



Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

The authorization of the nation's surface transportation programs in 2009 provides a prime opportunity to address emerging needs of the 21st century to include:

- **Achieve Global Competiveness through Metropolitan Mobility**
- **Achieve Energy Independence by 2050**
- **Rebuild America**

Unique to AMPO, our efforts reexamine the traditional Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) structure and offer recommendations to improve upon our role as MPOs.

Re-invent Metropolitan Institutions to More Effectively Improve Mobility

AMPO believes that it is time to re-invent the federal Metropolitan Planning Program to be more focused and responsive to the transportation challenges facing metropolitan regions. AMPO recommends steps for improved regional outcomes by:

- Raising the minimum population threshold for new MPOs to 100,000 Urbanized Area Population (UZA).
- Grandfather and streamline federal requirements for existing MPOs below 100,000 UZA.
- In areas above 200,000 UZA, provide project selection authority, in cooperation with the state, over all federal transportation funds expended within the region.
- In UZAs of 1 million+, regions could choose to designate themselves as a new federally defined "Metropolitan Mobility Authority" (MMA). These MMAs would:
 - Create a federal incentive for states and regions to invest in metropolitan mobility by providing additional funding and authority.
 - Have project selection and programming authority for federal funds expended within their areas.
 - Be eligible to receive new federal funds aimed at congestion relief and energy conservation created under a separate Metropolitan Mobility Program.
 - Be required to meet new performance-based planning standards.
 - Designation would be by state statute, which would define the relationship with the state government including the role in state project selection, performance expectations, and other state authority, such as ability to raise regional revenue.

Current Issues of Concern:

- Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) allows for metropolitan planning funds to be rescinded
- Stimulus Package should maintain existing Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding allocation formula to MPOs

To view AMPO's position on Federal Surface Transportation Authorization in more detail, please visit www.ampo.org