



2026 AMPO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SACRAMENTO, CA | SEPTEMBER 14-18

PROGRAM

Subject to Change | Updated June 8, 2026

Sessions with a small MPO speaker are open to any attendee. We are highlighting them on the agenda for those who wish to learn from small MPOs (those with a population under 200,000).

All Events are at the Safe Credit Union Convention Center Unless Another Location is Noted

Monday, Sept. 14

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| 11:30 am-3:30 pm | <p align="center">Pre-Conference Sports and Development Mobile Tour</p> <p>The Sacramento region is a big fan of sports. That love has translated into transformation. Join SACOG as we explore the region through its athletic culture with visits to key sports venues such as the Golden 1 Center, home of the Sacramento Kings, and Sutter Health Park, temporary home to the Athletics, and explore the future Republic FC stadium. Attendees will get behind the scenes tours and learn how sports is connecting people across the region.</p> <p>Physical Activity Level: This tour involves walking and some light physical activity, including climbing stairs. Participants should be able to comfortably walk for short to moderate distances without difficulty.</p> <p>Price: \$95 per person, max 35 people, pre-registration required</p> |
| 1-3 pm | AMPO ART and Policy Committee meetings (Committee members only) |
| 3:30-5 pm | AMPO Board of Directors Meeting (Board members only) |
| 2-5 pm | Exhibitor set-up |
| 4-6:30 pm | Registration |
| 5-6:30 pm | Welcome Reception with Sponsors and Exhibitors |

Tuesday, Sept. 15

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| 7-8 am | Exhibitor set-up | | | | |
| 8 am-5 pm | Registration | | | | |
| 8:15-9:15 am | Breakfast with Sponsors and Exhibitors | | | | |
| 9:15-10:15 am | Welcoming Ceremonies | | | | |
| 10:15-10:45 am | Coffee break with Sponsors and Exhibitors | | | | |
| 10:45-11:45 am | <p align="center">Block 1</p> | <p align="center">WHERE HOUSING MEETS TRANSPORTATION 1</p> <p><i>Drive 'til You Qualify: Miami-Dade County's Transportation & Affordable Housing Cost Burden Paradox</i> (Franchesca Taylor, Miami-Dade TPO)</p> <p align="center">&</p> <p><i>Aligning Housing and Transportation: A Regional Data-Driven Approach</i> (Jordan Hollinger & Sujatha Krishnan, Central Massachusetts RPC)</p> | <p align="center">PUTTING TECH TO WORK</p> <p><i>From Concept to Corridor: A Strategy for Smartly Enhanced Multimodal Arterials in Buffalo Niagara</i> (Amy Weymouth, Greater Buffalo Niagara RTC)</p> <p align="center">&</p> <p><i>Testing the Future: Strengthening MPO Planning and Project Delivery through Technology Pilots and Strategic Grants</i> (Mukesh Kumar & Nora Roy, Waco MPO)</p> <p align="center">*session features a small MPO speaker*</p> | <p align="center">WHEN DATA HITS THE STREETS</p> <p><i>Leveraging Connected Vehicle Real-Time Locations and Freight Telematics Near Real-Time Dashcams for MPO Transportation Planning</i> (Guy Rousseau, ARC; Rick Ayers, CATT Lab)</p> <p align="center">&</p> <p><i>Regional Collaboration for Mega-Event Mobility: Scenario Planning and Modeling for the 2026 World Cup</i> (Pramod Sambidi, Houston-Galveston Area Council; Koushik Arunachalam, Arcadis)</p> | <p align="center">REPLACING FRUSTRATION WITH COLLABORATION</p> <p><i>Rebuilding Trust to Move Projects Forward</i> (Glenn Berry & Mary Butler, Johnson City MTPO; Melody Butler, CDM Smith)</p> <p align="center">*session features a small MPO speaker*</p> |
| noon-1:30 pm | Lunch Featuring Host MPO SACOG | | | | |
| 1:45-3 pm | <p align="center">Block 2</p> | <p align="center">WHERE HOUSING MEETS TRANSPORTATION 2</p> <p><i>Elevating the Question of Where in Housing Decisions: The WFRC Housing Site Evaluator</i> (final speakers TBD)</p> <p align="center">&</p> <p><i>Beyond National Benchmarks: Building a Locally Informed Housing and Transportation Affordability Index for MPO Planning</i> (Rafsun Mashraky & Min Jiang, Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study)</p> <p align="center">*session features a small MPO speaker*</p> | <p align="center">CORE PRODUCTS THAT COUNT</p> <p><i>Understanding Where We Stand: Working for a Better Transportation Future</i> (Lyn Erickson, Cristina Finch & Jamie Bufkin, National Capital Region TPB)</p> <p align="center">&</p> <p><i>From Low-Tech to High-Tech: Improving Engagement in the RTP</i> (Kate Horton & Pragati Srivastava, Memphis MPO)</p> | <p align="center">CREATIVITY UNDER CONSTRAINT</p> <p><i>Rewriting the MPO Playbook with Real World TDM Wins</i> (Robyn Egbert, H-GAC; Patty Olmsted, Mid-Ohio RPC; Julie Ferri, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission; Lily Zheng, Oahu MPO; Cole Hiniker, Metropolitan Council; Frank Mongioi Jr., ICF)</p> | <p align="center">DELIVERING BETTER STREETS</p> <p><i>Implementing Great Streets in High-Growth Suburban Edge Corridors</i> (Saranya Konala, East-West Gateway COG)</p> <p align="center">&</p> <p><i>Leading from the Middle: How MPOs Navigate Competing Stakeholder Expectations Through Effective Communication and Partnership to Deliver Successful Projects</i> (Maggie Wong, Maricopa Association of Governments; Kyle Schneweis, High Street Consulting)</p> <p align="center">&</p> <p><i>Making Every Curb Ramp Count: Data-Driven Strategies for the Public Right-of-Way</i> (Jaemi Jackson, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Don Kostelec, Vitruvian Planning)</p> |
| 3-3:30 pm | Break with Sponsors and Exhibitors | | | | |
| 3:30-4:30 pm | <p align="center">Block 3</p> | <p align="center">WHERE HOUSING MEETS TRANSPORTATION 3</p> <p><i>Aligning Housing and Transportation: Promising Tools and Regional Strategies for MPOs</i> (Sherry Steine & Hannah Twaddell ICF; Dov Kadlin, Sacramento Area COG; Rafsun Mashraky, Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study)</p> <p align="center">*session features a small MPO speaker*</p> | <p align="center">FROM VISION TO REALITY</p> <p><i>Meet the Inaugural MPOs Committed to the SMART METRO Ecosystem</i> (final speakers TBD)</p> | <p align="center">PRIORITIZED INVESTMENT</p> <p><i>Using MPO Levers to Advance Regional Needs</i> (Ryan Thompto, Julie Reschke & Elizabeth Ginsburg, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning)</p> | <p align="center">COORDINATING 27 MPOs</p> <p><i>Florida's Model for Statewide Collaboration</i> (Amanda Carpenter, Florida MPO Advisory Council; Mayra Uribe, MetroPlan Orlando; Greg Slay, Capital Region TPA; Donna Green, Florida DOT)</p> |
| 4:30-6 pm | Reception for MPO Leadership (Invitation Only) | | | | |
| 6-7:30 pm | Trivia Night with Light Refreshments | | | | |

| Wednesday, Sept. 16 | | | | | |
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| 8-5 pm | Registration | | | | |
| 8-9 am | Continental Breakfast with Sponsors and Exhibitors | | | | |
| 9-10 am | Block 4 | <p>UNLOCKING LOCAL FUNDS <i>How MPOs Raise Non-Federal Revenue and Strengthen Financial Capacity</i> (Taylor Dinehart, Center for Urban Transportation Research; Francis Pickering, Western Connecticut COG; Christie Gotti, North Central Texas COG; Erick Aune, Santa Fe MPO)</p> <p>*session features a small MPO speaker*</p> | <p>BRINGING LONG-RANGE PLANS TO LIFE <i>From Plan to Platform: Treating the Long-Range Transportation Plan as a Digital Ecosystem</i> (Jaclyn Davis, Delaware Valley RPC; Alvan-Bidal Sanchez, Denver Regional COG)</p> <p>&</p> <p><i>Do Bears Ride Buses? Using Storytelling and Design to Communicate the RTP Vision</i> (Kira Richardson & Rachael Shaw, Tahoe RPA)</p> <p>*session features a small MPO speaker*</p> | <p>CODING BOOTCAMP <i>Vibe Coding for Planners: Rapid Prototyping Lab for Engagement and Analysis</i> (Yahaira Graxirena & Jordan Hollinger, Central Massachusetts RPC)</p> <p>&</p> <p><i>DIY Custom Software for MPOs: From 'I Wish We Had a Tool for That' to 'I Built One' with AI</i> (Mavrick Fitzgerald, Memphis MPO)</p> | <p>UNDERSTANDING TRUCK VMT <i>It Looks Like VMT, It Sounds Like VMT, It Moves Like VMT, But It Is a Different VMT!</i> (Fatemeh Ranaiefar, Fehr & Peers; John Cho, Southern California Association of Governments; Robert Ball, KernCOG; Kalin Pachaco, Caltrans)</p> |
| 10-10:30 am | Coffee break with Sponsors and Exhibitors | | | | |
| 10:30-11:45 am | Block 5 | <p>WHERE HOUSING MEETS TRANSPORTATION 4 <i>Bridging Housing and Transportation: An Exploration Exchange for MPOs</i> (Sherry Steine & Hannah Twaddell ICF; Dov Kadlin, Sacramento Area COG; Rafsun Mashraky, Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study)</p> <p>*session features a small MPO speaker*</p> | <p>MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE <i>Mascots, Media, and Mobility: Creative Tools Empowering the Next Generation for Real Impact in Transportation Planning</i> (Elizabeth Rockwell & Paul Chance, Miami-Dade TPO)</p> <p>&</p> <p><i>Start Where You Are: Risk-Taking, Credibility, and Community Trust for MPOs</i> (Erin Braich & Daisy Funk, Benton-Franklin COG)</p> | <p>LET'S GET PHYSICAL! <i>An Active Living Evaluation and Exploration Workshop</i> (Martin Kim, Elizabeth Whitaker, & Mito Simpson, Miami Valley RPC)</p> | <p>TACKLING TRAFFIC CONGESTION <i>Hillsborough TPO's Approach to Crash Mitigation and Congestion Management Process</i> (Harry Walsh, Hillsborough TPO; Praveen Pasumarthy, Cambridge Systematics)</p> <p>&</p> <p><i>Marin's Mobility Enhancement Toolkit: Providing Trip Reduction and Mobility Options to Local Agencies</i> (Derek McGill, Transportation Authority of Marin; Chris Gregerson, Kimley-Horn)</p> <p>&</p> <p><i>Congestion Management Solutions Through Integrated Planning</i> (Saleem Salameh, KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission; Allison Fluitt, Kimley-Horn)</p> |
| noon-1:30 pm | Lunch Featuring General Membership Meeting | | | | |
| 1:45-3 pm | Block 6 | <p>FROM VISION TO IMPLEMENTATION <i>How MPOs Can Build Technical Assistance Programs to Assist Project Delivery</i> (Summer Lopez, Sacramento Area COG; Mia Candy, Toole Design Group; Josh Wolffe, Yuba City; Stephanie Chan, City of West Sacramento; Jesse Voremborg, Rails to Trails Conservancy)</p> | <p>THE BEST OF BIKES & BUSES <i>The Lake City Loop: MPO Transit Planning for Smaller Communities</i> (Jeremiah Cox & Aidan McHugh, Michiana Area COG)</p> <p>&</p> <p><i>Planning for What's Next: Helping MPOs Manage the Rise of E-Bikes Safely</i> (final speakers TBD)</p> | <p>BUILDING BETTER PARTNERSHIPS <i>Testing New Collaboration Tools for MPOs and DOTs</i> (final speakers TBD)</p> | <p>THE HEAT IS ON <i>Climate Action on a Regional Level: How Texas MPOs Are Delivering Results</i> (Pharr Andrews, Houston-Galveston Area Council; Lori Clark, North Central Texas COG; Lyle Hufstetler, Alamo Area COG)</p> <p>&</p> <p><i>Beating the Heat: Innovative Strategies for Extreme Heat Resilience</i> (Pierre Gaunaud, National Capital Region TPB; Jenn Concannon, Boston Region MPO; Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning)</p> |
| 2-4 pm | <p>Mobile Tour: Explore Sacramento's Downtown Housing Transformation by Bike</p> <p>Join us for a guided biking tour through the heart of downtown Sacramento for a hands on look at how cities can deliver housing while enhancing mobility and quality of life. Learn about how partners from across the region are converging in the downtown core to support safety, mobility, and housing production near jobs and services. This tour will highlight Sacramento's evolution through urban renewal, showcasing how historic neighborhoods and legacy redevelopment efforts intersect with today's wave of infill and housing production. Participants will explore a range of historic and contemporary housing typologies that are keeping and adding new residents to the urban core.</p> <p>Physical Activity Level: Moderate-to-High with a good comfort level for bike riding in an urban setting.</p> <p>Cost: \$15, 20 people max, pre-registration required</p> | | | | |
| 3-3:30 pm | Break with Sponsors and Exhibitors | | | | |
| 3:30-4:30 pm | Block 7 | <p>TAKING IT TO THE (SAFER) STREETS <i>From Highway Manuals to Human-Scaled Streets: Building a Regional Traffic Calming & Complete Streets Toolbox</i> (Francis Pickering & Kristin Hadjstylianos, Western Connecticut COG)</p> <p>&</p> <p><i>Scaling Vision Zero through Multidisciplinary Partnerships and Local Implementation</i> (Alexandra Kleyman, Boston Region MPO)</p> | <p>I WANT TO RIDE MY BICYCLE <i>Applying Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress to MPO Planning</i> (Rachael Shaw & Rory Lepore, Tahoe RPA; Daniel Patterson, Parametrix)</p> <p>&</p> <p><i>Pedal Power: Temporary Lanes for Safe School Travel</i> (Kevin Walford, Miami-Dade TPO)</p> <p>*session features a small MPO speaker*</p> | <p>SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES AT DIFFERENT STARTING LINES <i>An MPO Peer Roundtable on Development Readiness</i> (final speakers TBD)</p> | <p>WE'RE STILL HERE <i>Regional Planning in Partnership with American Indian Communities</i> (Allison Waukau & Angela Torres, Metropolitan Council; Robert Lilligren, Native American Community Development Institute & Metropolitan Council; Robert Pilot, Native Roots Radio)</p> |
| 6-9 pm | Evening Reception at the California State Railroad Museum, 125 I St. | | | | |

Thursday, Sept. 17

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| 8:30-9:30 am | Continental Breakfast with Sponsors and Exhibitors | | | |
| 9:30-10 am | Main Stage Session TBD | | | |
| 10-10:30 am | Coffee Break with Sponsors and Exhibitors | | | |

10-11:30 am

Mobile Tour: R Street Corridor

Explore the R Street Corridor, where Sacramento’s past meets its creative present. Once the state’s first railroad and industrial corridor, R Street is rich with history that still lives on in its brick warehouses, historic landmarks, and rail inspired streetscape. Today, those same buildings have been reimagined as artists’ lofts, vibrant murals, galleries, and gathering spaces, alongside some of the city’s most celebrated dining, cocktails, entertainment, and design. Join us for a walk through the corridor to discover its industrial roots, experience its thriving arts scene, and see how R Street has transformed into a dynamic district that honors Sacramento’s history while looking boldly toward the future.

Physical Activity Level: This tour involves walking and some light physical activity, including climbing stairs. Participants should be able to comfortably walk for short to moderate distances without difficulty.

Cost: \$15, 30 people max, pre-registration required

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| 10:30-11:30 am | Block 8 | <p align="center">MAKING VISION ZERO A REALITY</p> <p><i>Almost a Crash, Actually a Clue: Using Near Miss Data to Drive Regional Vision Zero Strategies</i> (Erik Braaten, Denver Regional COG)</p> <p align="center">&</p> <p><i>The Hitchhiker’s Guide to Regional Vision Zero Planning</i> (Colleen McGue & David Miller, Triangle West TPO)</p> | <p align="center">TRAVEL SURVEYS FROM COAST TO COAST</p> <p><i>Travel Surveys in Times of Turbulence: Challenges, Lessons Learned, and Practical Strategies for MPOs</i> (Kenneth Joh, National Capital Region TPB)</p> <p align="center">&</p> <p><i>From Constraints to Calibration: How SCAG Delivered Model Ready HTS Data Under Tight Budget Constraints</i> (Yang Wang, Southern California Association of Governments; Youme Yai, RSG)</p> | <p align="center">DATA-DRIVEN PLANNING</p> <p><i>Transportation Pathways to Regional Economic Vitality</i> (Saranya Konala, East-West Gateway COG)</p> <p align="center">&</p> <p><i>Proactive Safety Planning: Leveraging Predictive Analytics and Community Data for Safer Streets</i> (Rachel Om, Southern California Association of Governments)</p> | <p align="center">ADVENTURES IN COMMUNICATION</p> <p><i>AICP.E. – Leveraging Planner-Engineer Staff Collaboration in MPO Workflow</i> (Dan Schmuhl, Maria Schaper, & Thomas Graham, Mid-Ohio RPC)</p> <p align="center">&</p> <p><i>Somehow, We Manage</i> (Allison Riley & Marcus Coenen, Des Moines Area MPO)</p> |
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11:45-1:15 pm Lunch Featuring Vendor Raffle & 2025 AMPO Awards

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| 1:30-3 pm | Block 9 | <p align="center">WHERE HOUSING MEETS TRANSPORTATION 5</p> <p><i>A Playbook for Advancing Housing & Transportation Integration</i> (Sumi Malik & Kyle Smith, ICF; Cristina Finch, National Capital Region TPB)</p> | <p align="center">BEYOND THE CMP</p> <p><i>Turning Regional TDM Strategy into Real-World Mobility Programs</i> (Courtney Reynolds, Agile Mile; Victoria Cacciatore, Sacramento Area COG; Cheryl Croshere, 50 Corridor TMA; Michelle Reynolds, North Natomas Jibe; Stephanie Merten, South Natomas TMA; Brenda Lomeli, Yolo Commute)</p> | <p align="center">THE POWER TO MOVE</p> <p><i>Advancing Transportation Options for ALICE Families</i> (John Kaliski, Cambridge Systematics; Greg Stuart, Broward MPO; Stephanie Hoopes, United Way of Northern New Jersey)</p> | no session |
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3-3:30 pm Break with Sponsors and Exhibitors

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| 3:30-4:30 pm | Block 10 | <p align="center">SHOW US THE MONEY</p> <p><i>Managing Fiscal Uncertainty in Long-Range Transportation Planning</i> (Elizabeth Ginsburg, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Angela Castro, RTC of Southern Nevada; Gary Simonson, Puget Sound Regional Council; Daniel Comeaux, CDM Smith)</p> | <p align="center">ACCESS IS EVERYTHING</p> <p><i>Transportation Access to Core Services: A Practical Framework for Regional Planning and Decision-Making</i> (Beheshteh Makari, Southeast Michigan COG)</p> <p align="center">&</p> <p><i>Leveraging New Tools and Data to Develop Destination Access TIP Project Selection Criteria</i> (Betsy Harvey Herzfeld, Boston Region MPO)</p> | <p align="center">BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER</p> <p><i>From Gateway to Consensus: Leveraging PEL to Align Transportation, Community Vision, and Environmental Review</i> (Julie Richmond, Herkimer-Oneida Counties Transportation Council; Frank Armento, Fisher Associates)</p> <p align="center">&</p> <p><i>The Infrastructure Handshake: A Multi-Disciplinary Model for Infrastructure and Development Alignment</i> (Maria Schaper, Mid-Ohio RPC; Erin Grushon, Burgess & Niple)</p> <p align="center">*session features a small MPO speaker*</p> | no session |
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Friday, Sept. 18

9 am-1 pm

Post-Conference Mobile Tour: Where History Meets Investment—Sacramento’s Economic and Cultural Corridors

This bus and walking tour showcases Sacramento’s vibrant growth corridors, where historic neighborhoods, an innovative university, and community driven decisions are shaping the city’s future. Traveling along our changing corridors, participants will get a deep dive into the history of some of Sacramento’s most culturally significant corridors. Join us to learn how strategic investment fuels economic development while preserving cultural identity and expanding housing opportunities.

Physical Activity Level: This tour involves walking and some light physical activity, including climbing stairs. Participants should be able to comfortably walk for short to moderate distances without difficulty.

Price: \$75 per person, max 40 people, pre-registration required