



April 4, 2011

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Paul Thompson
Subject: Item 5.d: Draft Congestion Management Process Document

Action Recommended: None. Information only; provide feedback to staff.

Issue Statement

This agenda item is intended to present the MPO's draft Congestion Management Process documentation and provide opportunity for review, discussion, and feedback to staff.

Background

A key change in the most recent federal law governing the MPO's planning processes was an updated requirement for a Congestion Management Process (CMP) for metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in Transportation Management Areas (TMAs – urban areas with over 200,000 in population). This change is intended to build on the previous requirement of a congestion management system (CMS), placing a greater emphasis on management and operations and enhancing the linkage between the CMP and the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) through an objective approach.

A CMP is a systematic approach for managing congestion that provides information on transportation system performance. It recommends a range of strategies to minimize congestion and enhance the mobility of people and goods. These multimodal strategies include, but are not limited to, operational improvements, travel demand management (TDM), transportation options (TO), policy approaches, and additions to capacity. The Central Lane MPO's draft CMP will be incorporated in the draft 2035 RTP to advance the goals of the 2035 RTP and strengthen the connection between the RTP and the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).

The goal of the CMP is to develop a systematic approach that provides for the safe and effective management and operation of new and existing transportation facilities through the use of demand reduction and operational management strategies, and provides information to decision-makers on system performance and the effectiveness of implemented strategies.

The Draft Central Lane MPO Congestion Management Process document (Attachment 1) provides further information on the requirements and purpose of the CMP.

Discussion

The attached draft Congestion Management Process document addresses the federal requirements for the MPO to formally document the MPO's CMP. The document describes the many elements of the Central Lane CMP – a comprehensive set of policies, performance measures, ongoing activities and recommended future actions designed to manage traffic congestion and to maintain high levels of transportation service in the Central Lane County metropolitan area.

The draft document notes that the CMP will be presented to the MPO Policy Board for their review and consideration as a component of the current update of the Regional Transportation Plan. The CMP document will be incorporated into the draft 2011-2035 RTP being prepared for adoption in November, 2011, replacing the current CMS language in the adopted RTP. The CMS section from the current RTP is included with this memo as Attachment 2. The complete CMP documentation, with appendices, will also be published as a stand-alone document.

Action Recommended: None.

Attachments

1. Draft Congestion Management Process document
2. Congestion Management System section from 2007-2011 RTP