



March 5, 2008

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Paul Thompson

Subject: MPC 5.e – Draft FY09 Unified Planning Work Program

**Action Recommended: Hold public hearing. Provide feedback to staff.**

**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 FY09 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). At the March MPC meeting staff will review the draft UPWP for MPC members. Adoption of the FY09 UPWP will be requested at the April 10<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 planning, etc.);
- Funding sources identified for each project; and
- The agency responsible for each task or study.

### **Development of the UPWP**

As with the UPWP adopted by MPC for FY08, the work elements outlined in the FY09 UPWP support:

- Maintaining the transportation model and the underlying GIS and demographic data,
- Support for, and work on, various long-range planning efforts, including the MPO's next update of the RTP as well as local and regional transportation system planning and integrated transportation and land use planning efforts,
- Various programming and implementation tasks including amending and/or 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. FY09 funding levels will be similar to FY08 levels.

### **Key Issues Addressed in the FY09 UPWP**

The Central Lane MPO region will be experiencing a wide range of planning and construction activities in FY09. 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 3-9.

On February 26, the draft UPWP underwent its annual review by ODOT, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) staff. That review was also attended by local transportation planning staff. The review is intended to provide an opportunity for ODOT, FHWA and FTA to comprehensively review the pending UPWP while it is still in draft form so that the resulting adopted UPWP addresses input provided by those agencies. The 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 those recommended modifications.

### **Requested Action**

Staff is requesting that the MPC hold a public hearing on the draft FY09 UPWP, review and discuss the draft and provide feedback to staff.

Staff will post the draft FY09 UPWP to the MPO web site and open a public comment period on March 7, 2008. Notice of the public hearing and public comment period will be sent to the MPO’s interested parties electronic distribution list. The CAC is scheduled to review and comment on the draft UPWP at their March 19, 2008 meeting. The public comment period will remain open through April 6, 2008, with adoption scheduled at the April 10, 2008 MPC meeting.

### **Attachments:**

Attachment 1 – Draft FY09 Unified Planning Work Program