



May 4, 2011

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Andrea G. Riner
Subject: Item 5.e: MPO USDOT Certification Review

Action Recommended: None. Information and discussion only.

Issue Statement

This agenda item is intended to present the upcoming USDOT Certification Review for the MPO and provide opportunity for review, discussion, and feedback to staff.

Background

Every four years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are required to jointly review and evaluate the transportation planning processes for each Transportation Management Area (TMA – the designation given to all MPOs with populations over 200,000). The purpose of the evaluation is to determine if those processes meet the requirements of 23 CFR Part 450, Subpart C - Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Programming. In addition, in TMAs that are non-attainment or maintenance areas for transportation related pollutants (which includes the Central Lane MPO), the review must also evaluate the MPO's processes to ensure that they are adequate to ensure conformity of plans and programs in accordance with procedures contained in 40 CFR Part 51- Air Quality: Transportation Plans, Programs, and Projects.

Upon completion of the review and evaluation, FHWA and FTA must take one of the following actions:

1. Jointly certify that the transportation planning process meets or substantially meets the requirements of 23 CFR 450 Subpart C;
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.

The certification review is a planning process review – the focus of the review is on the MPO's process in conducting metropolitan transportation planning as specified by SAFETEA-LU, not necessarily on the local decisions or products. In a broader sense, the certification review process is a valuable opportunity for the MPO, FHWA and FTA representatives to identify and discuss potential enhancements to the planning process and the quality of transportation investment decisions.

The Central Lane MPO was last evaluated in 2007 and the final report from this evaluation can be found here: <http://docs.lcog.org/meetings/mpc/1007/MPC4f-Attachment1-MPOCertificationReview.pdf> .

Certification Process

The certification review is concerned with compliance with federal transportation planning regulations and will focus on a number of topics, including:

- Agreements and Contracts
- UPWP Development
- Transportation Planning Process
- Regional Transportation Plan Development
- Financial Planning
- Air Quality
- TIP Development/ Approval/Amendment/Project Selection
- Public Outreach
- Title VI and Related Requirements
- Congestion Management Process (CMP)
- List of obligated projects
- Consultation and Coordination
- Safety & Security
- Freight
- Visualization
- Travel Demand Models
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

The Certification Review will include an on-site visit, which has been scheduled for June 6-8, 2011. A draft agenda of the Certification Review is included as Attachment 1. Part of this process includes a listening session with local elected officials, transit operators, citizen advisory committee members, and members of the public. This meeting has been scheduled for Monday, June 6th from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm and will be held at the McLane Room (2nd floor), Oregon Department of Transportation, 644 A Street, Springfield. MPC members are encouraged to attend this community meeting.

The meeting will be noticed to the public in a manner similar to other regional transportation projects, including:

- A 30-day public comment period, which will begin on May 6, 2011 and end on June 6, 2011;
- Notice to interested parties;
- Web notice; and
- Citizen Advisory Committee participation

At the close of the certification review, the USDOT will issue a final report that will clearly identify notable practices and any corrective actions and US DOT expectations. The results of this report will be provided to MPC after the MPO receives the final certification review report from the USDOT.

Action Recommended: None.

Attachments

1. DRAFT Agenda – Central Lane MPO Certification Review