

These are ideas for interactive sessions for the **MPO Deep Dive** track at AMPO's 2026 Tools & Training Symposium. **You're welcome to use them or to generate your own.** The key is that we're looking for **interactive, engaging sessions!**

1. Advanced Performance-Based Planning — Moving Beyond Metrics

- **Data to Decisions Workshop:** Participants trace a performance measure through target setting, reporting, and project prioritization.
 - **Peer Case Clinic:** MPOs share challenges with integrating performance targets into their plans and troubleshoot together.
 - **Dashboard Design Lab:** Compare approaches to making performance data meaningful for boards and the public.
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2. Linking Planning and Programming — From MTP to TIP (and Back Again)

- **Integration Game:** Participants match MTP priorities to TIP investments and identify “disconnects.”
 - **Scenario Hackathon:** Teams redesign a TIP to better reflect long-range goals under fiscal constraint.
 - **Roundtable:** Discussion on cross-departmental collaboration and documentation consistency.
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3. Fiscal Constraint Masterclass — When the Math Meets the Politics

- **Budget Balancing Simulation:** Allocate funds across projects while juggling cost escalation, inflation, and new priorities.
 - **Fun with FMIS:** MPOs share quick takes on how they use FMIS access to better follow the flow of funding in their region, and then session participants brainstorm how they could use the tool.
 - **Visualization Sprint:** Design a simple graphic that communicates fiscal constraint clearly to policymakers.
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4. Scenario Planning 2.0 — Integrating Emerging Trends

- **Future Disruption Workshop:** Model the potential impacts of AVs, telework, and demographic shifts on your region.

- **Peer Panel + Q&A:** Discuss how MPOs are linking scenario planning to project prioritization.
 - **Scenario Planning in Practice:** Participants use maps of a fictional region to draft different future scenarios that could guide a regional plan.
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5. Modeling and Data Integration — Bridging Technical Silos

- **Modeler-to-Planner Translation Lab:** Practice explaining model results in plain language.
 - **System Integration Challenge:** Map out how modeling, GIS, and TIP data can talk to one another.
 - **Tech Demo Exchange:** Participants showcase their visualization or model-sharing tools.
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6. Interagency Collaboration — The Good, The Bad, and The Bureaucratic

- **Stakeholder Mapping Exercise:** Identify overlapping jurisdictions and shared responsibilities.
 - **Collaboration Scenario Game:** Role-play conflicting agency goals and find consensus strategies.
 - **Best Practice Swap:** Lightning talks highlighting successful partnership models.
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7. Resilience Planning — Building Momentum

- **Resilience Mapping Lab:** Use mock hazard and asset layers to identify vulnerable corridors.
 - **Investment Tradeoff Game:** Allocate limited dollars between mitigation and adaptation actions.
 - **Breaking Down Silos:** Roundtable on how MPOs are integrating flooding resilience into transportation projects.
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8. Transit Coordination & Regional Mobility

- **Joint Planning Simulation:** Design a multimodal corridor with overlapping transit providers.
- **Funding Puzzle:** Strategize how to braid FTA, FHWA, state, and local funds for a shared project.
- **Transit Lab:** Evaluate regional transit investments through a Title VI lens.

9. Crash Data — What It Can Tell Us (and What It Can't)

- **Beyond Crash Data:** Participants work in small groups to discuss gaps in their understanding of traffic risks and to learn from either other about how to fill in those gaps, whether it's Big Data, linkages to hospital or first responder data, survey research, or other approaches.
 - **Interactive Dashboard Demo:** Walk through open crash data tools and practice drawing basic conclusions.
 - **Ethics Discussion:** Debate how to responsibly use crash data in public storytelling and media responses.
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10. Advanced Public Involvement — Moving Beyond the Open House

- **Engagement Autopsy:** Dissect a past MPO engagement effort—what worked, what flopped, and why.
 - **Co-Creation Workshop:** Design an engagement process with real constraints (timeline, politics, fatigue).
 - **Role Play:** Practice responding to misinformation and social media conflict.
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11. Equity in Practice — From Checklist to Change

- **Mapping Inequities:** Use spatial data to visualize disparities in access and investment.
 - **Policy Hackathon:** Draft an MPO equity framework or project evaluation criterion.
 - **Peer Reflection:** Share what “doing equity well” looks like in different regional contexts.
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12. Workforce & Institutional Knowledge Transfer

- **Succession Simulation:** Develop a transition plan for key MPO roles and responsibilities.
 - **Skill Mapping Exercise:** Identify core competencies and gaps within your team.
 - **Peer Clinic:** Share practices for onboarding, mentoring, retention and navigating conflict among staff.
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13. Advanced Data Ethics & AI Tools in Planning

- **Scenario Analysis:** Debate the ethics of AI-generated forecasts and public-facing dashboards.
 - **Demo Lab:** Participants test AI tools for mapping, summarizing, or modeling MPO data.
 - **Policy Co-Drafting Session:** Collaboratively write a draft MPO data governance or AI policy statement.
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14. Project Delivery & Implementation Readiness

- **Bottleneck Buster Game:** Identify where projects get stuck (ROW, NEPA, coordination) and how best to fix them.
- **Case Study Lab:** Analyze a real TIP project's path to delivery and extract lessons learned.
- **Risk Management Exercise:** Build a "project risk register" using real MPO examples.