

State DOT Caucus
15th Tools of the Trade Conference
Charleston, South Carolina
September 13, 2016

States represented – Arizona, Florida, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Virginia (there were also representative from FHWA and private consultant firms)

The initial topic discussed was performance measures. There continues to be anxiety about what performance measures will be used and how the targets will be set. States generally feel it is essential to coordinate and collaborate with MPOs as targets are being established. The MPOs' targets can be different but there needs to be justification; state DOTs will need to approve MPOs' measures/targets if they differ from the state's. Most states will likely be able to agree on what performance measures should be used; however, due to the uniqueness between states, each state should be able to establish their own targets and states should not be compared to one other. Use of positive measures instead of negative measures is being recommended. It was also noted that performance measures and targets have historically been standard practice in long range planning, but these performance measures and targets haven't necessarily been used in prioritizing and programming projects.

The next topic for discussion was the rulemaking for MPO consolidation. States seem to have some of the same concerns that many MPOs have. There is a general concern that smaller smaller areas would lose control to larger areas. As it currently stands the State and MPOs could agree to keep contiguous MPOs separate, but it is unclear what justification would need to be made to keep them separate. Also, there would need to be coordination of the long range plans at the MPO boundaries.

There was also a presentation on state of the practice for Community Impact Assessments.