FTA/FHWA Role in the Metropolitan Planning Process

April 17, 2015

FTA Office of Planning and Environment
FTA and FHWA Roles

FTA

FHWA

MPO

The Public
Stakeholders

The State
Transit Operators

Private Sector

Local Jurisdictions
Role of FTA and FHWA

1. Review/Approval of Planning Products
   • Unified Planning Work Program
   • Metropolitan Transportation Plan
   • Transportation Improvement Program
   • State Transportation Improvement Program

2. Planning Oversight
   • MPO Certification Review
   • Planning Finding
   • Air Quality Conformity

3. Technical Assistance and Training
Role of the MPO

- MPO is decision-making authority for spending federal-aid transportation funds
- MPO is the Policy Board, supported by staff who provide supportive technical resources
- MPO Policy Board decisions result from consultation, coordination, and consideration with State and local partners
- Public and Stakeholder participation important throughout planning process
MPO and Intergovernmental Relations

Roles and Responsibilities of MPO Participants

- **MPO Policy Board** – Adopts all MPO planning Products
- **MPO Committees** – Advisor to MPO Board
- **MPO “Agency” Staff** – Manage planning activities
- **State DOT, Transit Providers and Local Government Agencies** – Participate in the planning process and the development of the required planning products.
FTA and FHWA Roles

Discussion Questions

• Do you work closely with your respective MPOs?

• Do you participate on a technical advisory committee?

• Which MPO planning products do you review?

• Does another entity (State DOT, local government entity, transit agency) do your coordinated human service transportation plans?
Decision-making Context: Planning Affects Project Development and Grant Award

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Grant Award Context: A Continuum of Decision-making

1. Unified Planning Work Program -

- Public involvement and stakeholder engagement
- Data collection, surveys, model development, GIS
- Performance analysis, corridor studies, needs studies
- **Products**: Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), others
Grant Award Context: A Continuum of Decision-making

2. Metropolitan Transportation Plan

• 20-Year Transportation Vision for Metropolitan Area
• Fiscally Constrained with “Reasonable” Costs/Revenues
• Informed by Public and Stakeholder Engagement
• Adopted by MPO Board
Grant Award Context:
A Continuum of Decision-making

3. Transportation Improvement Program

- Priority projects from Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Fiscally constrained, detailing revenues and costs
- Prepared cooperatively with the State & transit providers
- Approved by MPO and
Grant Award Context: A Continuum of Decision-making

4. State Transportation Improvement (STIP)

- State compilation of projects from all MPOs’ TIPs
- Fiscally constrained, detailing revenues and costs
- Approved by the State and subsequently by FTA/FHWA
- Projects in the STIP are Eligible for Federal Grants
Grant Award Context: A Continuum of Decision-making

5. Projects Selected from STIP for Grant Award
   • Year 1 of STIP is Implementation Priority
   • Later-Year Projects May Advance with STIP Revision

6. FTA Grant Application for Year 1 in STIP
   • Scope and Cost Must Agree with STIP

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Grant Award
Planning Process and Project Development

1. Regional Vision and Goals
2. Alternate Improvement Strategies (Operations, Capital)
3. Evaluation & Prioritization of Strategies
4. Development of Transportation Plan (LRP)
5. Development of Transportation Improvement Programs (S/TIP)
6. Project Development
7. Systems Operations (Implementation)
8. Monitor System Performance (Data)

CRITICAL FACTORS AND INPUTS:
- Fiscal Constraint
- Public Involvement
- Data
- Environmental Quality
- Air Quality
- Safety
- Non-Discrimination

UPWP
MTP
TIP/STIP
GRANT
Planning Issue – Poor public involvement leads to:

- Lack of awareness of proposed projects
- Public opposition to proposed projects
- Unanticipated environmental justice/Title VI issues
- Withdrawal of support by State or local officials

How to Address

- Review MPOs Public Participation Plan (PPP)
- Are public involvement activities in the UPWP?
Grant Award Context: A Continuum of Decision-making

Planning Affecting Grants: Public Involvement

How to Address (cont.)

– Hold events in the community
– Coordinate with community institutions (churches, schools, neighborhood associations)
– Use social media
– Reach limited English proficiency with interpreters and bi-lingual information
– Workshops, charrettes and information sessions