

MPO Caucus

TRB Tools of the Trade Conference (C3)

9/13/2016

Overview of Community Impact Assessment (CIA) survey and "purple book"

PLEASE COMPLETE SURVEY (open until 9/23/16)

Take the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CIAStateofthePractice>

NPRM - proposed MPO boundary consolidation

- AMPO position: requesting that the likely omnibus federal funding bill NOT include funding for NPRM.
 - AMPO talking points will be available soon. Contacts to request a copy:
 - Ron Chicka, AMPO Boardmember - rchicka@ardc.org
 - Andrew Canon, AMPO Policy Committee Chair - acanon@hcmpo.org
- Reach out to legislators to let them know how the proposed rule will impact your MPO region.
 - Contact your state DOT to find out what their position is and any coordinated message or their comments
- Concerns and potential impacts of consolidating MPOs
 - loss of local control of planning process
 - smaller jurisdiction voices could be lost in a larger, consolidated regions
 - Not part of existing law and some inconsistencies (e.g. existing MPO TIP requirements)
 - legal question whether rule (CFR) can override the law (USC)
 - MPOs are all different; this doesn't recognize uniqueness across the country and within each state
 - Estimate that this could impact approximately half of all existing MPOs;
 - Multi-state MPOs
 - How to develop a consolidated TIP if states don't agree on timing; already have different timelines for TIP and funding cycles that can be accommodated under existing rules
 - How to agree on performance targets within an MPO if states don't agree
 - Short time frame to implement

Public Participation challenges and successes

- Hard to engage the public even in small MPO regions; especially using traditional methods
- Limitations of small staffs and budgets
 - Suggestions:
 - Have stakeholder committee members be part of the outreach efforts
 - Online survey tools

- Providing maps for public to identify locations with transportation issues.
Wiki-maps is a low-no cost tool
- Go to where the people are (examples)
 - local festivals
 - farmers' markets
 - local sporting events
- Engage other agencies and organizations to capture different perspectives
 - Chamber of commerce - business community
 - Civic organizations (Lions Club, Rotary, etc) - speakers at meetings
 - School Board - usually represent multiple schools; can give permission to utilize school events (e.g. football games)
 - Utilize MPO boardmembers' involvement on other boards and councils to help with outreach.

Freight Planning - what are MPOs doing?

- FAST added funding category for freight
 - importance of freight plans to be competitive for limited funds
- What's the relationship to other planning efforts at state/regional level?
 - Rely on the state DOT to do the plan (ME)
 - Freight advisory committee at DOT district level
 - Join with other MPOs to develop a joint plan (CA)
 - Working with ports (Lake Charles, LA)
 - large port - state lead
 - small port - MPO lead
- Suggestions
 - Important to make personal contact with local freight interests (short line RR, local trucking firms)
 - Can't rely on national data; verify for local statistics (e.g. %truck/rail)
 - RFPs for freight plans should be more specific and tailored to the local area (not boiler plate).

Question for consideration - *Is there interest in having a primer on how to inform legislators without "lobbying"?* E.g. Who should make the phone call or send the letter? Preparing talking points for local elected officials? Who to contact (legislator vs. staff)?

- Please comment or make other suggestions for topics with your conference evaluations.