“Transportation Planning 101”

Introduction to the Purpose & Function of Transportation Planning
What is a MPO?

- A transportation **policy-making and planning body** with representatives of local, state & federal government and transportation authorities.

- Required in **urbanized areas** of 50,000+

- Ensures federal spending on transportation occurs through a **comprehensive, cooperative and continuing (3-C) process**

- Variety of **organizational arrangements** - “hosted” by another agency; stand-alone; existing agency designated as MPO
Northern New England MPOs

- Vermont
  - Chittenden County MPO (Burlington)
- New Hampshire
  - Nashua
  - Manchester
  - Salem/Plaistow
  - Dover/Rochester
  - Portsmouth
- Maine
  - Kittery
  - Portland
  - Lewiston/Auburn
  - Bangor
Why an MPO?

- Transportation investment means **allocating scarce transportation funding resources appropriately**
- Planning needs to reflect the **region’s shared vision** for its future
- Requires a **comprehensive examination of the region’s future and investment alternatives**
- MPO **facilitates collaboration** of governments, interested parties and residents
Who is the MPO?

- Elected Officials
- State Agencies
- Municipalities, Counties, & Regional Agencies
- Transit Operators
- Federal Agencies
- Public
- Private Sector
- Interest Groups
MPO Functions/Products

Five Core Functions:

1. Establish a setting – fair & impartial, evaluate transportation alternatives
2. Develop planning work program (UPWP)
3. Maintain a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
4. Develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
5. Involve the public – residents and key affected subgroups (PIP)
## MPO Products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Time Horizon</th>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Update Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UPWP</strong></td>
<td>1-2 Years</td>
<td>Planning Studies, Tasks, Budget</td>
<td>Annual or Every 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LRTP</strong></td>
<td>20 Years (min.)</td>
<td>Future Goals, Strategies &amp; Projects</td>
<td>Every 5 Years (3 years for non-attainment/maintenance TMAs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25 Years (preferred)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TIP</strong></td>
<td>4 Years</td>
<td>Transportation Investments/Projects</td>
<td>Every 1-2 years (varies by state)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How is Transportation Planning Funded?

- **MPO’s**
  - Primarily through Federal Highway (FHWA) funds and Federal Transit (FTA) funds.
  - Federal funds are typically matched with State and/or municipal funds.
  - Outlined in the UPWP

- **Rural areas**
  - Combination of Federal and State funding.
  - Typically a direct contract between Regional Planning Agencies and/ or consultants and the State DOT.
UPWP

- Lists studies & tasks to be performed by MPO and/or member agencies (with MPO funds)
- Covers 1 or 2 years
- Funding sources for each study/task
- Basis for PL contract & FTA 5303 transferability
- Schedules
- Responsible agencies for each study/task
LRTP

- Statement of region’s transportation system investment priorities and plans
- Minimum 20-year time horizon
- Consistent with Statewide Transportation Plan
- Intermodal/multimodal in nature
- Clearly link with land use and economic goals & plans
- Be fiscally-constrained
- Update every 5 years (3 years in non-attainment areas)
- Prioritized listing of projects (in some cases)
LRTP

Data on Existing Conditions

Forecasts of Future Conditions

Vision & Goals

Analysis & Evaluation

Strategies:
- Transportation
- Land Use
- Access
- Investment

Impacts, Benefits, etc.

Public & Stakeholder Involvement & Feedback

Recommended Plan

Implementation Strategy:
- Phasing
- Financing
- Responsibilities
- Institutional Structures
TIP

- Four-year program covering most immediate projects & strategies for implementation
- Allocates limited transportation resources among region’s priorities
- Updated every 1-2 years, depending on state requirements
- Not a “wish list” – fiscally constrained
- Incorporated into Statewide TIP without change once approved
Public Involvement

- **Public Involvement Plan (PIP)**
  - Required document
  - Need to clearly lay out process, strategy and responsibilities for ensuring continuous opportunities for public input and education
  - Environmental Justice/ Civil Rights critical

- **Citizens Advisory Committee** (in some cases)

- **Innovation in public involvement** can both enhance the process and make it more cost-effective
“Typical” MPO Structure

- MPO Policy Board
- Executive/Management Committee
- Citizens Advisory Committee
- Technical Committee
  - Subcommittees
- Other Special Standing and ad hoc Committees
- MPO Professional Staff
“Typical” MPO Structure

Policy Committee ("the MPO")
- Local elected & appointed officials
- Modal representatives
- State agency officials
- Interest group representatives
- Tribal Governments