



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**



**Federal Transit
Administration**

Seeking Public Input for FHWA and FTA's Certification of NJTPA's Planning Process

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What is a Certification Review?

At least once every four years, FHWA Divisions and FTA Regions formally review the **transportation planning process of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO)** with urbanized area populations of 200,000 or more.

FHWA and FTA evaluate the transportation planning process for compliance with Federal requirements.



What is a Certification Review?

Part of FHWA and FTA's oversight is to ensure that the planning process is producing the required products and the MPO and its staff are addressing the needs of its member jurisdictions.

Done in the spirit of cooperation to help enhance the quality of the transportation planning process.

FHWA and FTA undertake a stewardship role to determine what is or is not working and, when appropriate, to *help* make improvements.



What is the Federal Planning Process?

Process by which transportation decisions are made and projects are planned, selected and prioritized for implementation within your region.

Why is this important?

- Decides how your share of federal transportation funding is spent
- Gain understanding of how NJTPA prioritizes limited funding to best meet regional needs
- Lays the framework for the future transportation system



Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process

Who is involved?

- NJTPA
 - Policy Board
 - Technical Advisory Committee
 - Citizen Advisory Committee
- New Jersey Department of Transportation
- NJ TRANSIT
- Local Public Transportation Providers
- Transportation Management Associations
- Local Citizens
- Interest Groups
- All local municipalities
- FHWA and FTA
- Bergen County
- Hudson County
- Morris County
- Sussex County
- Warren County
- Union County
- Essex County
- Middlesex County
- Ocean County
- Monmouth County
- Passaic County
- Hunterdon County
- Somerset County
- Newark
- Jersey City
- Patterson



Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process

Products of the process include:

- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- Congestion Management Process (CMP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Public Participation Plan (PPP)



Unified Planning Work Program

The UPWP describes the following:

- Planning priorities in the metropolitan planning area
- Planning activities to be completed
- Who will complete work
- Cost and schedule to complete work
- Financial summary of Federal, State, and local funding
- Description of all metropolitan transportation planning and transportation-related air-quality planning activities



Metropolitan Transportation Plan

The MTP describes the following:

- 20-year multimodal guide to regional transportation needs and potential solutions
- Financially feasible
- Contains:
 - Financial plans
 - Local goals and objectives
 - Public and stakeholder involvement



Congestion Management Process

The CMP provides short-term and long-term strategies:

- Short-term – looks at current traffic and transit problems and tries to solve them
- Long-term – seeks to prevent problems from occurring



Transportation Improvement Program

The TIP provides:

- 4-years of financially feasible projects
- Document prioritizing regional projects for funding and implementation
- If the region has air quality problems, the mix of projects in the TIP must be within given air quality emission limits



Public Participation Plan

MPOs and their planning partners shall develop PPPs so the public can be involved in all their work including:

- MTP
- TIP
- CMP
- Air Quality Conformity

It is important that all voices are heard during public participation, including those from traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities.



What are the components of the certification review?

Review of MPO's written procedures and policies, required planning documents, and other planning documents.

On-site review with MPO staff, member agencies, other stakeholders, and the public.

Final report delivered to the MPO with findings from the review.



What types of findings come out of the report?

Corrective actions: Items that the MPO must address in order for the planning process to be compliant with regulations.

Recommendations: Ideas for improving the MPO's planning process in ways that go beyond regulatory compliance.

Commendations: Best practices and exemplary efforts that are worthy of formal recognition.



Topics Covered in this Certification Review

- Planning Process
- Panel Discussion with NJTPA Board, TMAs, and RTAC Chair/Vice Chair
- UPWP Development
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Policy and Program
- MTP Development
- Multi-Modal Planning Process
- TIP Development and Project Selection



Topics Covered in this Certification Review

- Air Quality Conformity and CMAQ
- Local Technical Support Programs
- Local Safety Programs and Local Safety Engineering Assistance Program
- Planning and Environmental Linkages
- Freight Planning
- Public Engagement and Outreach
- Performance-Based Planning & Performance Measures
- Consultation & Coordination



Where do you (the public) come in?



What feedback are we looking for from you?

- In what ways does NJTPA currently plan well for the region?
- What can be improved?
- How well does NJTPA's planning process currently include you and your interests?



When will comments be accepted?

The comment period is currently underway!

Comments will be accepted until December 2, 2022.



What will be done with public comments?

The comments will be summarized in the final report to NJTPA for its consideration.



Disabled and needing assistance?

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids for services at the public meeting should contact NJTPA by calling (973) 639-8447 or e-mailing njtpa@njtpa.org.

Please reach out to NJTPA at least five days prior to the public meeting so that arrangements can be made to provide accommodations.



Questions and Comments?

Please feel free to reach out to the following federal individuals if you have additional questions or comments to provide:

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