

Andrew Reovan: Hello and welcome. Today's webinar will begin at 1pm ET.

Andrew Reovan: MPO Coordination NPRM in the docket:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/06/27/2016-14854/metropolitan-planning-organization-coordination-and-planning-area-reform>

miraj patel: wheres access to to USCIS dot code o*net code

miraj patel: wheres the safe transportation to american job center

miraj patel: wheres the help from Social Security Administration ?

Michelle Goddard - McCormick Taylor: Is it possible to listen through your computer and not over the phone?

Andrew Reovan: Hi Michelle - audio should be coming through the web room. Audio quality tends to be most reliable over the phone, however.

Gainesville-Hall MPO: What happens if two adjacent urbanized areas, named differently in 2010 Census with two different MPOs, touch each other? How many (1) Urbanized Areas, (2) Metropolitan Planning Areas, and (3) Regions are they under these proposed rules?

Lower CT River Valley COG: If an MPO is unable to come to an agreement regarding the complexity of a UZA with the governor, or is unable to obtain the necessary redesignation votes to expand to cover an entire UZA, could the USDOT eventually pull funding or certification of the MPO?

miraj patel: when does dot help to get to american job center and help with social security red book enrollment?

miraj patel: how does dot think the workworld one stop center works ?

Gainesville-Hall MPO: The end result of the proposed rules will likely be fewer MPOs. Can you confirm or deny?

Michelle Goddard - McCormick Taylor: thanks Andrew!

miraj patel: how does department of transportation think you safely get the approval for supplement security income and ssdi? where do you get the instructions for the american job center ?

miraj patel: my mother and i traveled august 2002 on united airlines to kentucky one stop center?

Gainesville-Hall MPO: What "size and complexity" would justify multiple MPOs in an MPA?

Pauline Yoder: The rule discusses contiguous MPAs and encouraged to merge - how do you do determine when the MPA will be too large? Also, what happens if the governor and MPO do not agree as to the planning area and the MPOs?

Gainesville-Hall MPO: Can you provide any examples of urbanized areas that may warrant multiple MPOs due to "size and complexity"?

Mark Simons: Miraj Patel - I think you are in the wrong webinar. Your questions are off topic

Myron Lee: I would like examples of dispute resolution language

Matt Hardy (AASHTO): In my opinion, I believe that many of your stakeholders at State DOTs and MPOs are frustrated that comments on this VERY significant rule that will have VERY significant implications on the performance-based planning process has only a 60 day comment period with comments due only five days AFTER comments on the System Performance NPRM are due to the docket.

Macon-Bibb County Area MPO: USDOT has received multiple requests for extension of the 60 day comment period. They have denied this request. Why? This is a complex rule, and the 60 day window doesn't provide enough time for MPO staff to evaluate AND ensure that MPO policy boards have an opportunity to comment.

Pauline Yoder: This is very true, Matt.

Lower CT River Valley COG: The U.S. Census Bureau strongly cautions agencies using urbanized areas to consider the appropriateness of the classification to "nonstatistical programs" and "to consider permitting appropriate modifications of the results of implementing the urban-rural classification specifically for the purposes of its program." Were modifications considered in this rulemaking?

miraj patel: how do you travel safely to american job center? after moving from united kingdom of great britain, where i am born, that august 2002 flight was first domestic flight my mother and i went on. there was questions on me to guess where's my mother's client assistance program? she could not verify answer, neither could the staff on plane. however, where do you travel to for that federal marketplace eligibility assessment for that barcode scan? DOT should know airport requested 4 copies: 2 in carry on, 2 in luggage that goes through security. so what's going on right now, department of transportation. am i going to get help?

MDT: MDT supports Matt Hardy's comment

Mark Wilkes: Please describe or prescribe how the 20 year urbanized forecast is to be done? Would the methodology have to mirror the Census Urbanized Area process? We attempted this in 2000 and it was very cumbersome and involved many assumptions.

Phil: So if there is no overlap of MPA with contiguous MPO's, feds would still require a single MTP and TIP between neighboring MPO's or not?

Brian Martin: MVRPC supports the comments for the extension of the comment period

miraj patel: when does www.myemploymentoptions.com offer a job outcome after february 2014 ticket assignment to them and so much hard work. my mother is getting upset with me that my pay, nor a new career after suffering an accident, nor legal aid under pava is being offered during voting process.

Justin: Who can we follow up with to get more information on why these 142 MPOs are expected to be affected?

Tom Edinger, HATS: Where are 142 MPO Areas?

Mark Wilkes: Each time we have expanded our boundary, there was significant resistance. Who will be penalized if the MPA is inadequate? The MPO, or the outlying areas that aren't, but should be included?

Justin: @Tom Edinger, the affected MPOs are available at:
<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FHWA-2016-0016-0002>

miraj patel: when you are enrolled in library registair is since week of july 20, 2013, by now, can there be relief for jobs, wages, health insurance, hud, medicaid buy in, o*net code, ssi, ssdi ?

Lower CT River Valley COG: If an MPO in a complex UZA has to work on UZA specific transportation plans and TIPs, does this fulfill the requirement that each MPO have its own transportation plan and TIP, since there will be no document that covers the entire MPO?

Nakita B. Wilson: Can you please repost the download for the presented ppt?

miraj patel: i need safe transportation in government audit to american job center

miraj patel: how does dot help with means tested benefits ?

Andrew Reovan: @Nikita: the download will be available again at the end of today's presentation.

Nakita B. Wilson: @Andrew ty

Stacie Dabbs: Can exemptions be made for rural areas where neighboring MPOs who share an UZA and have a history of successful coordination todate?

Pauline Yoder: So, the expectation is that the MPO/MPA boundaries will change in 2 years, and 2 years later they will be required to change again. Am I readin teh timeline correctly?

Lower CT River Valley COG: yes Pauline :)

Stacie Dabbs: That's how I understand it, Pauline.

Pauline Yoder: Am I the only one who feels like Alice in Wonderland?

Erich Zimmermann: 23 USC 134(i)(1)(A) says "Each metropolitan planning organization shall prepare and update a transportation plan for its MPA." But if multiple MPOs are allowed and required to create unified documents, then would "each" MPO be creating a transportation plan?

Deb LaCombe - YVCOG: presenters voice fades in and out at the end of his sentences.

Lower CT River Valley COG: Please speak up!

Pauline Yoder: Here int he northeast, we looked at the map, and it appears that the MPAs would pretty much be contiguous from MA all the way down to Delaware. Is the intention of this rule, to create one MPA of that size? If not, how would the rule be applied?

Pauline Yoder: Do you have an example when a jurisdiction within the MPO is within two UZAs? (Would they be in two MPAs?)

Michelle Nance: When MPOs have a very large area, do they have satellite offices? Which MPOs are already doing this, and what are the best practices on board management, public engagement, etc.?

Lorrie Plat: This major rule needs a longer comment period. Why is USDOT pushing this rule so hard. MPO's have boards of directors that are diverse, large and involved in many issues. MPOs need more time to make a cogent response to this very intrusive rule. BTW, a potential impact of this rule would be to expand our region from 55 miles long to over 100 miles. So much for localities having more say in regional planning. How does this improve the planning process?

Lower CT River Valley COG: If entire UZAs must be within an MPO, does this mean that small orphan areas of UZAs that cross state boundaries would force the expansion of an MPO to cover the portions of the adjacent state, since those orphan urbanized areas aren't populous enough to merit their own MPO and complexity determination?

Deb LaCombe - YVCOG: Is there a consideration about the geographical distance caused by merging the multiple MPOs into one MPO. For example your third example may encompass an incredible amount of miles and regional coordination may break down.

FHWA-S: RE; Mark Wikles questions about how the 20-years worth of growth is calculated. The area likely to become urbanized within 20 years should be determined by the area's existing MPO(s) and State DOT. If nearby UCs are likely to become urbanized within 20 years than they should be included. The MPA may include the entire MSA or CSA as defined by the Census Bureau. The MPA boundaries for MPOs representing UZAs designated as non-attainment areas for ozone and carbon monoxide pollution may be further adjusted to include the entire non-attainment area identified under the Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401 et seq.).

Matt Hardy (AASHTO): I would add to Pauline's comment with the MPOs in southwest Ohio/Northern Kentucky/Eastern Indiana. There is the potential, as I interpret the rules, to have one MPA that goes from Cincinnati to Columbus. to Dayton. These are three distinct metropolitan regions. Why such the need for a mega-MPA? I am speaking in Ohio on Tuesday and was looking into this.

BMTS: Our MPOs urban area extends into another state, into an RPO. What would that mean for us? Is it the same as 2 MPOs?

Deb LaCombe - YVCOG: You didn't cover the additional requirement regarding the agreements. Can you elaborate on the agreement between the MPO and Air Quality planning agency?

Pauline Yoder: What happens when one MPO serves multiple UZA's?

Mark Wilkes: I asked how the 20 year UA would be determined, not who determines it.

NJTPA: Has USDOT worked with EPA at all in regards to how this rule could affect the NAAQS and air quality conformity determination for nonattainment and maintenance areas, given that many encompass multi MPO regions?

FHWA-ND: Someone's phone is not muted.

NYMTC: How would public engagement look if one TIP/RTP crosses five state lines?

Matt Hardy (AASHTO): @NYMTC-->YES!

NOACA: What happens if the Governor comes to a decision which is contrary to the expectations of the impacted MPOs?

NYMTC: How would multiple MPOs in an MPA legally "adopt" a single planning product?

Lorrie Plat: We keep hearing that the Governor and the MPO will make the decision whether to have more than one MPO. Do you really mean that the MPOs would have to agree to the merger or would the governor have the final say?

Lower CT River Valley COG: If an MPO is unable to come to an agreement regarding the complexity of a UZA with the governor, or is unable to obtain the necessary redesignation votes to expand to cover an entire UZA, could the USDOT eventually pull funding or certification of the MPO?

Sean Tiedgen - SRTA: The presentation indicates that approximately 142 MPOs may be affected. Is there a list of the MPOs that FHWA/FTA anticipate may be affected by this rule?

Thomas Ballou: As a practical matter what is the difference between merging MPOs and developing a single planning document. As a practical matter I don't see much difference.

UCTC: @ SRTA <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FHWA-2016-0016-0002>

Sean Tiedgen - SRTA: @UCTC: Thanks!

guest 7: If a MPO is a TMA has a MPA which is forecast to be contiguous with a different MPO's MPA which is also a TMA within the 20-year urbanization forecast, can the two MPOs with State support continue to remain separate within their respective MPAs?

NYMTC: There are contiguous UZAs from Philadelphia to New Have, CT, including the NYC metro area. With growth forecasts, that could also include Hartford and Springfield MA. Not to mention into Delaware and Maryland. How can we possibly respond to this rule in this kind of a situation?

Ken Kirkey: What is the process if there is a small UA that overlaps MPO boundaries? Is there a process to redefine the UA?

Brian Martin: MVRPC: What added value would be provided through merged documents? Every Region has these already created by each MPO.

David Hyder: Is there some theory regarding what joint planning products look like?

Thomas Ballou: This in fact could go even further from Washington DC all the way up to Boston. Is this really the intent of this rule? If so it is totally unworkable.

Guest 12: Adopting one uniform MTP and TIP from Philadelphia to Boston does not seem efficient

Daniel Beagan: How are disputes to be resolved? If joint planning documents are required, and there are differences as to the inclusion of projects in those planning documents, for example MPO 1 wants it included, but MPO 2 does not want it included, should that project be included or excluded in the joint planning document?

FHWA-ND: Several non-contiguous MPOs are concerned that this proposed rule will affect them and how they coordinate with their State DOT. Is this proposed rule aimed at single MPOs and state DOTs, or just multi-MPO areas?

Stacie Dabbs: What is the approval process moving forward?

NYMTC: There is language in the NPRM about non-attainment areas and this proposed rule that is confusing. Can you clarify?

Janet Arcuicci: There have been several questions regarding the Northeast. How do you anticipate this rule affecting the Northeast?

Lower CT River Valley COG: Does not complying with the proposed rule mean the pulling of MPO funding or decertification?

SANDAG: Would MPOs whose MPA boundaries that existed on Aug 10, 2005 and are therefore retained for urbanized areas designated as nonattainment for CO, be required to produce unified planning documents?

FHWA-KNPII: Thomas Ballou: Thanks for your comment! We encourage you to submit your comment to the Docket (FHWA-2016-0016).

Idaho Transportation Department: Why weren't ubutting UZA as delineated by the census burea were not merged into a single UZA in 2010 census?

Patty Daley: What happens if a MPO contains TWO (non-contiguous) UZA's? Would the MPO be required to split into two separate MPO's?

FHWA-KNPII: guest 12: Thanks for your comment as well! We also encourage you to submit your comment to the Docket.

NJTPA: If two or more MPOs develop a common TIP, would all of them have to approve any amendment to that TIP?

David Hyder: How would the requirement for joint documents be considered during Certification reviews.?

Michelle Bradburn (TDOT): Is there a link to the maps that you have been talking about with UZA and MPO boundaries?

Tyler Area MPO: If a TMA is broken into multiple MPOs, but continue to submit unified documents, how does this affect Federal funding? Does this give the TMAs a chance to take from the TMA planning funds and the MPO funds?

Idaho Transportation Department: "Is it the rules intent to create m

Idaho Transportation Department: Is it the intent of the rule to create "mega-MPOs"?

NOACA: What happens if the Governor makes a decision that is contrary to the expectations of the impacted MPOs?

Guest 12: going off of the "econmic engine" boundaries would create another tri-state commission

Pauline Yoder: We have a few towns that are defined as being in two UZAs

Guest 12: in NY/NJ/CT

Mark Wilkes: In states where PL funding is distributed based on current UZA populations, will the DOTs be encouraged to revise funding formulas to reflect the actual MPA populations?

WFRC: we have an example in Salt Lake/ Utah county

WFRC: Draper, Utah

Matt Hardy (AASHTO): There has been a lot of discussion about urban areas, but I would encourage you not to forget about America's rural and agricultural areas that also serve as economic engines but perhaps in a more dispersed manner than the cities (really the suburban regions surrounding a city).

Julio SBCAG: Seems like the urbanized areas should defer to MPO boundaries.

Deb LaCombe - YVCOG: The hard to consider one could happen if the jurisdiction crosses multiple waterways and so are separable into multiple UZAs?

Pauline Yoder: CT has a number of examples: Granby is in Springfield UZA and Hartford UZA, Cheshire is in New Haven UZA and Waterbury UZA, Middletown is in New Haven UZA and Hartford UZA. per rule, each of these would be (per rule) in both MPAs that they are part of

Pauline Yoder: Or, I'm just trying to understand the rule.

Pauline Yoder: (those are just a few, there are more)

Pauline Yoder: Sorry, Hartford, Springfield, New Haven all jointly develop planning product? Along with Bridgeport UZA and NY UZA (all of which have these examples)

NYMTC: what if the governors in a multi-state, multi-UZA MPA can't agree on MPA boundaries?

bud laumer, aicp: Thank you Barbara. Good to hear you again....

NJTPA: Are any regional meetings/listening sessions planned during the comment period? If so, please provide information on the schedule, locations, etc. Thank you.

ed azimi VDOT 2: Would 2 MPOs subject to Air Quality Conformity Analysis requirements be required to submit a common AQC Analysis, if they remain as separate MPOs within an MPA?

Pauline Yoder: Thank you, NYMTC!

Macon-Bibb County Area MPO: Presenters have consistently said that difficult questions should be submitted to the docket for further consideration. What requirement is there for USDOT, FHWA and/or FTA to respond to the comments submitted to the docket?

NYMTC: You're welcome!

WFRC: Comment: we have improved outcomes by collaborating with our adjacent MPO

Idaho Transportation Department: How will Tribal Nations be included if the UZA is expanded to include their lands? What "rules" will be proposed to coordinate projects and plans between the two agencies.

Tom Edinger, HATS: Where is mapping that shows the MPA Areas?

guest 7: Under the proposed NPRM, would multiple MPOs within one MPA need to have one UPWP?

NYMTC: M_O_U_S_E!!!!

Broward MPO: If three MPOs in a UZA have a combined TIP, if one MPO wants to approve a TIP amendment, would all three MPOs have to approve that amendment?

Matt Hardy (AASHTO): Many of the responses from USDOT on this webinar have been to submit comments to the docket. Unfortunately, questions and comments are very complex and nuanced. Given the timing of this NPRM (60-day comment period, overlapping with the PM3 NPRM, summer vacations), I think it is the obligation of USDOT to provide significantly more time to provide comments. (e.g., 120 day comment period) I feel it is disingenuous for USDOT to issue such an NPRM and not consider the capacity of your partners and stakeholders to provide substantive comments.

WFRC: @NYMTC lol

Geoff Olson: Historically, has the Census Bureau ever merged urbanized areas as they have grown? How would that affect existing MPOs/MPAs?

FHWA-S: Here is the link to our GIS maps showing MPO and UZA boundaries:

<http://hepgis.fhwa.dot.gov/fhwagis/ViewMap.aspx?map=MPO+Boundaries|MPO+Boundary>

Lower CT River Valley COG: How does an MPO coerce mostly rural municipalities, that contain insignificant portions of an UZA, to join an MPO that they don't want to be a part of? The risk of defunding and decertification motivates the MPO to comply, but the mostly rural municipality has no incentive?

Idaho Transportation Department: We concur with Matt Hardy.

Lower CT River Valley COG: @Geoff Olson there have been a number of UZA mergers in CT over the years (eg. New Britain - Bristol UZA)

NYMTC: will we get extra resources to undertake this tremendous effort? Or is it an unfunded mandate?

Geoff Olson: Thanks, Lower CT RV COG.

Deb LaCombe - YVCOG: A joint document can be simply two documents cut and pasted together. With no change in \$\$ allocation occurs, no reason to truly integrate. Are \$\$ allocations going to change for a joint planning area encompassing more than one MPO?

Pauline Yoder: Do you also mean one UPWP? In addition to one LRTP?

NYMTC: Performance metrics are only meaningful when they apply to a travel shed. How can they possibly be meaningful when contiguous UZAs bring together multiple travel sheds?

Matt Hardy (AASHTO): Specific question for USDOT: Why does USDOT not want to provide a 60-day extension to the commenting period with comments being due ~October 24, 2016?

Deb LaCombe - YVCOG: MPOs are federal, RTPOs are state, tribes are federal. Are there templates that show how a tribe's sovereignty is not exposed to risk by coordinating with agencies that are not peers i.e. state.

Erin Kuhn: When do you anticipate this ruling to be final and implemented?

NYMTC: Since a census can change MPA boundaries, what happens to existing TIPs and Plans at that point?

NYMTC: Follow up to the conformity question -- there seems to be a link between non-attainment areas and how MPAs are defined in the NPRM. Is that the case?

David Hyder: As I recall the conformity regulation controls when it comes into conflict with the planning regulation.

Mike Roberts: The conformity rule already has provisions for air quality analysis involving multiple MPO.

NYMTC: Good point!

David Hyder: Exactly Mike.

David Hyder: The conformity regulation strongly encouraged a single MPO or, at the very least, a single model and SE projections for the NA area.

SANDAG: Can MPOs redraw their boundaries to eliminate the shared UZA issue if the area was covered by a previous non-attainment (CO or ozone) boundary? NPRM states the "MPA boundaries that existed on Aug 10, 2005 shall be retained.."

Deb LaCombe - YVCOG: Always wondered why states can determine allocation of federal funds to the federal entity known as the MPO.

Jeff - Florida: Sir, can't hear you very well, thank you.

FHWA-KNP11: thanks jeff. we'll tell him to speak up.

Stacie Dabbs: We are in the heart of the rural San Joaquin Valley, California, the epicenter of California's agriculture economy. And yet we have two of the proposed MPOs affected by this NPRM. So this isn't just an urban issue and it is a considerable issue that shouldn't be overlooked. And it is our rural status that makes this proposal nonsensical for us.

Lower CT River Valley COG: There are single blocks of urbanized area that extend into rural municipalities in Connecticut. What is the threshold for that municipality being included into the MPA? If the answer is any area, no matter how small, how does an MPO force a rural municipality to join?

FHWA-KNP11: Stacie, thanks for your comment! We encourage you to submit your comment to the Docket (FHWA-2016-0016).

Mark Wilkes: It is unique, because we've just been using the existing UZA

David Hyder: The MPO needs to provide something that the mostly rural area cannot provide themselves. I.E., a meaningful say in the decision process and exceptional customer service.

Tom Kloster: Have you considered exempting bi-state (or multi-state) urbanized areas from the rule, with the rationale that the a merged MPO that straddles state boundaries would be burdened with coordinating to multiple state DOTs and FHWA offices

Lower CT River Valley COG: @David Hyder always :)

Pauline Yoder: Deb Lacombe's questions: Deb LaCombe - YVCOG: A joint document can be simply two documents cut and pasted together. With no change in \$\$ allocation occurs, no reason to truly

integrate. Are \$\$ allocations going to change for a joint planning area encompassing more than one MPO?

FHWA-KNPII: thanks tom.

Stacie Dabbs: What is the process moving forward. Is this strictly an agency decision or will there be Congressional review before adoption?

Pauline Yoder: (sorry, I missed the answer to that question: will the \$\$ allocations change?)

Michelle Bradburn (TDOT): Any tips for State DOTs to help jump start this with potentially merging MPOs?

Tom Kloster: Could a bi-state (or Multi-state) MPO organize its planning area into districts for the purpose of serving two MPO boards (under the provision of the draft rule that allows governors to designate separate MPOs)?

Lower CT River Valley COG: Connecticut does not have county government. How will a policy board comprised with county representative in New York State and town chief elected officials in Connecticut work? Will the town first selectmen have more votes than a county executive?

Pauline Yoder: Sam,. that is up to the agreement that will be developed (or it should be a comment or both)