



AMPO SURVEY REPORT: UNOBLIGATED BALANCES & PROJECT TIMELINE

AUGUST
2023

AMPO

*Prepared by the National
Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations*



REPORT BACKGROUND

Several factors prompted this survey, including the 2023 August Redistribution efforts, an accounting issue between Delphi and FMIS within FHWA leading to delays in obligating funds, and the rising unobligated balances seen nationwide. The purpose of this survey was to better understand the barriers Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) face in obligating federal funds.

AMPO distributed the survey to membership through SurveyMonkey, collecting a total of 97 responses between May 24 and July 31, 2023. A total of 40 states and the District of Columbia are represented in the responses. MPOs of all sizes responded:

- 24 Large
- 40 Medium
- 33 Small

This response indicates a robust representation of the MPO community.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Findings show that the majority of available funds for MPOs have been planned and programmed, but the actual obligation often takes more than a year. When unobligated funds can't be carried over, it risks MPO-programmed funds. Carryover policies vary widely by state, and more transparency is needed, possibly through improved access to FMIS and participation in the August Redistribution process. Achieving reasonable progress policies is challenging without enhanced transparency and greater inclusion in project timelines. AMPO staff is actively working with the MPO community to address the issues identified in this survey, with a particular focus on potential legislative amendments for reauthorization.