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Performance Planning/Scenario Planning

PERFORMANCE-BASED PLANNING/SCENARIO PLANNING – APPLYING TRAVEL DEMAND  
MODELS FOR SCENARIO-BASED PLANNING

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Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are tasked with developing long range transportation plans or Metropolitan Transportation Plans that address the future mobility needs of a region. During plan development MPOs must take into consideration certain planning factors, provide an opportunity for the public and key stakeholders to participate in the process, and develop investment strategies to deliver programs and projects that deliver measurable outcome based results.

Determining a set of programs and projects to achieve an area's long-term mobility and access goals and advance the community's shared vision for the future is the core responsibility of the MPO. Applying travel demand models using varying development patterns and bundles of projects help the public and decision makers identify and prioritize projects that have the greatest potential of help achieve the regions goals and objectives.

This presentation presents processes and methodologies that employ travel demand models to inform scenario based planning and develop performance metrics. Evaluating plausible scenarios helps MPOs evaluate and develop policy and investment decisions, which allow MPOs to create a vision of how the community, region, or study area might look and function in the future, and the associated performance metrics of each of the identified scenarios.

These processes and methodologies help planners, elected officials, and the public prioritize and select transportation projects and programs. Scenarios provide a common framework to delineate costs and benefits of transportation decisions while taking into consideration future transportation and land use scenarios.