2020

MPO 101

Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Transportation History

What is an MPO?

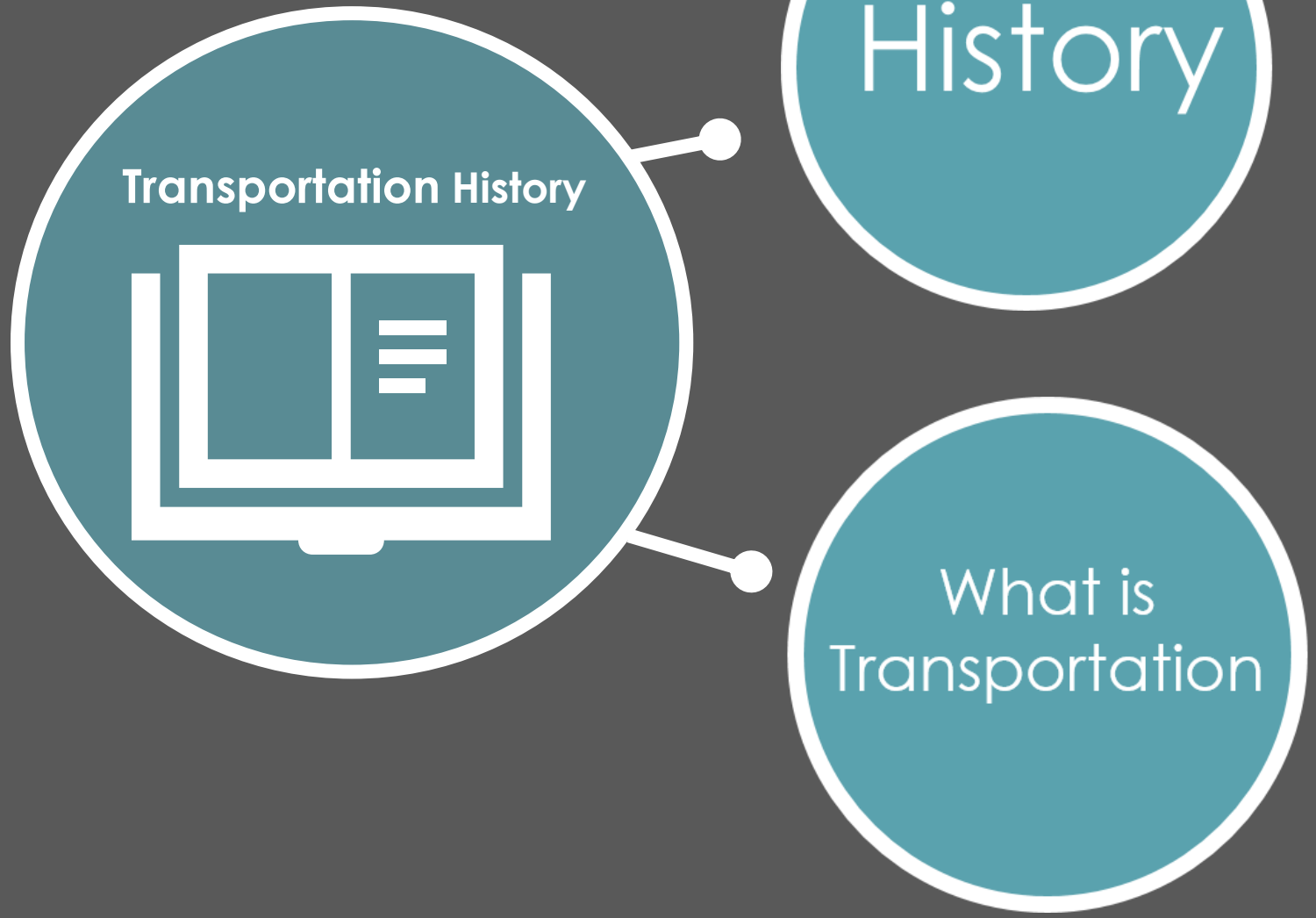
MPO Functions

Memphis MPO Structure & Activities

Important MPO Topics

FAQ

Memphis MPO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Strengthening Regional Transportation


Transportation History
History
What is Transportation

Transportation

History

1956

Federal Aid Highway Act (Eisenhower Act) Established the Highway Trust Fund- funds roads and transit

1962

Required MPOs to be established in urban areas

Some of the earliest MPOs were established around 1965-66 e.g. in DC, California, Texas etc.

1977

Memphis Urban Area MPO was established (along with Knoxville, Chattanooga and Nashville MPO)

Roads, bridges, bike lanes, buses, sidewalk, traffic signals, facility maintenance, freight*, etc.

Transportation

What is Transportation?

Planning

MPO &

All its members

20 year future planning

Regional outlook

Federal funding allocation for project implementation

Implementation

Jurisdiction

Local roads construction and maintenance

Bike lanes

Traffic Signal

Buses

Sidewalks

State DOT's

Interstate and State Highway

Bridges on interstate and state highways

Bike lanes (rural roads)

Large traffic information projects

*Note: freight facilities are generally privately managed and operated, but their impact on local roads and highways requires investments from state and local jurisdictions

What is an MPO?

- Before We Start
- MPOs
  - Urbanized Areas
  - Types
- Tennessee MPOs
- Mississippi MPOs

Before We Start

List of Acronyms

FHWA= Federal Highway Administration

FTA= Federal Transit Administration

EPA= Environmental Protection Agency

MPA= Metropolitan Planning Area

TDOT= Tennessee Department of Transportation

MDOT= Mississippi Department of Transportation

CMAQ= Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality improvement Program

STBG=Surface Transportation Block Grant (funding category)

TA= Transportation Alternatives (funding category)

NEPA= National Environment Policy Act

FY= Fiscal Year (Federal Fiscal Year Starts October to September)

ROW= Right Of Way Acquisition phase of a project

CONST= Construction phase of a project

PE= Preliminary Engineering (either for Environmental phase or design

TIP= Transportation Improvement Plan

RTP= Regional Transportation Plan

PPP= Public Participation Plan

UPWP= Unified Planning Work Program

What is an MPO?

MPO = Metropolitan Planning Organization

Title 23 CFR 450 mandates MPOs to be established in areas with **urbanized area** population of 50,000 or more

MPO is a transportation policy-making and planning body that facilitates the allocation of transportation funds to **member jurisdictions**.

Federal Law **requires regional transportation planning** to reflect the **region's shared vision** for its future using a **comprehensive, cooperative and continuing** process.

Over **400 MPOs** in the Country

What is an MPO?

Types

Two Types

- **Large** (urbanized area population 200k or more) (Memphis MPO)
- **Small** (urbanized area population between 50K and 200K)

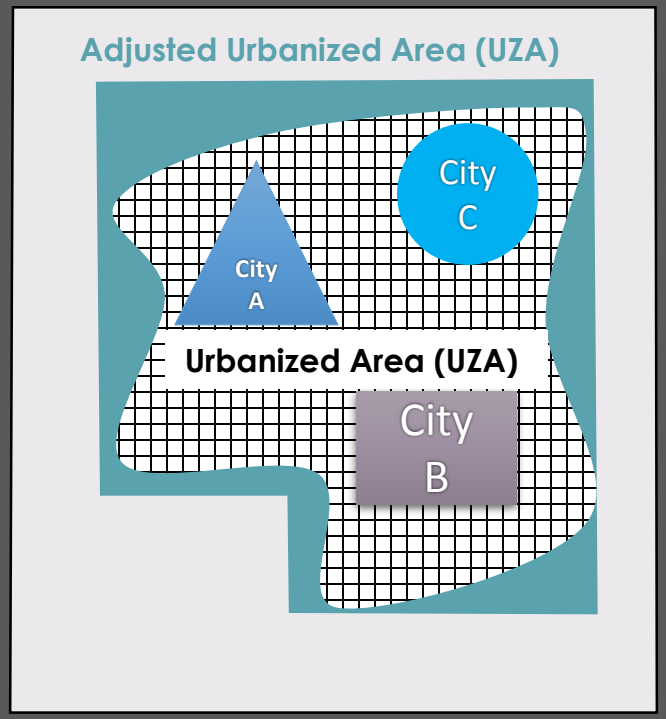
Large MPOs

(Tennessee has 4 Large MPOs and Mississippi has 3 Large MPOs)

- Also called Transportation Management Areas or TMAs
- Require federal **certification every 4 years**
- Receive **direct allocations from Federal Government for STBG and TA funds** (complete discretion to the MPO's Board as how to they use these funds, within federal guidelines)

What is an MPO?

Urbanized Area



Urbanized Areas are densely populated area with diverse land use around a central place.

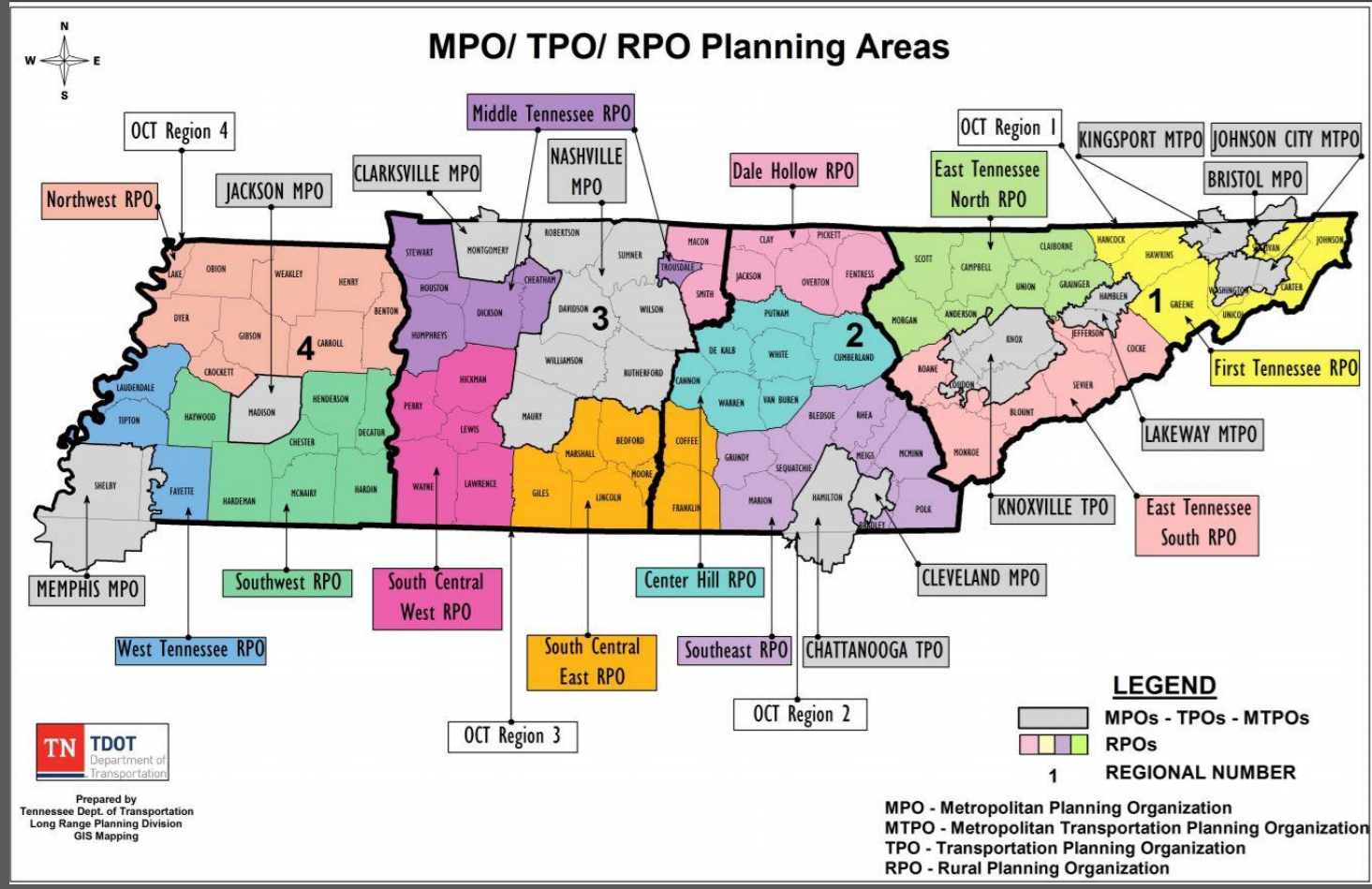
Urbanized Areas traditionally includes a city of at least 50,000 people, or city and suburban areas of 100,000 people.

Rural Areas are less dense and characterized by agricultural activities.

*Metropolitan Areas include both urbanized and rural land.

Tennessee's MPOs

Total 11 MPOs



4 Large MPOs:

- Memphis
- Nashville
- Knoxville
- Chattanooga

(over 200,000 in population)

5 out of 11

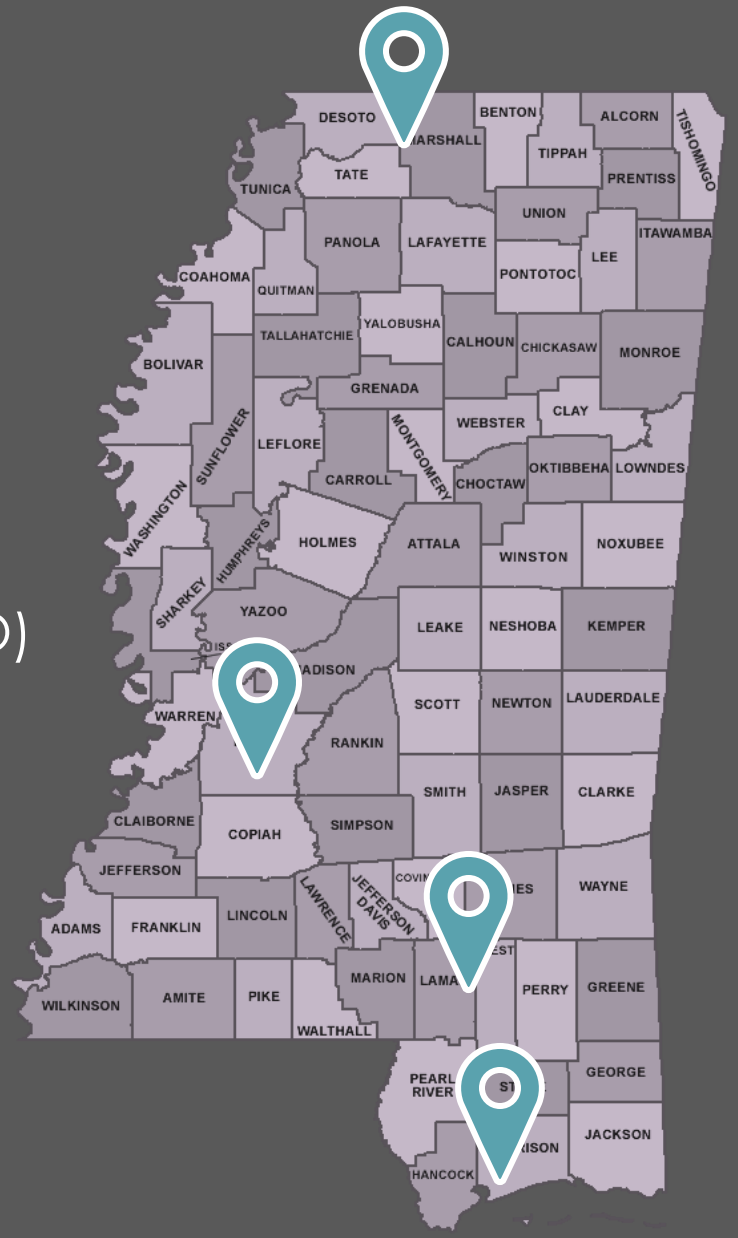
are Bi-State MPOs in TN

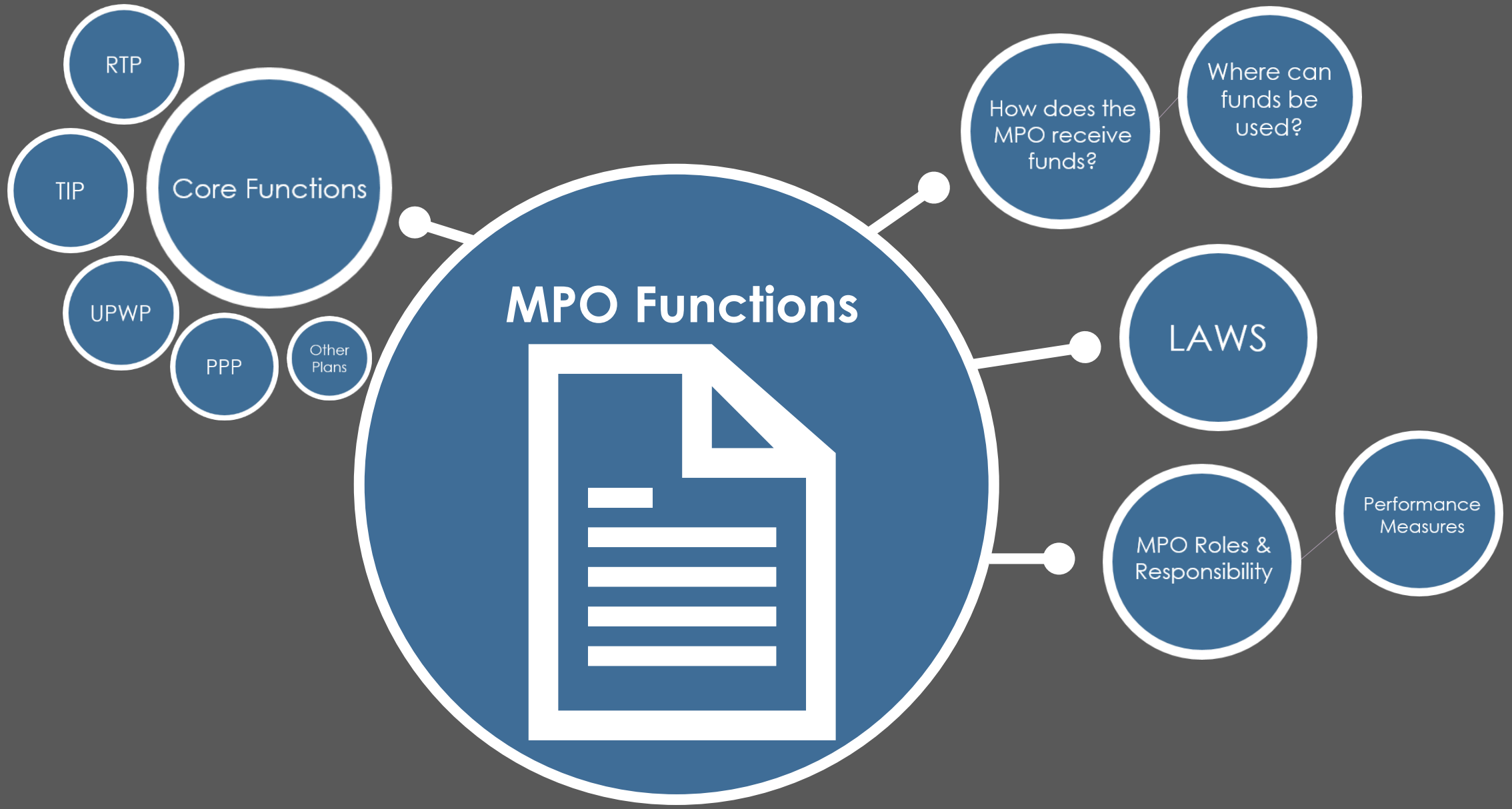
Mississippi's MPOs

Total 4 MPOs

4 MPOs:

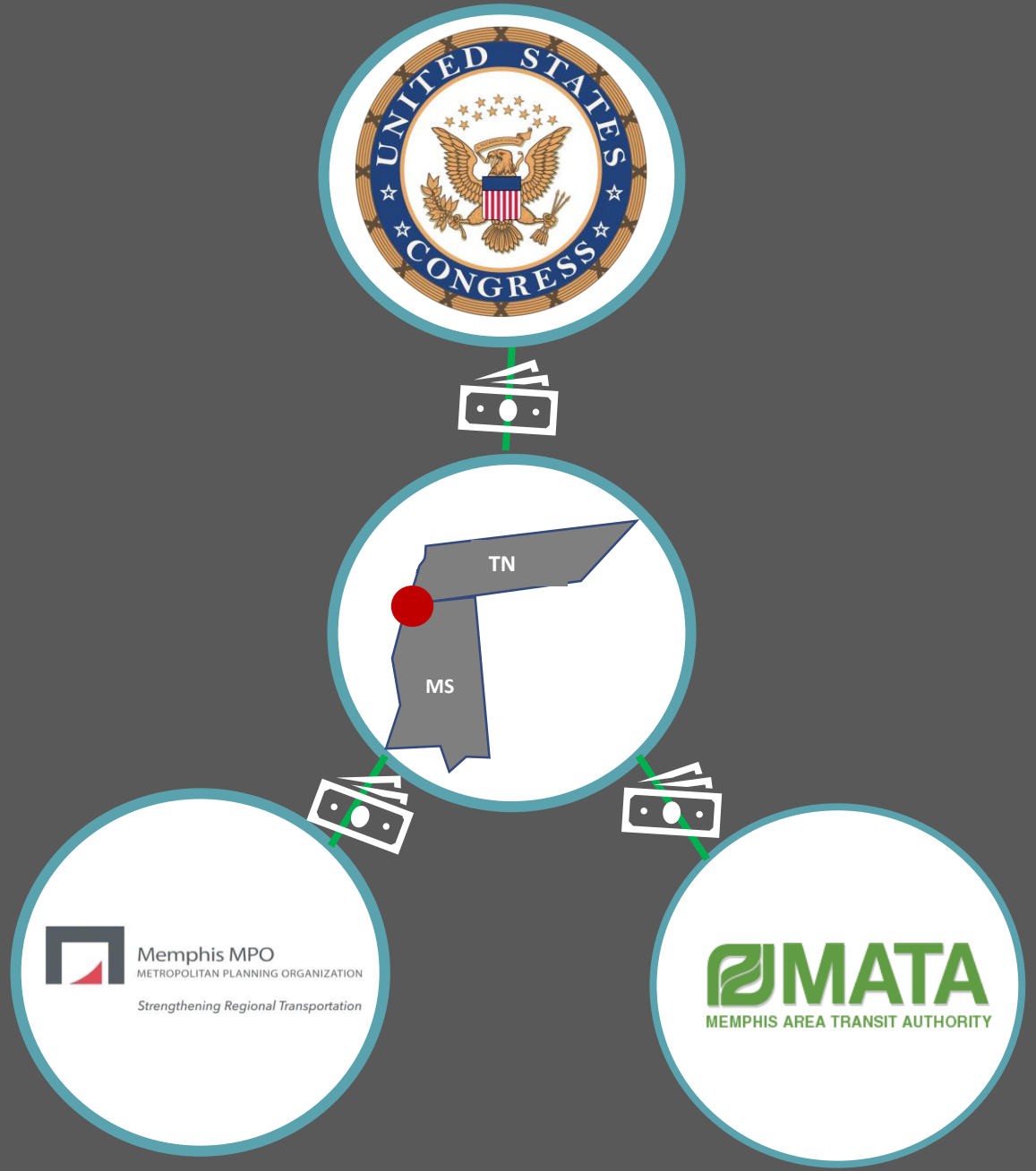
- Memphis(DeSoto Co. and Marshall Co.)
- CMPDD (Jackson MPO)
- GRPC (Gulfport MPO)
- Hattiesburg MPO




RTP
TIP
Core Functions
UPWP
PPP
Other Plans
MPO Functions
How does the MPO receive funds?
Where can funds be used?
LAWS
MPO Roles & Responsibility
Performance Measures

Funds

How does the MPO receive funds?

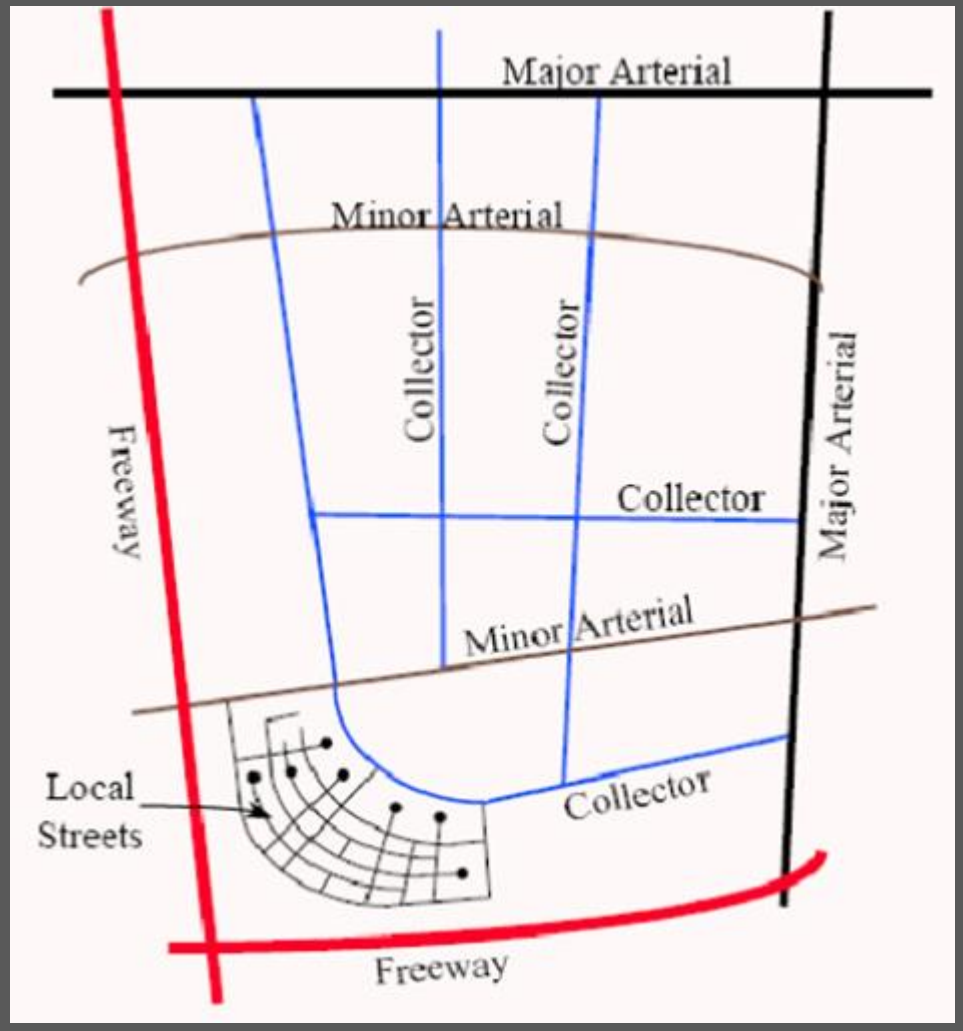


*Note: Transit Funding coming to the MPO is diverted to MATA. The use of this funding is determined by the MATA Board.

Funds

Where can funds be used?

- Federal guidelines require that funds can only be used for roads identified on the federal roadway system – called functional classification system
  - Roads within the urban area are classified as urban
  - Roads within the rural area are classified as rural – MPO funds cannot be used on rural roads*
  - Each MPO is given only certain miles of roads on which funds can be spent



***Note:** in very few instances funds can be used in rural areas

LAWS

What laws apply to the MPO?

FAST Act

- Primary law that MPO has to follow
- Explains what funding programs are available and how they can be used
- Defines the MPO's role and mandated tasks

Clean Air Act

Environmental Protection Agency) – Air Quality Non-attainment & Maintenance

Civil Rights Act of 1964

Title VI

*Note: Applies to mobile sources, other sources such as industry pollutants from factories must meet EPA's requirement as well.

MPO Roles & Responsibilities

MPOs

Do Not

- Construct roads or other transportation improvements
- Perform road-related work (PE, ROW or CONST)
- Operate transit systems or airports
- Dictate what projects are pursued by jurisdictions
- Approve land use decisions, zoning etc.

Do

- **Facilitate planning** for the overall transportation network, i.e. roads, bike/ped, transit, and freight
- Work with MPO members to allocate transportation funds appropriately
- Inform the public about MPO planning activities, studies, etc.
- Adopt federally required performance targets for the MPO Planning area.

MPO Roles & Responsibilities

Performance Measures

State Departments of Transportation (DOTs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), & Transit Agencies are required to implement a performance-based approach in the transportation decision making process to support the 7 National Planning Goals.

The Performance-Based Planning & Programming (PBPP) approach requires MPOs to set targets that address federal performance measures. It also requires linking investment priorities in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the performance targets.

The Memphis MPO collaborates with FHWA, FTA, TDOT, MDOT, & MATA, as well as the West Memphis MPO and ARDOT, to set federally required performance targets and support the states and local transit established targets.

PM 1: Safety Performance

- Total number of traffic related fatalities on all public roads
- Rate of traffic related fatalities on all public roads per 100 million VMT
- Total number of traffic related serious injuries on all public roads
- Rate of traffic related serious injuries on all public roads per 100 million VMT
- Total number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads

PM 2: Infrastructure Condition

- %age of pavements on the Interstate System in Good condition
- %age of pavements on the Interstate System in Poor condition
- %age of the non-interstate National Highway System in Good condition
- %age of the non-interstate National Highway System in Poor condition
- %age of National Highway System bridges classified as in Good condition
- %age of National Highway System bridges classified as in Poor condition

PM 3: System Performance

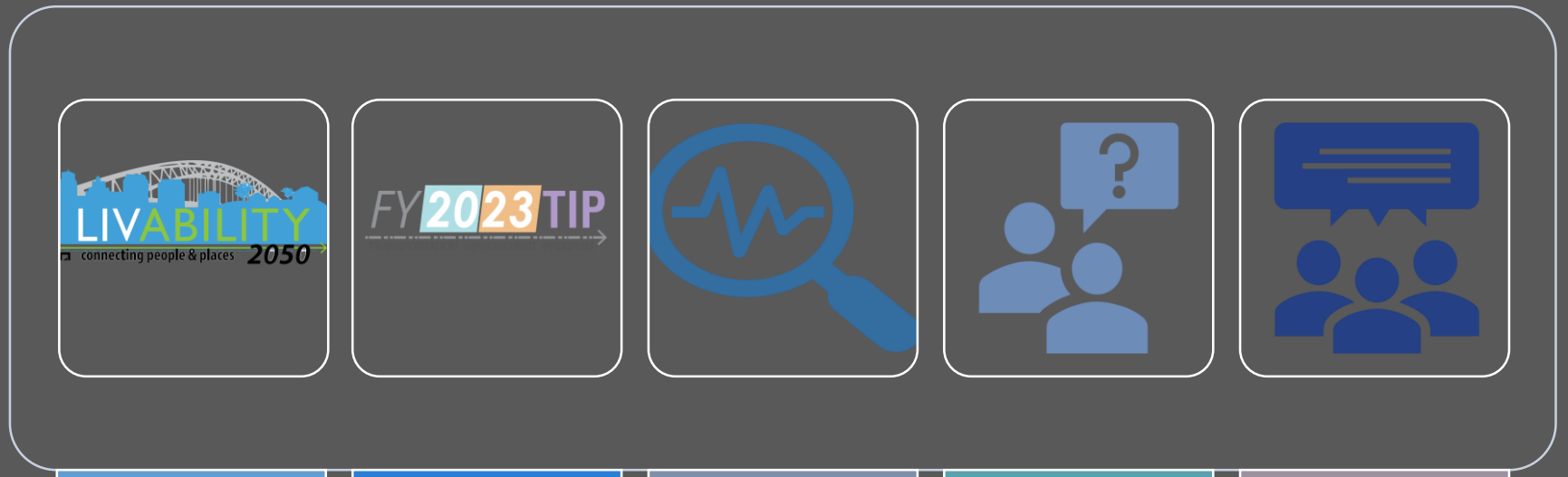
- % of the Person-Miles Traveled on the Interstate that are reliable
- % of the Person Miles Traveled on the Non-Interstate National Highway System that are reliable
- %age of Interstate System mileage providing reliable truck travel time
- Annual hours of peak hour excessive delay per capita
- %age of non-single occupancy vehicle travel
- Total emissions reductions by applicable pollutants under the CMAQ program

TAM/PTASP: Transit Performance

- The %age of revenue vehicles (by type) that exceed the useful life benchmark (ULB)
- The %age of non-revenue service vehicles (by type) that exceed the ULB
- The %age of facilities (by group) that are rated less than 3.0 on the Transit Economic Requirements Model (TERM) Scale
- The %age of track segments (by mode) that have performance restrictions
- Total amount and rate of injuries, fatalities, and safety events per total vehicle revenue miles
- Mean distance between major mechanical failures

Core Functions

Five Core Functions



Maintain a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP or LRTP)	Develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	Identify and evaluate alternative transportation improvement options	Involve the public – residents and key affected sub-groups	Establish a setting for regional discussion

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Plan Development Timeline
Approx. 2 years

MPO Product	Time Horizon	Contents	Update Requirements
RTP	20 years (minimum) 25 years (preferred)	Future goals, strategies, and projects	Every 4 years

1. Long Range Plan - Looks 20+ years into the future
2. Outlines the policies, and the long-range and short-range actions that support an integrated and intermodal transportation system
3. Fiscally constrained – guides decision-making for selection and implementation of projects
4. Conforms to national and local air quality standards
5. Includes federally funded projects and regionally significant local projects
6. Comprehensive public participation process

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Plan Development Timeline
Approx. 1-1.5 years

MPO Product	Time Horizon	Contents	Update Requirements
TIP	4 years	Transportation investments and projects	Every 4 years

1. Serve as the MPOs multimodal financial programming document- Roads, Bridges, Transit, Bike, Pedestrian, etc.
2. Allocates transportation resources among jurisdictions based on regional priorities
3. Amended on a quarterly basis (as needed)
4. Fiscally constrained and conforms to air quality standards
5. Lists each multimodal transportation project planned in the MPA

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Plan Development Timeline
Approx. 6-9 months

MPO Product	Time Horizon	Contents	Update Requirements
UPWP	2 years	Planning studies, tasks	Annual

1.Identifies specific planning, data, and analysis tasks that the Memphis MPO and its partner agencies will undertake during a two-year period

2. Assist in further defining the comprehensive and multimodal transportation plans for the MPA

Public Participation Plan

Plan Development Timeline
Approx. 6-12 months

MPO Product	Time Horizon	Contents	Update Requirements
PPP	As-Needed	Public Participation methods & strategies for public engagement & outreach	As-Needed

1. Outlines the specific public participation methods and strategies for engagement and outreach the Memphis MPO can use to encourage and promote involvement.

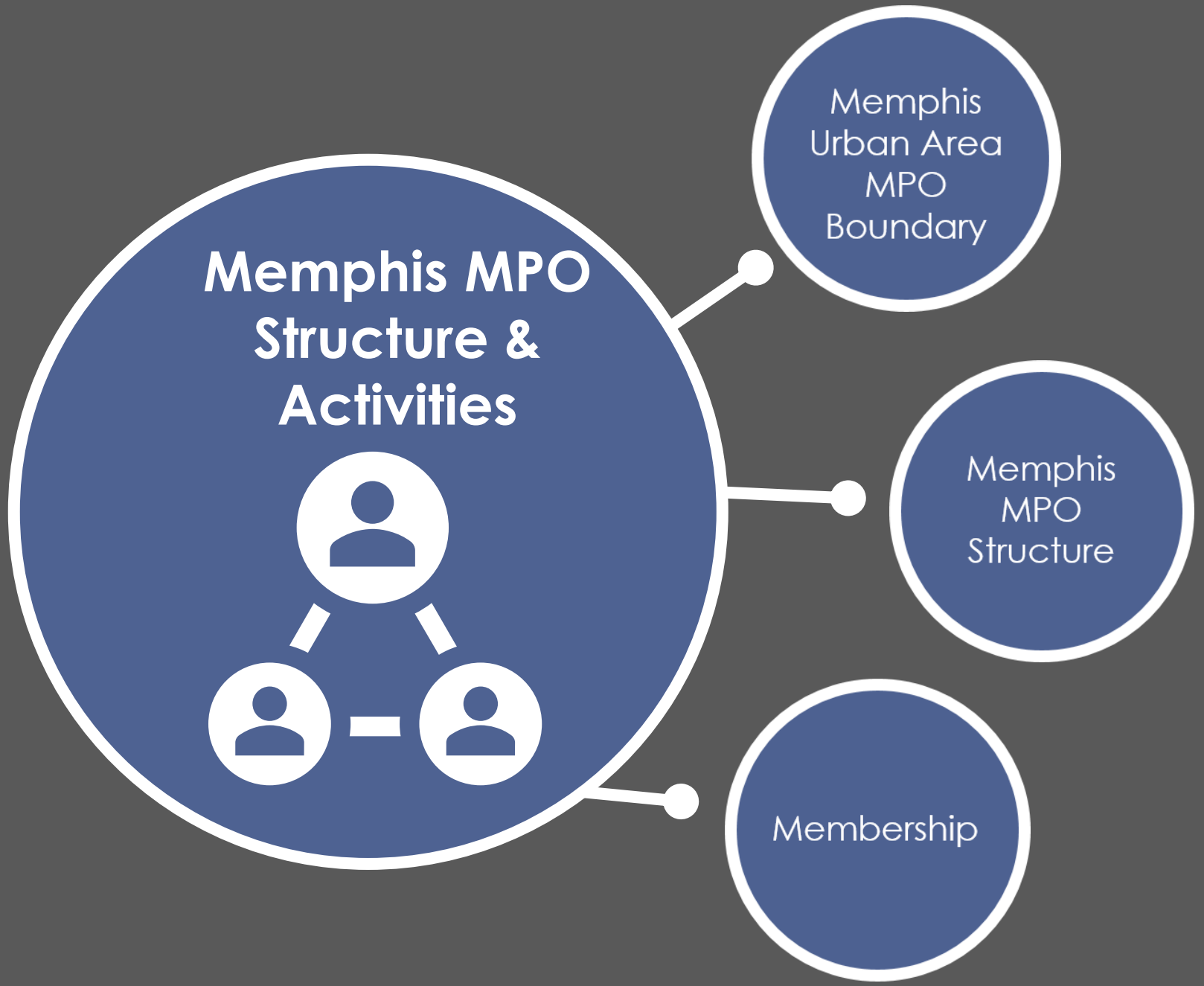
Other MPO Plans

Plan Development Timeline
Varies

Freight Planning | Transit Planning | Safety Planning | Mobility Planning | Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning

In addition to the four major documents, the Memphis MPO conducts other multimodal plans and studies, in coordination with local, regional, state, and federal partners. A combination of outreach methods, engagement opportunities, and public comment periods may be used in the development of specific plans or studies.

For more information on MPO plans and studies, visit the Memphis MPO's Plans Webpage.


Memphis MPO Structure & Activities
Memphis Urban Area MPO Boundary
Memphis MPO Structure
Membership

Memphis Urban Area MPO

Boundary

Federal Regulations require Governors of Tennessee and Mississippi to approve the *MPO Boundary*

Bi-State: Covers Portions of TN and MS

Shelby County, TN

- Entire county

DeSoto County, MS

- Entire county

Fayette County, TN

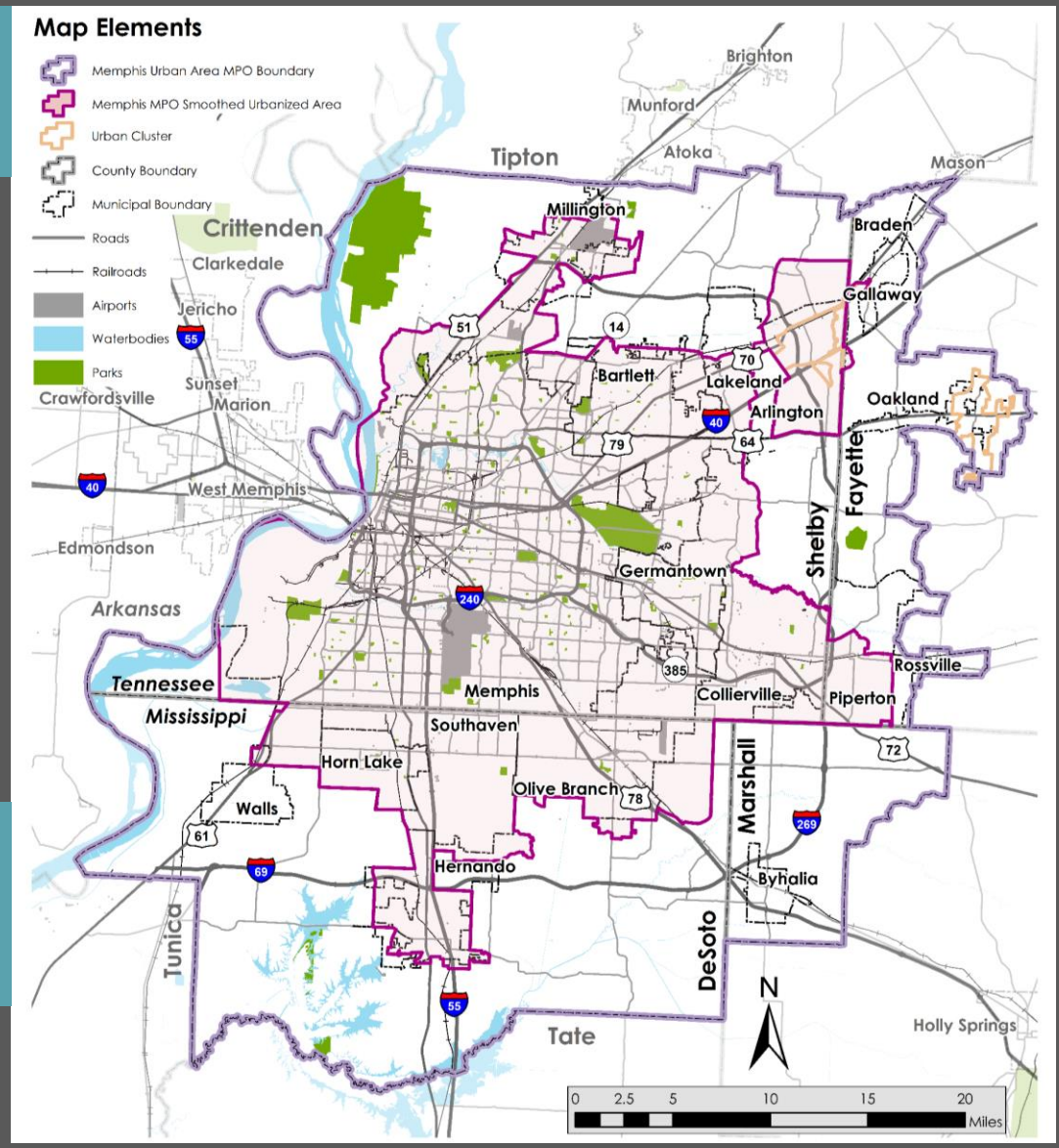
- Western portion

Marshall County, MS

- Northwestern portion

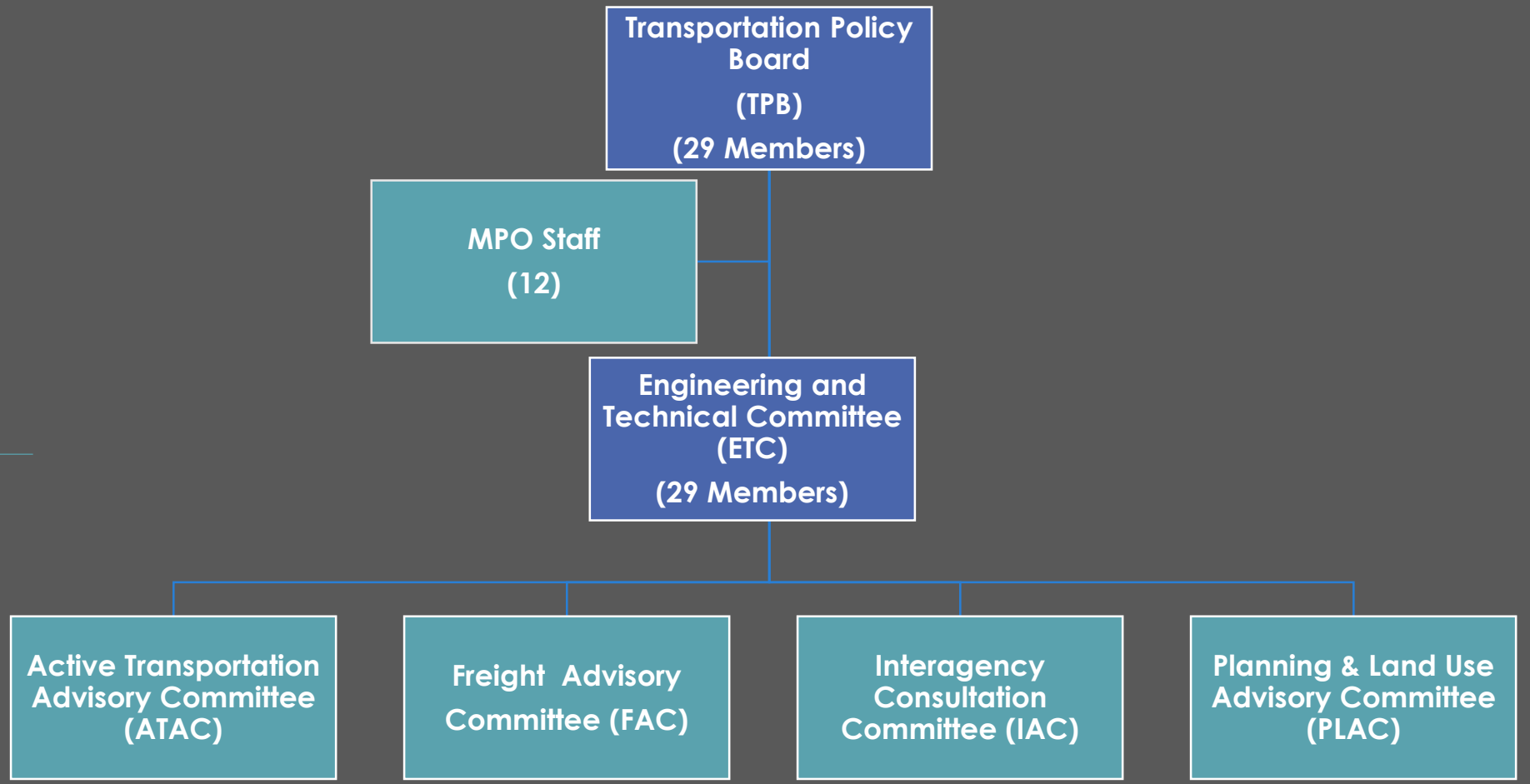
The MPO planning area covers the area that is currently urbanized and what is likely to become urbanized in the next 20 years.

Coordination with West Memphis MPO, AR



Memphis Urban Area MPO

Structure

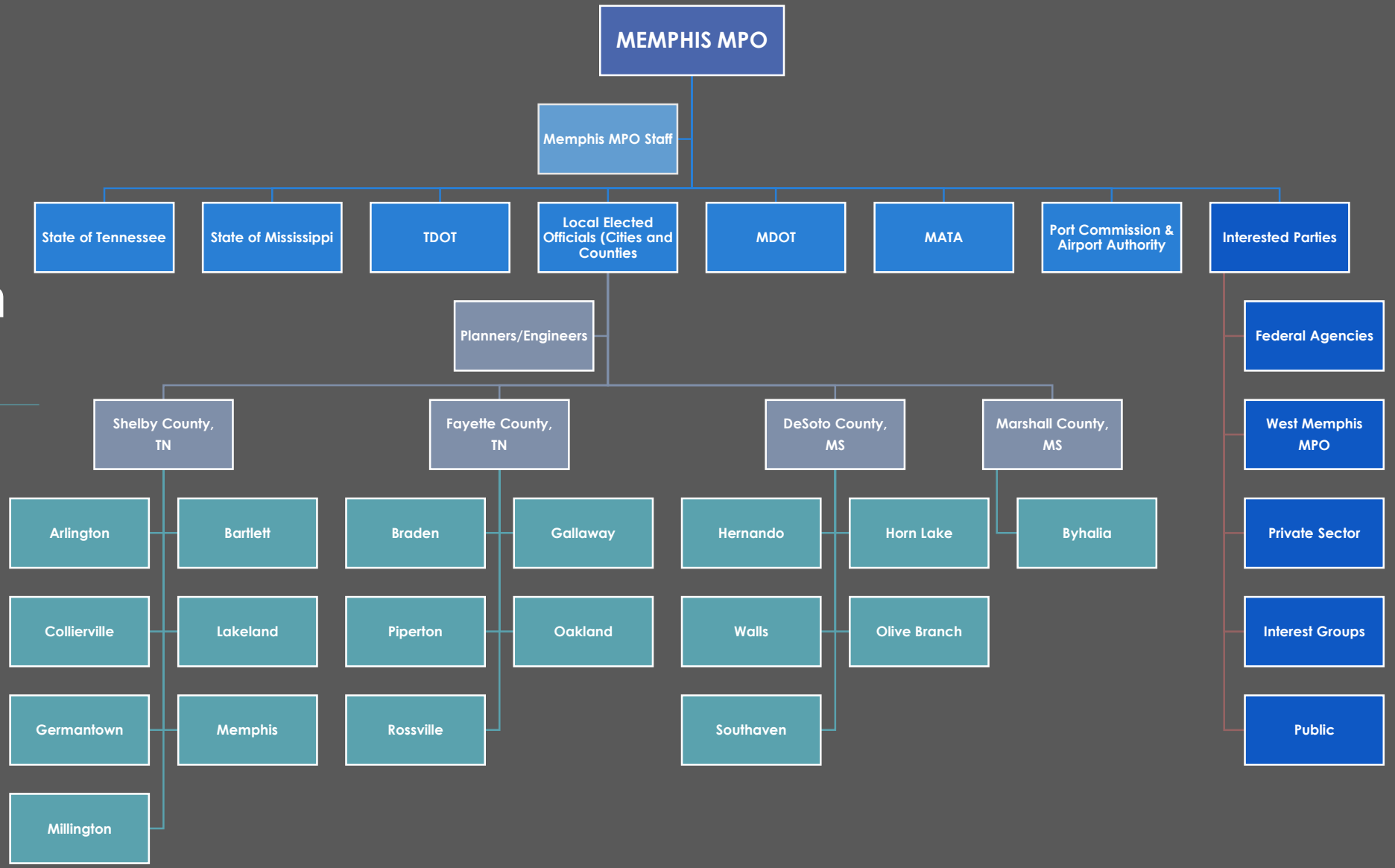


Memphis MPO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Strengthening Regional Transportation

*Note: MPO Bylaws govern the structure and membership of the committees

Memphis Urban Area MPO

Membership



Important MPO Topics

- Allocation vs Obligation
- What is Fiscal Constraint?
- Project Development
- Air Quality

Important Topics for the MPO

Allocation vs Obligation

Allocation

Similar to appropriation

Obligation

Funds are considered "promised" by the federal government however no money is transferred, Obligation time varies between DOTs

Obligated

Allocated

Obligated Funds	Timely Obligation	Fiscal Year	Phase of Work	Funding Type	Total Funds	Federal Funds	State Funds	Local Funds
		2020	CONST	NHPP	$62,300,000	$56,070,000	$6,230,000	

Periodically, Congress **rescinds**, or cancels unspent transportation funds from State DOTs. These rescissions are essentially a bookkeeping measure that allows the USDOT to take long unspent funds off the books.

Source: FHWA

Important Topics for the MPO

What is Fiscal Constraint?

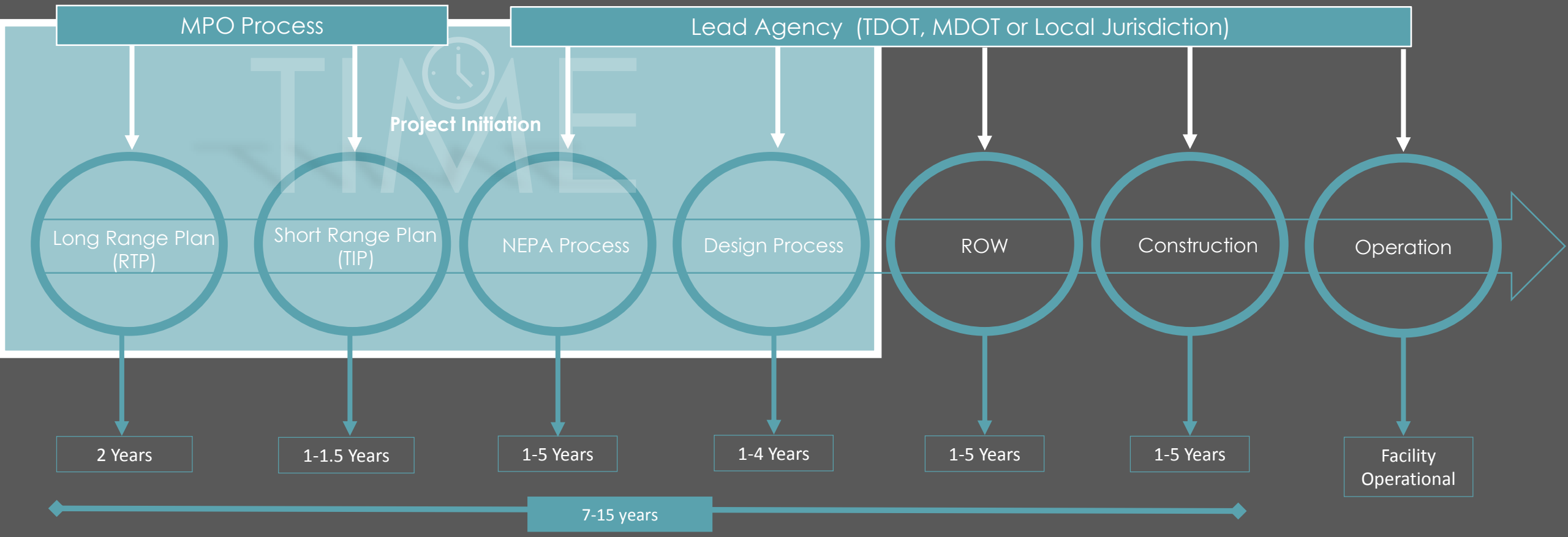
Fiscal constraint means that the projected amount of expenditures would not exceed the projected amount of revenues, thus limiting the number of projects to be included in the TIP and RTP.

Example

STBG Annual Allocation = $15 million
4 year time of TIP = $15X 4 = $60 million
can only fund project up to **$60 million or less**

Important Topics for the MPO

Steps in Project Development (federally funded)



The RTP & TIP are updated at a minimum of every four years.

This is typical for capital road projects. The timeline/process for smaller scale projects such as resurfacing, signals, bicycle and pedestrian projects may differ based on the project scope.

Important Topics for the MPO

Air Quality

Clean Air Act Amendments (1990) require that the EPA study the effects of air pollution on human health and the environment, and to establish appropriate **air quality standards.**

Ozone

(Maintenance: Shelby County and Desoto County)

Maintenance Area

A former nonattainment area which has successfully taken actions to meet the EPA's Standards. The area generally remains in maintenance for 10 years, during which it has to continuously demonstrate compliance with EPA's standards. After 10 years it will be designated as attainment

What is a State Implementation Plan (SIP)?

It is a specific plan required by the Clean Air Act to achieve the EPA's standards in all non-attainment areas. The SIPs are developed by the states (with local inputs) and submitted to U.S.EPA for approval. After approval, the SIPs and all associated control measures are enforceable at both the state and federal levels.

FAQ

FAQ

1. Does the Memphis MPO build roads?

Building roads is the responsibility of the local municipality or the Tennessee or Mississippi Departments of Transportation. The Memphis MPO only coordinates the planning and programming of federal funding to infrastructure projects. Projects go through several stages before construction can begin - like conducting an environmental study or roadway design, and acquiring right-of-way to name a few.

2. Does the Memphis MPO run the buses?

The Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) provides fixed-route and paratransit services in the Greater Memphis Area. The Memphis MPO does coordinate with MATA to determine current and future public transportation needs by conducting plans and studies. The MPO's long-range transportation plan, the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and short-range transportation plan, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) include future transit service.

FAQ

3. How can I learn about transportation improvements in my area?

The Memphis MPO provides an Interactive Webmap for residents to view long and short-term transportation projects planned in the area. Viewers can see the types of projects, future completion dates, the amount of funding on the project, and much more. For more information on specific project, contact your local municipality.

4. How can I learn about future public meetings?

You can sign-up for our quarterly newsletter, the Travel Times, to stay up-to-date on current and future MPO plans and programs. The Memphis MPO also maintains an online calendar that is updated with public meetings when available. Finally, you can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn to get the latest news on the MPO and transportation related updates. Visit our News/Events Webpage.

FAQ

5. Can I request an accommodation?

Yes, the Memphis MPO will work with you to determine the best available accommodation for your request. The MPO works to ensure that public meetings are held in accessible locations and the program is accessible to all residents. Plans and studies can be provided in foreign language, Braille, or large-type format. To request an accommodation or translation, visit memphismpo.org.

6. Why is my County/City/Town not included in the MPO?

The Memphis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) consists of nine counties and the municipalities within: Shelby, Fayette, and Tipton counties in Tennessee; Crittenden County in Arkansas; and Benton, DeSoto, Marshall, Tate, and Tunica counties in Mississippi. However, the Memphis MPO is responsible for transportation planning only in "urbanized areas" of the MSA or areas of the MSA that are expected to become urbanized within the next 20 years.

FAQ

7. How is it determined which projects can be funded with federal funds?

- Eligibility and Restrictions are set in the federal regulations/ guidance for the use of the funds, some are
  - Type of Road (Federal Functional Classification System)
  - Type of Work (i.e. transit funds cannot be use to pave a road and highway funds cannot be used to operate transit)
  - Identification of project in MPO Plans

8. How are project identified in the RTP?

- MPO planning process requires look at both current and future needs.
- Projects identified then go through a rigorous ranking process to prioritize projects and includes only those that can be funded based on funding availability.
- Additional information provided by the local jurisdictions is also used for project identification.
- MPO Staff does not make the decision on which projects are included in the RTP.

FAQ

9. **If West Memphis, Arkansas is part of the Memphis Metropolitan Area, why is it not included in the Memphis MPO's area of jurisdiction?**
   - West Memphis is served by its own MPO in cooperation with the Arkansas DOT and FHWA and FTA offices in Little Rock.

Questions

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https://memphismpo.org/