

MPO LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Strengthening regional planning, safety, accountability, and project delivery for communities nationwide

MEMBER DRIVEN

AMPO represents **Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)**, the federally required regional bodies responsible for planning and coordinating multimodal transportation investments across the country. MPOs oversee **billions of dollars in federal funding**, implement Congressionally established performance measures, and help move projects from planning to construction.

Across the nation, **410 MPOs** ensure federal dollars translate into safer roads, reduced congestion, and stronger regional economies.

Learn more about
AMPO's Priorities



LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PLANNING FUNDS THAT DELIVER

Planning is the foundation of project delivery. Strong planning ensures federal dollars are invested wisely, projects are ready to advance, and issues are fixed before construction begins.

- **Increase Planning Funds (PL) to 2.5%** of the Federal-Aid Highway Program (FAHP).
- **Give MPOs the option to receive PL funds directly** to streamline delivery.
- **Eliminate the local match** requirement for federally required planning activities.
- **Expand eligible uses** to support the full project lifecycle, including data, modeling, and project scoping studies.

REGIONAL SAFETY & INFRASTRUCTURE

MPOs are on the front lines of improving safety and maintaining critical infrastructure.

- **Suballocate Highway Safety Improvement Program** funding to ensure regional safety priorities are reflected in funding decisions.
- **Suballocate Bridge Formula Program funding** to address high-need local and regional bridges.
- **Ensure long-term Highway Trust Fund stability** to support sustained investment in safety and critical infrastructure.

PREDICTABLE FUNDING & DELIVERY

Federal transportation programs should align with how projects are delivered on the ground, providing predictability for regional partners.

- **Lower the local match** for suballocated programs and allow flexible contributions.
- **Allow carryover** of suballocated funds to match real project timelines.
- **Streamline federal reviews** to reduce delays.
- **Expand stable formula funding.**

LOCAL CONTROL & ACCOUNTABILITY

Federal transportation investments work best when local priorities guide dollars, and MPOs are best positioned to align local needs with national goals.

- **Strengthen suballocation and project selection authority** so funding follows locally selected projects and reaches the infrastructure where safety and condition needs are greatest.
- **Strengthen the link between planning, performance, and project selection** so regional priorities carry through to obligation and deliver results.
- **Pilot direct suballocation of funds** for select TMA MPOs.

QUICK FACTS

43%

Of the Federal-Aid Highway System is Locally-Owned

75% & 50%

Of Road Miles & Public Bridges are Locally-Owned

50%

Of Locally-Owned Roads are in Poor Condition

85%

Of Roadway Fatalities Occur off the Interstate



AMPO

Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS

What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) coordinate transportation planning for urban areas **with populations over 50,000**, ensuring that federal and state funds are effectively invested in local and regional projects. Operating under the **Cooperative, Comprehensive, and Continuing (3C) process**, MPOs play a critical role in determining how federal and state transportation funds are allocated, ensuring that projects reflect local priorities while addressing broader regional needs.

By **bringing together local governments, transit agencies, community groups, and state partners**, MPOs develop long-term strategies to enhance mobility, improve safety, reduce congestion, and drive economic growth.

Each MPO is unique, shaped by its regional context, population size, and specific challenges. This diversity requires MPOs to wear many hats—**planners, problem-solvers, funders, and conveners**—adapting to their communities' needs and delivering tailored solutions that work best for local priorities.

1973

Year Congress established MPOs via the Federal-Aid Highway Act

410 MPOs

Nationwide

80%

National population living in an urban area (2020 Census)

View your state's MPO map here:

hepgis.fhwa.dot.gov/fhwagis/

MPO 101 GUIDE



Key Priorities for MPOs

AMPO's legislative priorities provide MPOs with the tools and flexibility to make smart, transformative investments in transportation infrastructure, ensuring that decisions made at the regional level best serve the unique needs of rural, suburban, and urban areas.

Learn More About AMPO's Legislative Priorities

ampo.org/policy/reauthorization/



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