

March 6, 2003

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Tom Schwetz
Subject: Item 4f (2)b: TMA Certification Review – overview and schedule

Overview

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 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 7th-9th. This coincides with the May 8th 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 7th) 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.

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

Action Requested: Information and Discussion only.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Draft Agenda for Certification Review

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