

# MPO 101

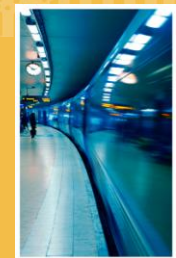
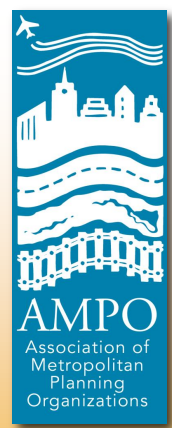
**An Introduction to the Purpose and Function of an MPO**

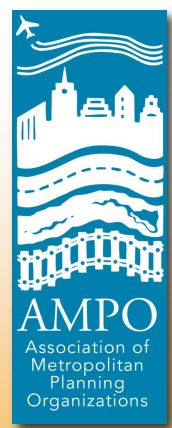
DeLania L. Hardy  
The Association of MPOs

# Purpose

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- What is an MPO?
- MPO requirements
- Relationship of MPOs to the larger picture of transportation planning
- Federal law

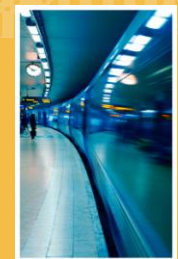




## What is an MPO?

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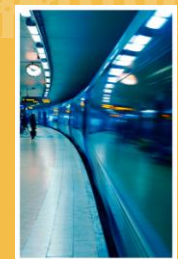
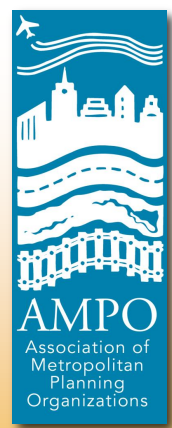
- A transportation **policy-making and planning body** with representatives from local, state & federal government and transportation authorities
- Federal law **requires** in **urbanized areas** of 50,000 +  
-384 MPOs in the US
- Ensures federal spending on transportation occurs through a **comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing (3-C) process**
- Variety of **organizational arrangements** – “hosted” by another agency; stand-alone; existing agency designated as MPO



## Federal Finances for an MPO

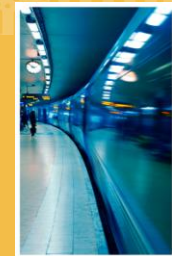
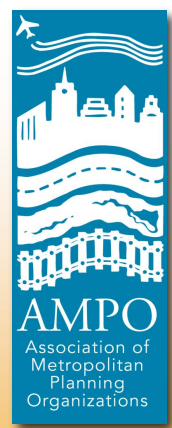
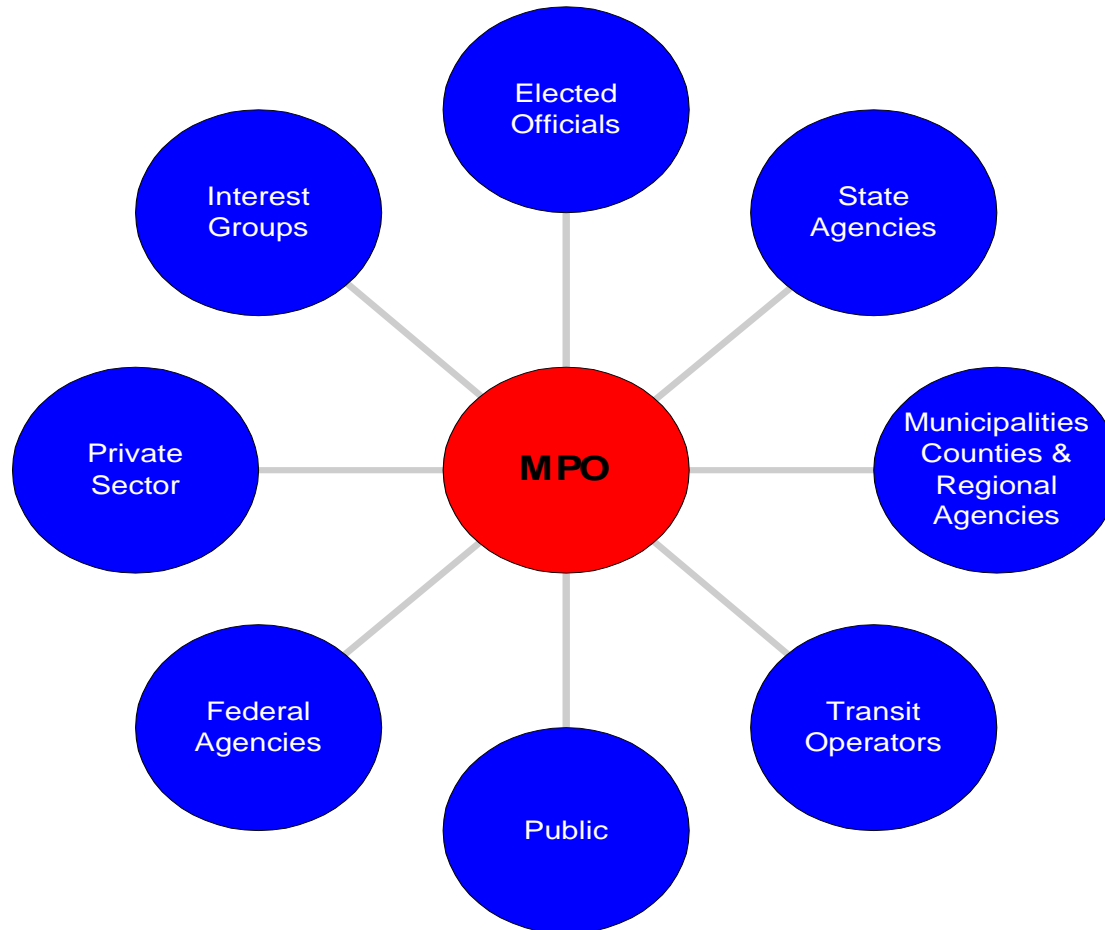
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- MPOs receive Federal funds
  - Highway
  - Transit
- 20% match requirement to the Federal funds



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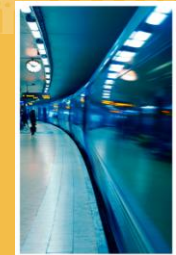
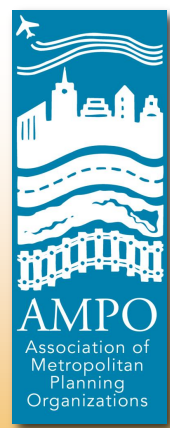
# Who is the MPO?



## Why an MPO?

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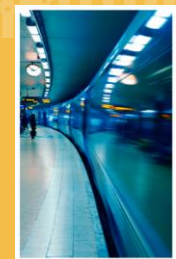
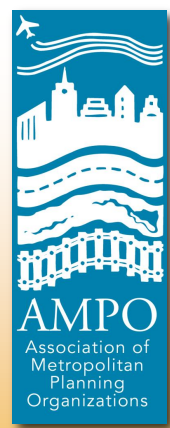
- Transportation investment means allocating **scarce transportation funding resources** appropriately
- Planning needs to reflect the **region's shared vision** for the future
  - Requires a **comprehensive examination** of the region's future and investment alternatives
- MPO **facilitates collaboration** of governments, interested parties, and residents



## Federally Required Functions for All MPOs

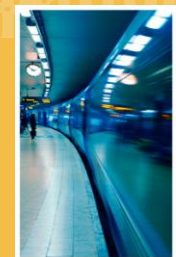
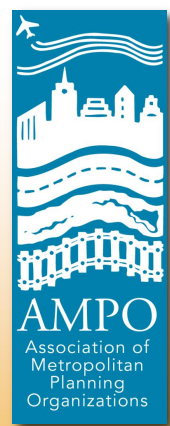
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- Establish a setting – fair & impartial
- Evaluate transportation alternatives
- Maintain a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
- Develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Involve the public – residents and key affected subgroups



# MPO Products

	Time Horizon	Contents	Update Requirements
Unified Planning Work Program	1-2 years	Planning Studies Tasks Budget	Annual
Long Range Transportation Plan	20 years (minimum)	Future Goals Strategies and Products	4 years for air quality nonattainment and maintenance areas; 5 years for air quality attainment areas
Transportation Improvement Program	4 years	Transportation Investment Projects	4 years



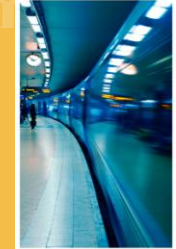
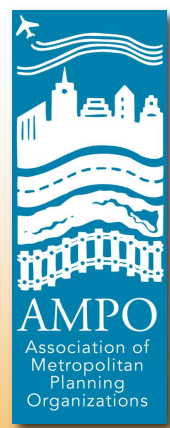


# Subjects for MPO Long Range Plans

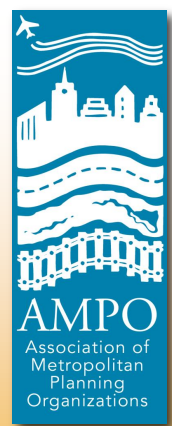
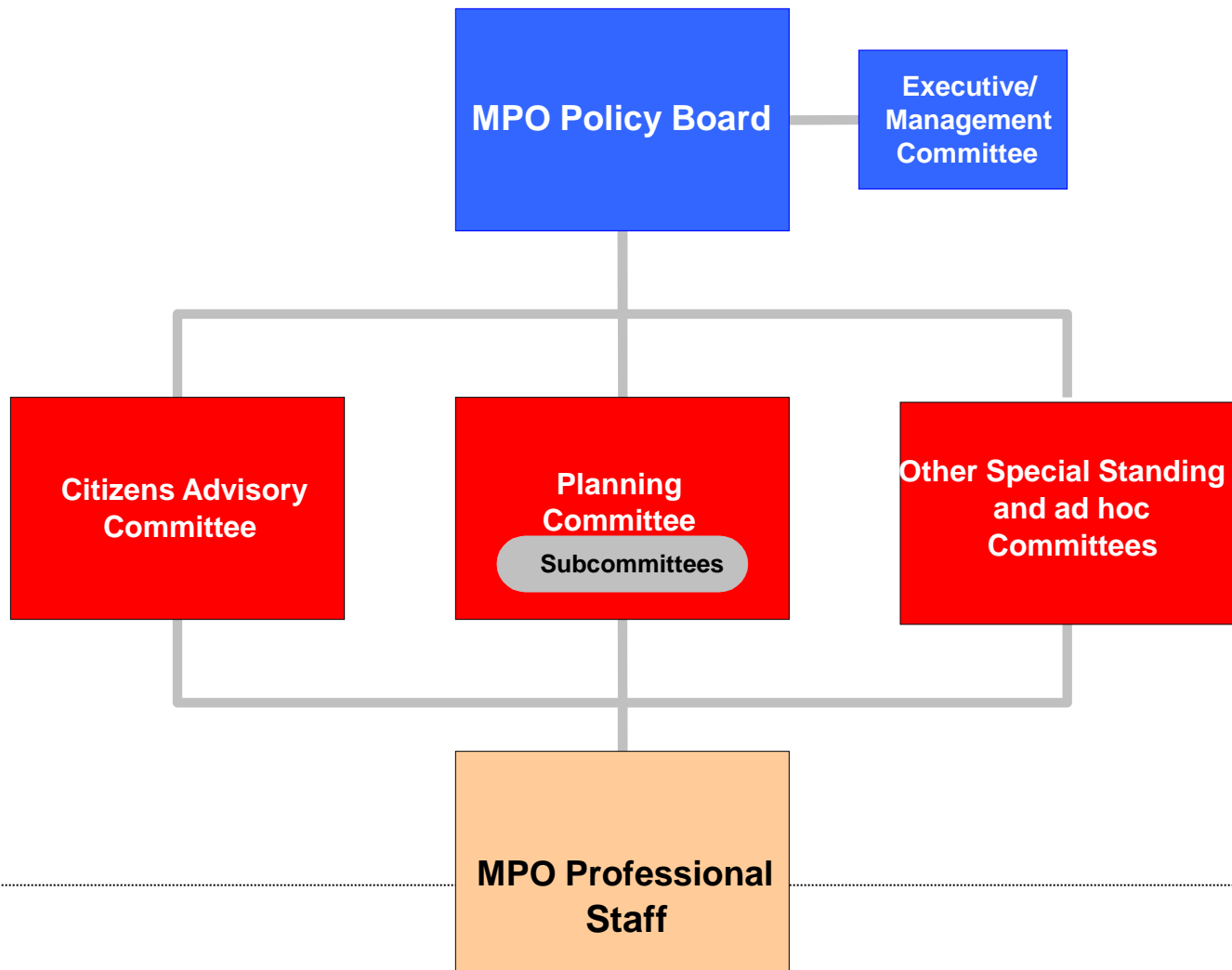
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SAFETEA-LU required planning factors:

- **Economic vitality**
- **Safety**
- **Security**
- **Accessibility and mobility**
- **Environmental areas, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life**
- **Integration and connectivity**
- **Management and operations**
- **Preservation**



# “Typical” MPO Structure

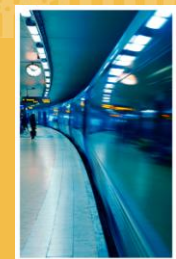
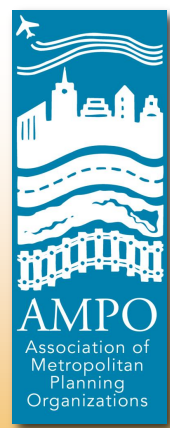


# “Typical” MPO Structure

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## Planning Committee:

- An advisory body to the MPO Board for transportation issues, primarily technical in nature
- Oversees MPO technical work and develops recommendations on projects and programs for Board consideration
- Meets on regular schedule
- Usually comprised of staff-level officials of local, state & federal agencies



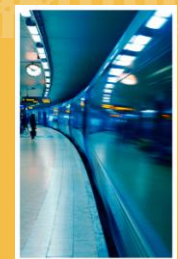
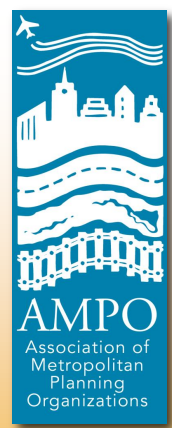
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# “Typical” MPO Structure

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## Citizen Advisory Committee:

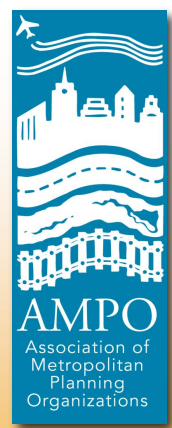
- Acts in an advisory capacity to MPO on public involvement strategies
- Meets regularly to review and develop plans and also assists in organizing and managing public meetings and comments
- Comprised of members of the public
  - Often appointed by localities and MPO policy board
  - May include representatives of community, environmental & other interested parties



## Resources

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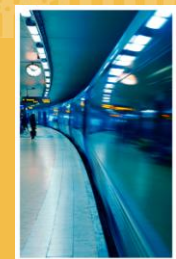
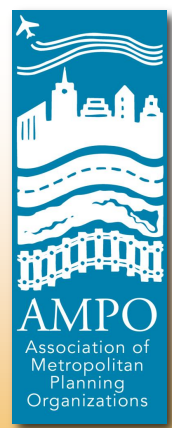
- Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program – [www.planning.dot.gov/metro.asp](http://www.planning.dot.gov/metro.asp)
  - *The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process: Key Issues – A Briefing Notebook for MPO Board Members*
- Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) [www.ampopo.org](http://www.ampopo.org)



# Resources

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- Federal Highway Administration  
([www.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov))
- FHWA Resource Centers  
([www.fhwa.dot.gov/resoucecenter](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/resoucecenter))
- Federal Transit Administration  
([www.fta.dot.gov](http://www.fta.dot.gov))





AMPO

Association of  
Metropolitan  
Planning  
Organizations

Want More Information?

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