

Summary of the Washington DC-VA-MD Transportation
Management Area (TMA)
Planning Certification Review
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Meeting
July 18th, 2023

2023 Certification Review

March 8th & 9th Site Visit



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration
Federal Transit Administration

The Federal Review Team



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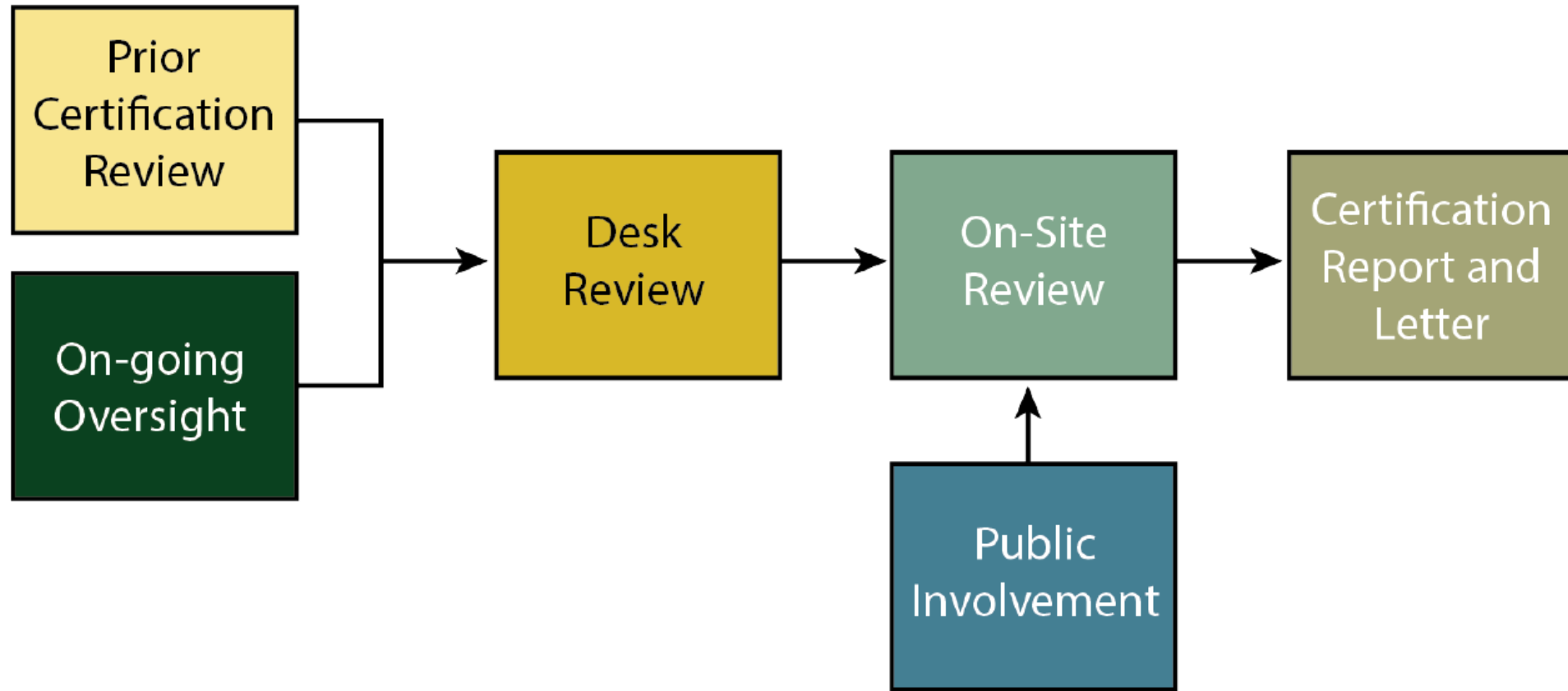
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Why are we here?

- Every four years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) perform a joint review to certify the transportation planning practices of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) with populations over 200,000 in their urbanized areas, which are referred to as Transportation Management Areas (TMAs).
- The Transportation Policy Board is the federally designated MPO for the Washington DC-VA-MD TMA. Part of the Washington DC-VA-MD TMA includes North Stafford County, which is partly within the Fredericksburg MPO planning area. The Certification Review did evaluate planning activities within the North Stafford County area that are within the planning area of the Fredericksburg MPO.
- The Certification Review Process ensures that the planning requirements in TMAs are being satisfactorily implemented.

The Certification Review Process



Certification Actions

- The three categories of Federal actions that the Federal Review Team uses when evaluating the performance of the MPO and its planning partners are:
 - ❑ Commendations
 - ❑ Recommendations
 - ❑ Corrective Actions

What Was the Outcome of This Review?

- FHWA & FTA developed a report summarizing the discussions that took place during the review along with our findings. The final report and joint certification was issued on June 2, 2023. Copies of the report are available if needed.
- The Review found that TPB's transportation planning process substantially meets Federal requirements. FTA and FHWA identified a number of noteworthy efforts since the last Review
- FHWA and FTA certified the transportation process with
 - 7 Commendations
 - 3 Recommendations

Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Commendations

- For embarking on an innovative and inclusive approach to planning transportation investments in their region as demonstrated with the 2045 MTP's "Future Factors" including Equity, Climate Change and Transportation Safety etc., to guide decision-making across modes. These comprehensive measures help illuminate a robust set of benefits inherently unique to transit and non-motorized projects (but often discounted in traditional MPO ranking processes) to better shape communities in the Washington DC planning area.

Recommendations

- For the next update of the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP) align with current adopted goals and initiatives. While the broad goals and priorities reflected in the 2014 RTPP remain supported by TPB efforts, by aligning the next RTPP, the TPB may better reach adopted GHG, housing, and equity goals for the region. In addition, the TPB should update its 2023 Policy Framework to reflect all the regional policy priorities into a single document.

Financial Planning and Fiscal Constraint

Commendation:

- For identifying and graphically demonstrating how system-level estimates of income are reasonably expected to be available to adequately operate and maintain the highways and public transportation systems in the DC region.

Recommendations:

- As part of the Visualize 2050 financial plan update process, the TPB should reevaluate financial assumptions in the financial plan, including inflation rate as a result of the current economic climate. TPB should also evaluate revenue estimates from BIL funding levels reasonably available to support transportation planning.

Additional Recommendations

Civil Rights:

- The TPB should develop an ADA transition plan that explains how they make their programs, services, and activities accessible to persons with disabilities.

Addition information:

- MPOs are local public agencies, and as such, they also need to have either an ADA transition plan or program access plan.
- FHWA and FTA staff are available to provide technical assistance as needed for preparation of an ADA transition plan.

Additional Commendations

Environmental Justice:

- For its continued emphasis on environmental justice considerations in the region and for continuing to refine the methodology for examining potential impacts on environmental justice populations. The TPB's use of TAZs to determine average accessibility and average mobility measures is innovative and helps inform regional decision-making at large. This work provides TPB an equity framework that goes beyond analyzing the LRTP and to informing and influencing local and regional efforts and projects.

Public Participation:

- For its robust efforts with the “Voices of the Region” survey and methods for increasing public involvement. The methodology used, including the survey, focus groups, and QR code poster campaign, represent innovative techniques to reach public participants. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the TPB was able to broaden outreach collecting input throughout the region.

Additional Commendations

Congestion Management:

- For maintaining the data clearinghouse and data delivery efforts that provide the TPB partners the ability to track and evaluate congestion methods that support system capacity expansion.

Performance Based Planning:

- For coordinating and setting true regional targets based on all providers and modes throughout the region. TPB has specifically updated its summaries of measures and targets for Highway Safety, Pavement and Bridge Condition, Highway System Performance, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program, and TAM.

Additional Commendations

Climate Change/Resiliency:

- For its collective efforts and adopted goals on climate change, particularly with respect to GHG reductions. Additionally, the TPB is commended for incorporating climate change goals into its LRTP and resiliency efforts with member agencies to understand efforts to harden the transportation system. The TPB's hire of a Transportation Resiliency Planner is commendable demonstrating a commitment to the MPO's role in addressing climate change goals for the region.

Performance Based Planning:

- For coordinating and setting true regional targets based on all providers and modes throughout the region. TPB has specifically updated its summaries of measures and targets for Highway Safety, Pavement and Bridge Condition, Highway System Performance, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program, and TAM.

Next Steps

- If needed, FHWA & FTA can meet with MPO staff to prioritize recommendations.
- FHWA & FTA recommend that the MPO consider developing strategies for improving the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the region's metropolitan transportation planning process based on the recommendations in the report.
 - Some recommendations can be considered for integration into work program tasks.
- FHWA, FTA, and DDOT, VDOT, & MDOT can provide technical assistance as needed.
- Questions?
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Any Questions?

