

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF AN MPO

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Purpose

- What is an MPO?
- MPO requirements
- Relationship of MPOs to the larger picture of transportation planning
- Federal law



What is an MPO?

- A transportation **policy-making and planning body** with representatives of local, state & federal government and transportation authorities
- Federal law **requires** in **urbanized areas** of 50,000 +
- 384 MPOs in the US
- 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

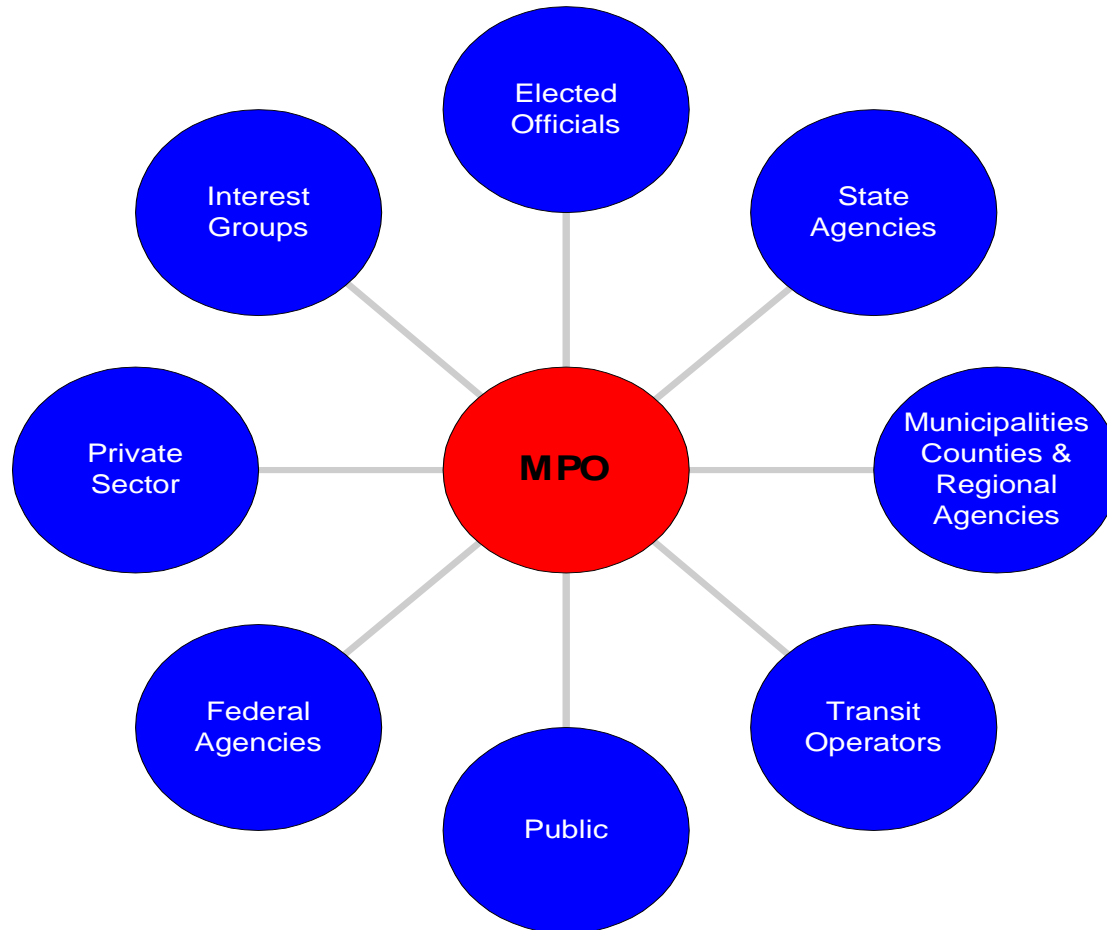


Federal Finances for an MPO

- MPOs receive Federal funds
 - Highway
 - Transit
- 20% match requirement to the Federal funds



Who is the MPO?



Why an MPO?

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





MPO Federally Required Functions

- Establish a setting – fair & impartial
 - Evaluation of transportation alternatives
 - Maintain a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
 - Develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - Involve the public – residents and key affected subgroups
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MPO Products

	Time Horizon	Contents	Update Requirements
Unified Planning Work Program	1-2 years	Planning Studies Tasks Budget	Annual
Metropolitan Transportation Plan	20 years (minimum)	Future Goals Strategies and Products	4 years for air quality nonattainment and maintenance areas; 5 years for air quality attainment areas
Transportation Improvement Program	4 years	Transportation Investment Projects	4 years



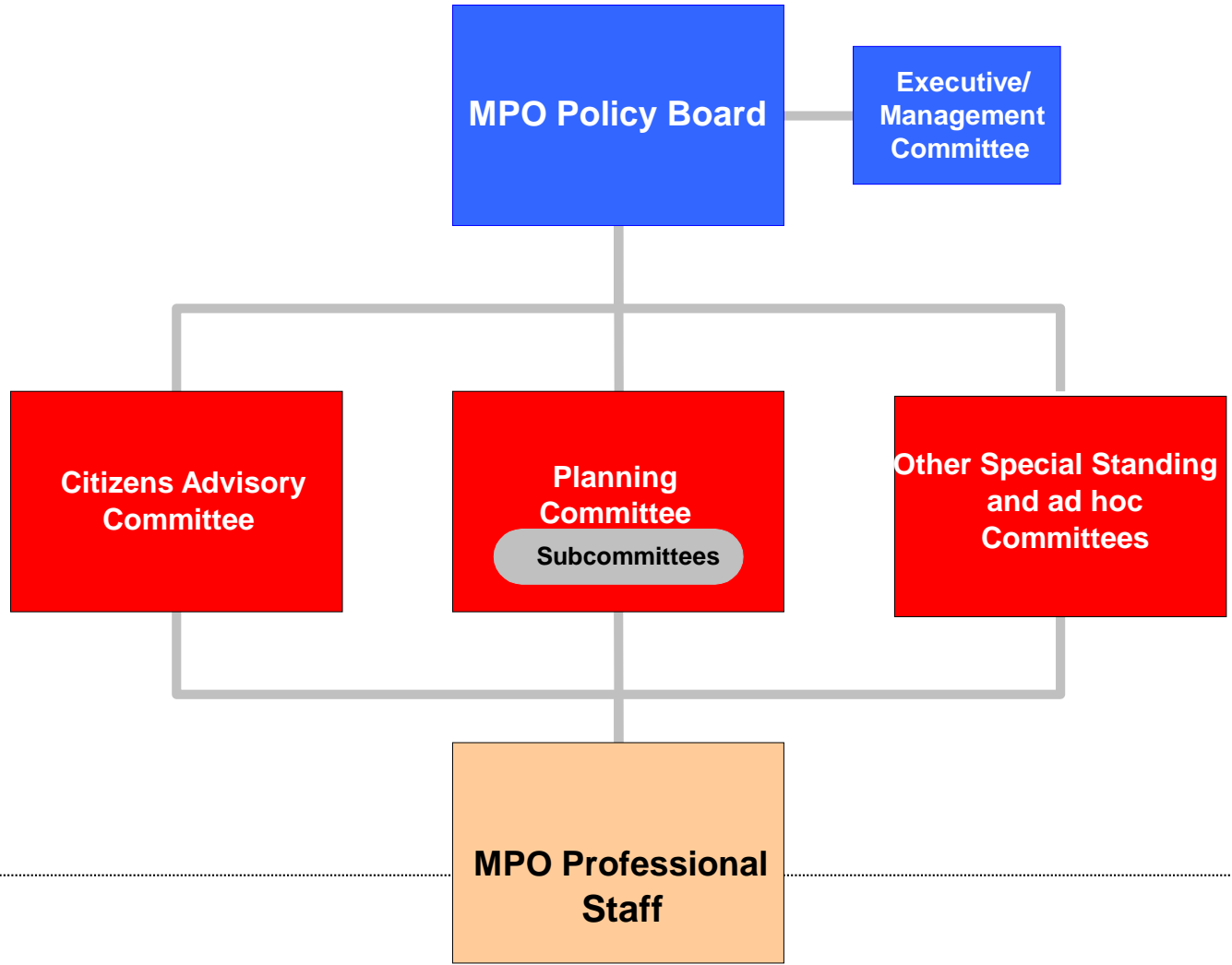
Subjects for MPO Long Range Plans

MAP 21 required planning factors:

- **Economic vitality**
- **Safety**
- **Security**
- **Accessibility and mobility**
- **Environmental areas, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life**
- **Integration and connectivity**
- **Management & operations**
- **Preservation**



“Typical” MPO Structure



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Planning Committee:

- An advisory body to the MPO Board for transportation issues, primarily technical in nature
- Oversees MPO technical work and develops recommendations on projects and programs for Board consideration
- Meets on regular schedule
- Usually comprised of staff-level officials of local, state & federal agencies



“Typical” MPO Structure

Citizen Advisory Committee

- Acts in an advisory capacity to MPO on public involvement strategies
- Meets regularly to review and develop plans and also assists in organizing and managing public meetings and comments
- Comprised of members of the public
 - Often appointed by localities and MPO policy board
 - May include representatives of community, environmental & other interested parties



Resources

- Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program – www.planning.dot.gov/metro.asp
 - *The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process: Key Issues – A Briefing Notebook for MPO Board Members*
- Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) www.ampopo.org



Resources

- Federal Highway Administration
(www.fhwa.dot.gov)
- FHWA Resource Centers
(www.fhwa.dot.gov/resoucecenter)
- Federal Transit Administration
(www.fta.dot.gov)



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