



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

REGION VIII
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North Dakota,
South Dakota,
Utah and Wyoming

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REGION 8 BULLETIN NO: 2014-13

Subject: **“Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning” Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)**

Date: June 10, 2014

Dear Region 8 Grantees and MPOs:

We wanted to alert you to two important Federal Register Notices:

“Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning” Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that was posted on June 2, 2014. This notice invites the public to comment on proposed rulemaking affecting the transportation planning process requirements. Highlights include:

- Performance-Based Planning and Programming - The MAP-21 transforms the Federal-aid highway program and the Federal transit program by requiring a transition to a performance-driven, outcome-based program that provides for a greater level of transparency and accountability, improved project decision-making, and more efficient investment of Federal transportation funds.
- New Emphasis on Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning - MAP-21 places a new emphasis on the importance of nonmetropolitan transportation planning. The MAP-21 requires the States to work more closely with nonmetropolitan areas. It also gives States the opportunity to designate RTPOs to help address the planning needs of the nonmetropolitan area of the State. Fosters further collaboration between individual State DOTs and MPOs by requiring them to coordinate with each other when establishing performance targets.
- Additions to the Metropolitan Planning Process - The MAP-21 made two changes specific to the metropolitan planning process—one change affects the policy board structure of large MPOs, and the second establishes a process for scenario planning. Both of these changes would support the effective implementation of a performance-based planning process.

Here is a link to the Federal Register notice: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-06-02/pdf/2014-12155.pdf>

Policy Guidance on Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Representation.

The FTA and FHWA are jointly issuing this guidance on implementation of provisions of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), that require representation by providers of public transportation in each metropolitan planning organization (MPO) that serves a

transportation management area (TMA) no later than October 1, 2014. TMAs are urbanized areas of more than 200,000 people. The purpose of this guidance is to assist MPOs and providers of public transportation in complying with this new requirement. The policy guidance is effective June 2, 2014.

Here is a link to the Federal Register notice: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-06-02/pdf/2014-12163.pdf>

Please contact David Beckhouse, Region 8 at 720.963.3306 or david.beckhouse@dot.gov with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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Linda M. Gehrke
Regional Administrator