MPO and Federal Legislative Issues

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2013 NCAMPO Conference
Winston Salem, NC
Overview

MAP-21
Implementation of planning provisions
Funding issues and outlook
Reauthorization outlook
MAP-21: How did MPOs fare?

• MAP-21 held line on PL funding – slight increase
• Maintained current certification process
• Maintained dedicated funding for transit from the HTF
• STP sub-allocation percentage decreased from 62.5% to 50%, but from a bigger pot
• Bridge funding taken off the top of STP before sub-allocation thus reducing the pot that goes to urbanized areas
• No new authority other than Transportation Alternatives Program project selection
• Less flexibility for CMAQ funds (?)
• No long term funding solution - a two year bill
MAP-21 Changes to Metropolitan Planning

- Transit representation on MPO boards
- Performance Measures
- Transportation Alternatives Program
- CMAQ performance plan for MPOs over 1M population
- Freight Planning

AMPO Task Forces for key issues
AMPO Positions

- Transit Representation on MPO Boards
  We support transit representation.
  Urge flexibility at the local level to decide adequate representation.

- Performance Management
  We support performance measures that are simple, direct, and based upon available, high quality data, and that can be communicated easily to decision-makers and the public.
  USDOT has key role in ensuring quality data is available.
  Need to account for financial constraint requirements.
  Use existing quantitative methods when possible.
MAP-21 Implementation

AMPO Positions, con’t

• Transportation Alternatives Program
  We affirm the program and recommend that MPOs keep the decision-making ability over TA projects.

• Freight Planning
  We support the national freight plan and national goals.
  Involve MPOs in the process.
  AMPO nominated a candidate for the Secretary’s National Freight Advisory Committee.
# Performance Measures – USDOT Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures / Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Safety Measures</th>
<th>Pavement &amp; Bridge Measures</th>
<th>CMAQ, Performance, and Freight Measures</th>
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<td>FY / QUARTER</td>
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<td>Status II</td>
<td>Status III</td>
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<td>Q1</td>
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Rulemaking Timelines

Other Provisions

• Joint FTA/FHWA Planning Rule
  – Unofficial 18-month schedule; draft rule September 2013; 90-day comment; final rule 6-8 months after comment period

• Additional guidance and guidebooks anticipated from USDOT
Looking Ahead

Congress

• Oversight hearings in 2013
  Rich Perrin testified in Congress three weeks ago on behalf of AMPO
• Begin drafting a new transportation bill by the end of 2013
• Introduce legislation, mark-up bill, move through each chamber by Summer 2014
• Conference bills and pass new authorization before end of September 2014
• Or, extend MAP-21

USDOT

• MAP-21 implementation
  Many provisions requiring a rule will not be complete before MAP-21 expires
Funding is the big issue

Recent CBO report on status of the Highway Trust Fund:
• HTF has steadily accumulating shortfalls because current obligations exceed tax receipts
• Since 2008, Congress has transferred $41B from the general fund to the HTF
• Additional transfer of $12.6B authorized for FY 2014
• At the end of MAP-21, shortfall will be $14B
• Options to meet obligations:
  • Reduce obligation authority from $50B to $4B in 2015, or
  • Raise gas tax by $0.10, or
  • Combination
Funding

How do we resolve this?

• No difficult funding decisions were made in MAP-21
  6 year policy bill with 2 years of funding
  Flat funding was considered a victory

Options:

• Gas tax indexing?
• VMT tax – long term fix, or a way to defer action?
• Carbon tax?
• Shale deposit tax?
• General fund transfers?
• Devolution to states?
Looking Ahead

After MAP-21

AMPO Policy Committee Meeting – May 3, 2013
• Not anticipating wholesale policy changes in the next bill
  • Won’t see results of performance measure provisions for 8-9 more years
• Senate pushed for a funded freight program in MAP-21 and may choose to do so again
• Keep on top of revenue issue. Changes may come from other committees and overall tax reform legislation
• Need to talk to our representatives about transportation
  • Sense that “we just did this didn’t we?”
  • MPOs are not well understood by many members
What We Do…

- Management & operations
- Congestion relief
- Healthy communities
- Transit planning
- Economic growth
- Active Traffic Management
- Livable communities
- Climate change
- Vulnerability assessment
- Evacuation planning
- Disaster recovery
- Air quality
- Food system planning
- Shale deposit impact analysis
- Freight planning
- Employment studies

- Regional historic preservation
- Land trusts
- Travel demand management
- Incident response
- Activity based modeling
- Pricing analysis
- Bicycle and pedestrian planning
- Safety outreach
- Safe routes to school
- Military base transportation
- School siting
- Complete streets
- Transit oriented development
- Ports
- Border Crossings
- Regional signal coordination
Join Us!

2013 AMPO Annual Conference
10/22/2013 – 10/25/2013
Location: Embassy Suites Portland – Downtown, Portland, OR
Thank you for your time!

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