

Federal Certification of the National Capital Region MPO Planning Process

Briefing to the
Travel Forecasting Subcommittee

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What's a Federal Certification Review?

- A formal review of the approaches, activities and issues associated with the metropolitan transportation planning process
- A SAFETEA-LU requirement for all Transportation Management Areas (TMAs)
- Conducted by FHWA and FTA every four years
- Last review of the TPB was conducted in 2010

Sequential phases of the review

1. Desk review of planning products & processes
2. Issuance of desk review findings
3. Site visit
4. Verbal close out
5. Report of the finalized certification review

Scope of the Certification Review

A.	RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REVIEW
B.	DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AREA
C.	MPO BOUNDARIES
D.	ORGANIZATION/STRUCTURE
E.	AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS
F.	MPO ANNUAL SELF CERTIFICATIONS
G.	LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)
H.	PLANNING FACTORS
I.	TIP
J.	FINANCIAL PLANNING AND FISCAL CONSTRAINT
K.	UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)
L.	CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS (CMP)
M.	AIR QUALITY
N.	INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (ITS)
	O. TRAVEL DEMAND FORECASTING AND MODELS DEVELOPMENT
P.	FREIGHT PLANNING
Q.	LAND USE/MULTIMODAL/TRANSIT PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY
R.	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
S.	TITLE VI AND RELATED REQUIREMENTS
T.	CLIMATE CHANGE
U.	LINKING NEPA AND TRANSPORTATION/ENVIRONMENT
V.	OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
W.	LIVABILITY

Issues/questions to be examined

- What is the travel forecasting process and when was it last calibrated and validated?
- How is the MPO travel forecasting process overseen?
- Who is responsible for the travel model development and maintenance?
- Have the travel forecasting methods been peer reviewed?

Issues/questions, cont.

- How is training of technical staff addressed?
- How is non-resident travel addressed?
- What recent projects have met opposition by local advocacy groups and have technical methods been legally challenged?

Current Status

- TPB staff will complete formal questions that have been submitted by the end of Sept.
- Certification meetings will occur during October 28-30
- A certification report will be issued
- No action is required by the TFS