

Agenda Item Number 15. B.

Upcoming MPO Certification Review

Presenter: Tom Schwetz

Action Recommended: Information and discussion

Issue Summary:

The Eugene-Springfield MPO area's transition to Transportation Management Area (TMA) status has been discussed by the Board in previous meetings. As part of the transition, the Board passed a resolution at its October meeting delegating its MPO policy responsibilities to MPC. MPC formally accepted those responsibilities at its February meeting.

One of the changes associated with the transition to TMA status has to do with the certification of the MPO process. In the past, the MPO self-certified on an annual basis that the process meets all federal requirements. This certification was formalized each year by the Board as part of the adoption of the Annual Unified Planning Work Program.

With TMA status this process is conducted by representatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on a triennial cycle. The TMA certification review is much more rigorous, taking place over a three-day period. The scope of the review is comprehensive, covering the transportation planning process for the entire area and all agencies involved. The primary elements of the review are listed in the table below. During this period the federal representatives interview staff associated with the process and get input from both elected officials that are part of the process and members of the public.

The process is scheduled to take place on May 6th-8th. This coincides with the May 7th MPC meeting, which is where the federal representatives will get feedback from the MPC members on the MPO process. A public workshop is scheduled for the previous evening (May 6th) which will provide members of the public to make comments on the MPO process.

Upon completion of the review and evaluation, FHWA and FTA must either:

1. Jointly certify that the transportation planning process meets or substantially meets the requirements of 23 CFR 450 Subpart B (the federal requirements for the MPO process);
2. Jointly certify the transportation planning process subject to certain specified corrective actions being taken;
3. Jointly certify the transportation planning process as the basis for approval of only certain categories of programs and projects or;
4. Withhold certification and the approval of certain apportionments and projects.

As noted in items 3 and 4 above, federal project funding and needed federal approvals on environmental documents can be limited or withheld from an area if it's MPO process is not certified.

One of the elements of the Board resolution states that "the Metropolitan Policy Committee shall provide a report to the Board of Directors at least annually on performance of its Metropolitan Planning Organization duties, including the results of any federal certification review". A report from MPC will be provided to the Board once formal results of the certification review are provided by FHWA and FTA.

Primary Elements of Certification Review
Study Area Organizational Structure
Metropolitan Planning Boundaries (450.308)
Agreements and Contracts (450.310 and 312)
Unified Planning Work Program (450.314)
Transportation Planning Process
Metropolitan Transportation Plan Development
TIP and Project Selection
Financial Planning/Fiscal Constraint
Public Outreach
Air Quality
TITLE VI and Related Requirements
Consideration of Intelligent Transportation Systems