

ATTACHMENT 7

2008 MOU FOR COORDINATION OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES IN THE NY-NJ-CT METROPOLITAN REGION



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Susan M. Zellman, Chairman
Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director

March 19, 2008

Mr. Dennis Merida
Division Administrator
New Jersey Division
Federal Highway Administration
840 Bear Tavern Road - Suite 310
West Trenton, New Jersey 08628

Mr. Jeffrey W. Kolb
Division Administrator
New York State Division
Federal Highway Administration
Clinton Avenue and North Pearl Street
Albany, New York 12207

Mr. Bradley Keazer
Division Administrator
Connecticut Division
Federal Highway Administration
628-2 Hebron Avenue, Suite 303
Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033

Ms. Brigid Hynes-Cherin
Regional Administrator for Region II
Federal Transit Administration
One Bowling Green
Room 429
New York, New York 10004-1415

Mr. Richard H. Doyle
Regional Administrator for Region I
Federal Transit Administration
55 Broadway – Kendall Square
Cambridge, MA 02141

Re: Multi-MPO Memorandum of Understanding

Dear Messrs. Merida, Kolb, Keazer, Doyle and Ms. Hynes-Cherin:

The five Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in the greater New York metropolitan region (NYMTC, NJTPA, SWRPA/SWRMPO, the Greater Bridgeport / Valley MPO and the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials) have collaborated to develop and endorse a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU describes how the MPOs will coordinate metropolitan transportation planning and key planning documents and activities, as well as the process for meeting requirements for attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

On behalf of the parties to this agreement, we are pleased to transmit to you the signed resolutions of the five participating MPOs which adopted the attached MOU.

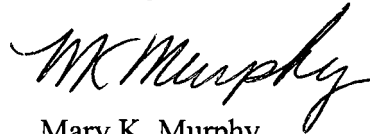
Although the MOU was developed in response to USDOT's certification review recommendations for NJTPA and NYMTC, the participating MPOs have a long history of cooperation and coordination in metropolitan transportation planning for the New York – New Jersey – Connecticut metropolitan area.

The MOU builds upon the “3C” planning process already in place. The participating NY-NJ-Connecticut MPOs have a multi-decade practice of inter-agency cooperation and coordination, which is now detailed and expanded upon in the MOU. Copies of the adopted MOU and authorizing resolutions are attached for your records.

Preparations are already underway for the first annual meeting. This inaugural meeting will be hosted by NYMTC in September of 2008.

Thank you for your continued interest and your support of this important regional endeavor. Please contact us if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Mary K. Murphy
Executive Director, NJTPA

Attachments

Copy Distribution (with Attachments):

Mr. Joel Ettinger, Executive Director, NYMTC
Mr. Floyd Lapp, Executive Director, SWRPA
Mr. Mark Nielsen, Interim Executive Director, GBRPA
Mr. Rick Dunne, Executive Director, VCOG
Mr. Jonathan Chew, Executive Director, HVCEO
Mr. Lawrence Cullari, FHWA, NJ Division
Ms. Eloise Powell, FHWA, Connecticut Division
Ms. Nancy Danzig, FTA, Region II
Mr. Andrew Motter, FTA, Region I

**New York Metropolitan Transportation Council
North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization
Greater Bridgeport / Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR COORDINATION OF
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES IN THE THREE STATE NEW
YORK-NEW JERSEY-CONNECTICUT METROPOLITAN REGION**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by and among the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC), the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (SWRMPO), the Greater Bridgeport / Valley MPO (GB/VMPO), and the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials (HVCEO), collectively referred to hereinafter as “the PARTIES”.

WHEREAS, the PARTIES acknowledge that portions of the three state New York-New Jersey-Connecticut metropolitan region are characterized by socio-economic and environmental interdependence, as evidenced through shared ecosystems, interconnected transportation systems and inter-related patterns of employment and population; and,

WHEREAS, NYMTC and NJTPA are part of a federally-designated Transportation Management Area (TMA) that, when combined with SWRMPO, GB/VMPO, and HVCEO, constitute one of the nation’s largest commuter-sheds; and,

WHEREAS, 23 U.S.C. 134 and Section 8 of the Federal Transit Act require that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) be designated for metropolitan regions and that they maintain a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process that results in plans and programs that consider all transportation modes and supports metropolitan community development and social goals; and,

WHEREAS, a key role for MPOs is to serve as forums for cooperative transportation planning and decision-making in metropolitan areas; and,

WHEREAS, 23 CFR 450.314(d) states that, where more than one MPO has authority within a metropolitan planning area or a nonattainment or maintenance area, there shall be an agreement between the state department(s) of transportation and the MPOs describing how their planning processes will be coordinated to assure the development of an overall transportation plan for the metropolitan planning area, and that in nonattainment or maintenance areas, the agreement shall include State and local air quality agencies; and,

WHEREAS, the FHWA/FTA Transportation Planning Certification Review for NYMTC (January 2007) and NJTPA (January 2006) had required that an agreement be fashioned which identifies how the above referenced five MPOs located in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut commuter-shed would coordinate the development of transportation planning documents and would coordinate to meet the attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS); and,

WHEREAS, it was subsequently determined that, because of census boundary changes, participation in this agreement by the non-TMA MPOs (SWRMPO, GB/VMPO, and HVCEO) was not mandatory, but would be advisable as consistent with good planning principles; and,

WHEREAS, SWRMPO, GB/VMPO, and HVCEO are voluntary participants in this MOU; and,

WHEREAS, this MOU constitutes the aforementioned agreement in order to address the requirements of 23 CFR 450.314(d) for the PARTIES and the recommendations of the federal certification reviews of NYMTC and NJTPA; and,

WHEREAS, the PARTIES agree to follow this MOU in order to ensure coordination in the development of the mandated products of the metropolitan transportation planning process including the process for meeting attainment of NAAQS ; and,

WHEREAS, this MOU is intended to ensure that the products of each respective MPO transportation planning process takes into account the impacts of the plans and programs developed by the other MPOs; helps avoid duplication of effort; reflects consistency of approaches where possible; and ensures the consideration of the interests of all five MPOs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the PARTIES hereto agree to perform in good faith the activities of voluntary coordination, cooperation and consultation amongst themselves, as follows:

General

1. Hold an annual meeting of the Executive Directors and appropriate key managers of the five MPOs which are PARTIES to this agreement, as well as interested policy board member agency representatives, including but not limited to, the public transit operating agencies and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, to discuss and review the areas of coordination, cooperation and consultation as outlined in this MOU. Representatives of the State Departments of Transportation and Environmental Protection/Conservation and other resource agencies in the three states will also be invited and encouraged to participate. The purpose of the annual meeting will be to engage in discussions of mutual interest with a focus on the development of the respective Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWPs) for the coming year. The annual meeting will also serve as a mechanism for assessing this MOU and for discussing further expectations and approaches, as appropriate.
2. Cooperate in efforts toward achieving, wherever possible, general consistency of plans through informal communication and document exchange.
3. Participate, to the extent practicable, in the transportation planning process of the other PARTIES through such activities, as are deemed appropriate, as technical committee memberships and/or meeting participation, including the use of the PARTIES' public participation processes and involvement in regional studies, as well as through informal and ongoing communications regarding same.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

1. As individual MPOs, make available UPWP products as appropriate to the other PARTIES.
2. Exchange information, including DRAFT copies of the UPWP, and maintain communication among the PARTIES regarding how best to achieve coordination and consistency among the Plans.
3. Discuss opportunities for collaborative activities that could be incorporated as tasks and/or products and thereby included in the Work Programs of the PARTIES, as appropriate, for the upcoming year.
4. Consider that the five MPOs will not necessarily be at the same stage of UPWP development at the same time, and that coordination will be tempered by the schedule of each MPO's planning process.

Modeling

1. Exchange modeling information at appropriate levels of geography, attempting where possible to relate the data to the MPOs' existing, respective Traffic Analysis Zone systems.
2. Share modeling as appropriate, including socio-economic, census, forecast and survey data and results; trip tables and travel demand model assumptions; and model validation data, state line traffic volumes and traffic volumes at the external boundaries of the other agencies' models.
3. Consult in the development of enhanced travel demand models.
4. Examine and utilize opportunities for joint development of TMA new modeling applications for the region as appropriate.

Transportation Plan

1. During the development of the Long-Range Transportation Plan, consult as appropriate all parties regarding key elements of the plan such as principles, scenarios, strategies, major project assumptions and key issues.
2. Exchange information, including DRAFT copies of the Long Range Plans and proposed amendments, and maintain communication among the PARTIES, including affording each other the opportunity to review and comment on projects proposed in the Long Range Plan, especially on projects that border, or have a significant impact upon, other PARTIES' MOU jurisdictions.

3. Consider that the five MPOs will not necessarily be at the same stage of plan development at the same time, and that coordination will be tempered by the schedule of each MPO's planning process.

Transportation Improvement Program

1. Consult in the development of TIPs.
2. Exchange information, including DRAFT copies of the TIP and proposed amendments, and maintain communication among the PARTIES, including affording each other the opportunity to review and comment on draft projects proposed in the TIP, especially on projects that border, or have a significant impact upon, other PARTIES' MOU jurisdictions.
3. Consider that the five MPOs will not necessarily be at the same stage of TIP development at the same time, and that coordination will be tempered by the schedule of each MPO's planning process.

Air Quality State Implementation Plan Conformity

1. Exchange information on the design concept and the design scope of projects that should be included in the regional emissions analysis.
2. Consult on the assumptions used in the mobile emissions model in each state.
3. Exchange information, including DRAFT copies of the Conformity Analysis, and maintain communication among the PARTIES.
4. Consider that the five MPOs will not necessarily be at the same stage of Conformity determination at the same time, and that coordination will be tempered by the schedule of each MPO's planning process.

Adopted:

New York Metropolitan Transportation Council:

Adopted Resolution # 249, January 17, 2008

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority

Adopted Resolution # A-504, January 14, 2008

South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

Adopted Resolution # 2008-003, January 28, 2008

Greater Bridgeport / Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

Adopted Resolution # 2008-4, January 30, 2008

Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials

Adopted Resolution # Item 2E, January 18, 2008

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR
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ACTIVITIES IN THE THREE STATE NY-NJ-CT
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North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization
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