



March 1, 2006

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Paul Thompson

Subject: Item 4.e: Status of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2030 Update
Work Program

Action Recommended: None. Information only.

Background

At several MPC meetings in 2005 staff presented information on the next update of the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) long-range Regional Transportation Plan. The staff memos focused mainly on the federal requirements creating the need for another update and presented a draft outline of a work plan and schedule for the update.

During 2005, staff also indicated that FHWA guidance on the new SAFETEA-LU requirements for the RTP was unclear and still under review. Since that time, while staff is still awaiting specific guidance on detailed SAFETEA-LU requirements, the most significant new information received clarifies that the MPO's RTP must comply with SAFETEA-LU requirements prior to July 1, 2007. If that compliance is not achieved by that date, then the MPO would be unable to proceed with any modifications to the RTP or the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) after July 1, 2007 until SAFETEA-LU compliance is achieved.

Discussion

Although substantial clarification is still required on implementing and complying with SAFETEA-LU requirements, this deadline led to a reassessment by the MPO staff of the timeline for the 2030 RTP Update work program. The work required to comply with the SAFETEA-LU requirements will take longer than can be accommodated in the current work program timeline. Thus, two choices were evident – either continue working toward the original July, 2006 adoption of an RTP update, and then immediately commence another update over the following 12 months to incorporate the SAFETEA-LU requirements; or extend the current work program's timeline to incorporate the work related to SAFETEA-LU requirements in the work program in progress.

After further consultation with federal officials and regional staff, the latter option was clearly the better choice. The attached work plan/timeline has been revised to reflect a target of adoption by March 2007 at the latest. It is possible that adoption could occur as early as December, 2006, but since uncertainty remains around certain SAFETEA-LU requirements, the revised work program reflects additional time to allow for the eventual issuance of FHWA guidance on those requirements and the incorporation of resulting details into the RTP 2030 update work program.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – RTP Update Work Program Timeline