

METROPOLITAN PLANNING PROGRAM (49 U.S.C. §5303)

Metropolitan Planning Program (MPP) funds are available to carry out the transportation planning process and meet the programming requirements of the joint FTA/FHWA planning regulations, "Planning Assistance and Standards," 23 C.F.R. Part 450 and 49 C.F.R. Part 613. FTA apportions MPP funds to the States based on a set of formulas: 80% of the funds available is apportioned according to an urbanized area population based formula; the remaining 20% is provided to the states based on an FTA administrative formula to address planning needs in larger, more complex urbanized areas with one million or more population. Acting as the FTA grantees, the States distribute these funds to each urbanized area, or portion of an urbanized area, within the state according to a formula developed by the State and approved by FTA. All States have either reaffirmed or developed new allocation formulas as a result of the 2000 Census.

The MPP provides financial assistance, through the States, to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to support the costs of preparing long-range transportation plans and financially-feasible TIPs, required as a condition of obtaining Federal Capital Program and Urbanized Area Formula Program grants for transit projects. In addition to providing funding for local and State transportation planning and objectives, the MPP provides a means of drawing State and local attention to national priorities through a series of periodically issued Planning Emphasis Areas (PEA). A planning emphasis area is established by FTA and FHWA to advance national goals as established by Federal law, to reflect FTA and FHWA priorities, and to respond to congressional direction established through the appropriations process.

In FY 2005, FTA obligated almost \$129.3 million for metropolitan planning.

STATE PLANNING AND RESEARCH PROGRAM (49 U.S.C. §5313(b))

The State Planning and Research Program (SP&R) is a source of Federal financial assistance to the States to meet the planning requirements of the joint FTA/FHWA planning regulations, "Planning Assistance and Standards," 23 C.F.R. Part 450 and 49 C.F.R. Part 613. As with the MPP, the State is the FTA grantee for this program. The SP&R funds may be used for a variety of purposes and programs in addition to its function as a source of financial support for State transportation planning activities. These other programs include: Research, Development, and Demonstration (49 U.S.C. §5312(a)); Training (49 U.S.C. §5312(c)); Research and Training in Urban Transportation Problems (49 U.S.C. §§5312(a), 5317(a)); Human Resource (49 U.S.C. §5322); as well as for Metropolitan Planning (49 U.S.C. §5303).

In FY 2005, FTA obligated almost \$10.9 million for State planning and research.

For additional information on the planning programs, contact Candace Noonan, Planning Oversight Division, TPE-11, at (202) 366-1648.