• Same mission as Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
Review of Past Committee Briefings

• September 2016
  – FHWA Administrator Greg Nadeau – Megaregions
  – Ross Crichton – FHWA- 2013 Report to Congress – Interstates Part of Larger Transportation Network

• December 2016
  – Tianjia Tang – FHWA – Travel Demand Forecasting
  – Christopher Caplice – MIT – Freight Flows/Trends
  – Darnell Grisby – APTA – Changing Housing Patterns
  – Peter Sweatman – CAVita – Challenges: Safety, Mobility, Environmental
  – Alan Pisarki – We are a Large Metro Nation
  – Brian Watts – Florida Statewide Transportation Plan
MPOs and Travel Demand Model Innovations

- Advanced Activity Based Models – Simulating All Person Trips Instead of Just Generic Home-Work
- SHRP2 – C20 Freight Behavior Based Modeling
- SHRP2 – C10 Fine-Grained, Time Sensitive Network
- SHRP2 – L04 Reliability in Simulation and Planning Models
MPOs and FHWA/FTA Performance Measures

• MAP-21 Required Performance Measures – Targets
  – Safety – Fatalities/Injuries – Interstates/National Highway System
  – Infrastructure Condition – Pavement/Bridge Condition
  – Congestion/System Reliability
  – Freight Movement
  – Environmental Sustainability
  – Transit Asset Management
Want More Information?

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