



FACT SHEET

FTA Section 5303 Program Metropolitan Transportation Planning

Program Purpose

Provides funding and procedural requirements for multimodal transportation planning in metropolitan areas and states that is cooperative, continuous, and comprehensive, resulting in long-range plans and short-range programs of transportation investment priorities. The planning programs are jointly administered by FTA and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), which provides additional funding.

Statutory References

49 U.S.C. Section 5303 / MAP-21 Section 20005 – Metropolitan transportation planning

Eligible Applicants

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO)

Eligible Activities

Develop transportation plans and programs, plan, design and evaluate a public transportation project, and conduct technical studies related to public transportation.

Funding

The Federal share is 80% formula-based with a required 10% State and 10% Local match.

What's New?

Establishes a Performance-Based Planning Process

- Requires MPOs and states to develop transportation plans and transportation improvement programs through a performance-driven, outcome-based approach to planning.
- Requires MPOs to establish performance targets that address both the surface transportation performance measures set forth in 23 U.S.C 150(c), in coordination with the state, and public transportation performance measures in coordination with providers of public transportation, to ensure consistency with performance targets related to transit asset management and transit safety, as set forth in 49 U.S.C. 5326(c) and 5329(d).
- MPO plans must include performance targets that address performance measures and standards and a System Performance Report.
- Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) must include a description of the anticipated progress brought about by implementing the TIP toward achieving the performance targets.

Metropolitan & Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning

What's New? (cont.)

- By October 1, 2017, DOT must submit a Report to Congress evaluating the effectiveness of performance-based planning and assessing the technical capacity of MPOs in smaller areas to undertake performance-based planning.

Supports Optional Scenario Development

- MPOs may undertake Scenario Development in preparing the metropolitan transportation plan and are encouraged to consider alternative demographic growth and revenue options.

Requires Transit Representation on MPO Policy Boards in Large Urbanized Areas

- Within two years, MPOs in urbanized areas designated as transportation management areas must include transit officials on their policy boards.

Allows Designation of Regional Transportation Planning Organizations

- Regional transportation planning organizations may be designated, comprised of volunteer local government and transportation officials to assist the state in addressing the needs of nonmetropolitan areas.

Authorizes Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Pilot Program

- Creates a pilot program for TOD planning around new fixed guideway or core capacity projects.

Ongoing Provisions

- Documents: Unified Planning Work Program, Transportation Plan, TIP, Public Participation Plan, and Congestion Management Process.
- Concepts: Eight planning factors, Certification of Transportation Management Areas.