



February 27, 2007

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Paul Thompson

Subject: MPC 4.f – Draft FY08 Unified Planning Work Program

### **Action Recommended: Discuss Draft FY08 UPWP**

#### **Issue Summary:**

Each year, the MPO updates and adopts a work program for the coming year. That work program is intended to identify relevant planning efforts anticipated by the MPO and its partner agencies. Attached is a draft of the FY08 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). At the March MPC meeting staff will review the draft UPWP for MPC members. Adoption of the FY08 UPWP will be requested at the April 12<sup>th</sup> MPC meeting.

#### **Relationship of UPWP to Overall MPO Process**

The underlying purpose of the MPO process is to carry out the following core functions:

***Establish a setting:*** Establish and manage a fair and impartial setting for effective regional transportation decision making in the metropolitan area.

***Evaluate alternatives:*** Evaluate transportation alternatives, scaled to the size and complexity of the region, to the nature of its transportation issues, and to the realistically available options.

***Maintain a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP):*** Develop and update a long-range transportation plan for the metropolitan area covering a planning horizon of at least twenty years that fosters (1) mobility and access for people and goods, (2) efficient system performance and preservation, and (3) quality of life.

***Develop a Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP):*** Develop a program based on the long-range transportation plan and designed to serve the area's goals, using spending, regulating, operating, management, and financial tools.

***Involve the public:*** Involve the general public and all the significantly affected sub-groups in the four essential functions listed above.

This process ties together fundamental tasks of the MPO process: Long-Range Planning (RTP), Implementation (MTIP), Public Involvement, Air Quality conformity, and

Intergovernmental Coordination. One of the primary products of the MPO process is the development of an annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP details the work elements to be accomplished in a given fiscal year. These activities allow the MPO to maintain compliance with federal regulations related to the core functions listed above. Because the UPWP reflects local needs and priorities, the content differs from one metropolitan area to another. The UPWP contains several elements:

- The planning tasks and studies that will be conducted over a one- to two-year period;
- All federally funded studies as well as all relevant state and local planning activities conducted without federal funds (e.g., TGM funded projects, LTD BRT planning, etc.);
- Funding sources identified for each project;
- A schedule of activities; and
- The agency responsible for each task or study.

### **Development of the UPWP**

As with the UPWP adopted by MPC for FY07, the work elements outlined in the FY08 UPWP support:

- Maintaining the transportation model and the underlying GIS and demographic data,
- Updating the regional transportation plan,
- Various programming and implementation tasks including updating the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), development of revenue forecasts, allocating MPO discretionary STP-U funds, and providing ODOT with MPO STIP priorities,
- Conducting air quality conformity determinations and other air quality planning needs (the MPO is the cognizant local agency for attainment of federal Carbon Monoxide standards),
- Maintaining a public involvement program,
- Providing technical assistance to local agencies, consultants, and developers
- Providing staff support fro MPC, TPC, CAC, the LCOG Board, and other committees and various ad-hoc groups as needed
- Coordination with federal, state and local agencies regarding regional transportation issues

The work elements included in the annual UPWP constitute the building blocks of the MPO process. It is through successive annual UPWPs that plans are developed, MTIPs adopted, air quality conformity determinations made, public involvement occurs, and responsible, strategic improvements to the region's transportation system are made. For these reasons, an adequately scoped and funded UPWP is critical to continued federal approval of funds and environmental processes involving all elements of the transportation system. All financial figures shown in the "Funding" section and Table 1 in the draft reflect the best available information at this time but are subject to change. FY08 funding levels will be similar to FY07 levels.

**Key Issues Addressed in the FY08 UPWP**

The Central Lane MPO region will be experiencing a wide range of planning and construction activities in FY08. These activities fall generally into the following three categories – Regional Planning Activities, Key Regional System Improvements, and Other Key Activities affecting the regional transportation system. These activities are described in more detail in the draft UPWP on pages 3-7.

**Requested Action**

Staff is requesting that the MPC review and discuss the draft FY08 UPWP and provide feedback to staff.

On the same day as the writing of this memo (February 27), the draft UPWP underwent its annual review by ODOT, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) staff. That review resulted in a number of relatively minor suggested modifications to the draft UPWP. The draft included in this MPC packet as Attachment 1 reflects a significant number of those recommended modifications, staff are still working to incorporate the remaining suggestions.

Following MPC's review of the draft on March 8<sup>th</sup>, staff will incorporate the remaining suggestions from both the ODOT and federal review, as well as feedback from MPC. Staff will then post the final draft to the MPO web site and open a public comment period no later than March 14, 2007. The CAC is scheduled to review and comment on the draft UPWP at their April 4, 2007 meeting. The public comment period will remain open for a minimum of 30 days, until the scheduled adoption of the FY08 UPWP at the April 12, 2007 MPC meeting.

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 – Draft FY08 Unified Planning Work Program