



ASSOCIATION OF  
METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING  
ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF STATE HIGHWAY AND  
TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS

**AASHTO**

April 26, 2016

Gregory G. Nadeau  
Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Extension of Commenting Period for Docket No. FHWA-2013-0054**

Dear Administrator Nadeau:

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) are requesting that the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) extend the comment period for the National Performance Management Measures; Assessing Performance of the National Highway System, Freight Movement on the Interstate System, and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program; Proposed Rule (Docket Number FHWA-2013-0054) until October 19, 2016 (60 days beyond the 120 days provided in the docket). This request is not being made lightly or to delay the implementation of the MAP-21 performance management regulations; rather, it is meant to provide the State Departments of Transportation (State DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) with adequate time to provide the USDOT with a substantive response that will serve as valuable input to the rulemaking process.

AASHTO and AMPO have been working with our respective member departments and organizations to prepare comments for this notice of proposed rulemakings (NPRM). After initial discussions with our State DOT and MPO members concerning the Assessing Performance of the National Highway System (NHS), Freight Movement on the Interstate System, and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program NPRM, it became apparent that the scope and complexity of this NPRM far exceeds the breadth and depth of other NPRMs and will require a more extensive review by the State DOTs, coordination by AASHTO and AMPO staff, and coordination with our member departments in order to provide the USDOT with a comprehensive and robust response.

For example, this NPRM covers the following five substantive areas that will require the coordination of numerous experts and practitioners within State DOTs and MPOs:

1. General implementation and integration of performance measures and targets into the transportation planning process;

2. Assessment of proposed performance measures related to the performance of the NHS;
3. Assessment of proposed performance measures related to the performance of freight operation on the Interstate System;
4. Assessment of proposed on-road mobile source emissions for CMAQ projects; and
5. Development, calculation and assessment of potential greenhouse gas (GHG) performance measures.

There are three reasons for our request. First, we anticipate the number of personnel to be consulted at the State and MPO level is significantly higher compared to previous NPRMs. Second, the USDOT has included a specific request about potential GHG performance measures which, as part of our initial assessment, goes significantly beyond the statutory authority given to the USDOT by Congress under the MAP-21 legislation to develop and implement national-level performance measures. This request alone from the USDOT will require a significant amount time and resources for the State DOTs and AASHTO staff as well as the MPOs and AMPO staff, to review and address. Finally, we would like to better understand how these proposed rules will intersect with the updated FHWA/FT Joint Planning Rule which is anticipated to be published in May 2016.

AASHTO and AMPO are requesting that the USDOT provide an additional 60 days of commenting time with a revised closing date of October 19, 2016. We believe that this additional time will enable the State DOTs, MPOs, and AASHTO/AMPO staff to provide the USDOT with more comprehensive and substantive comments; ultimately leading to an enhanced rulemaking outcome that accurately reflects Congressional intent behind MAP-21.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter and we look forward to providing the USDOT with a comprehensive response to this NPRM. If you would like to discuss this issue any further, please contact Matthew Hardy, AASHTO's Program Director for Planning and Performance Management, at (202) 624-3625 or Bill Keyrouze, AMPO's Manager of Technical Programs, at (202) 624-3683.

Sincerely,



Bud Wright  
Executive Director



DeLania Hardy  
Executive Director