

USDOT Proposed Rule on MPO Planning Area Reform

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Presentation to MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee

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MPO Planning Area Reform:

- USDOT (FHWA & FTA) is proposing revisions to the transportation planning regulations to “promote more effective regional planning by States and metropolitan planning organizations (MPO)”.
- USDOT is attempting to “right-size” metropolitan transportation planning, unify planning products by each Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), and create clear lines of communication, responsibility and processes, especially where multiple MPOs are designated within a single MPA.

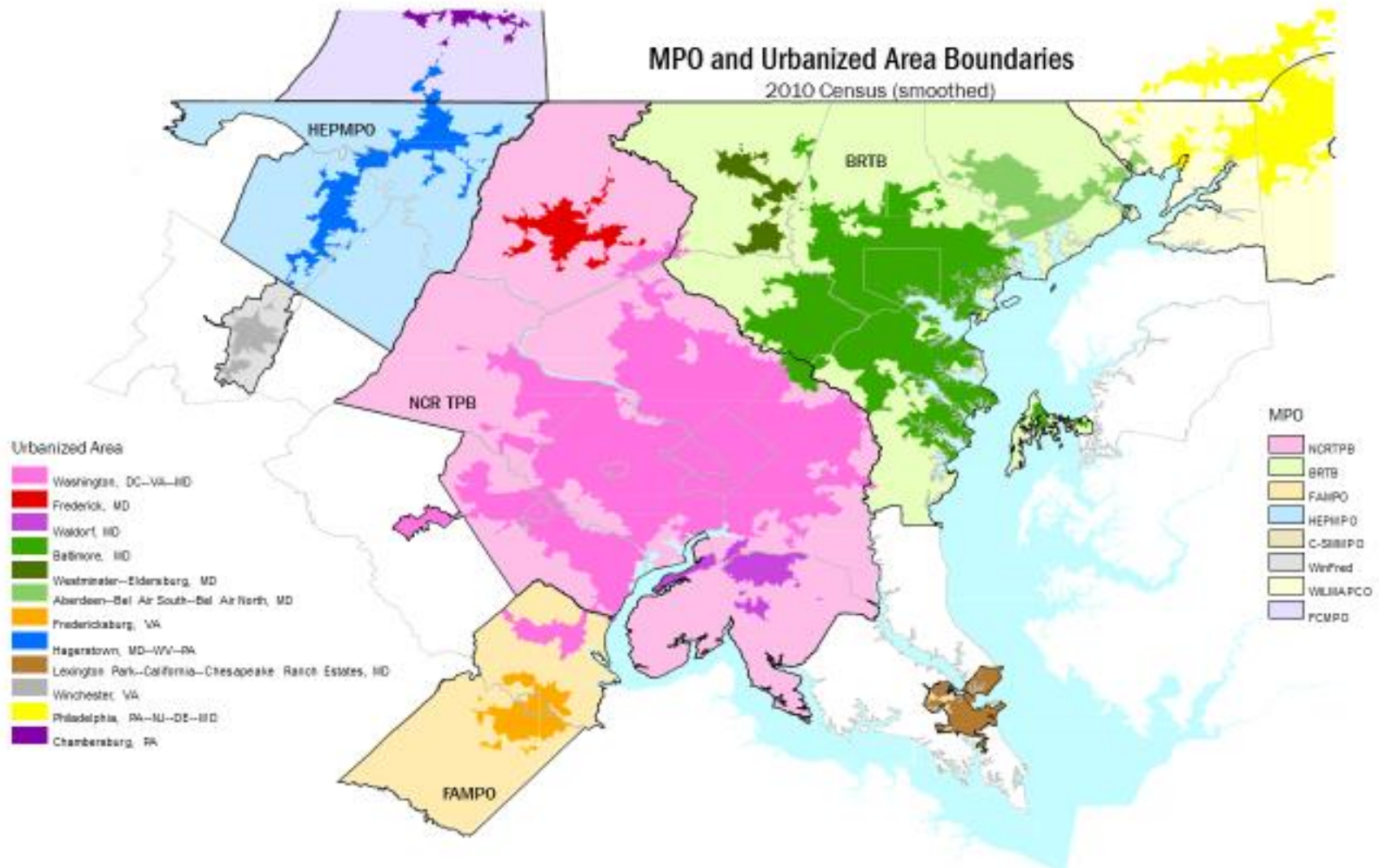


MPO Planning Area Reform:

- This proposed rule requires States and MPOs to consider the boundary of the MPO, and to merge or redraw limits of MPOs to cover the entire Urbanized Area (UZA) and the contiguous area expected to become urbanized within 20 years.



MPO Planning Area Reform:



MPO Planning Area Reform:

- An exception clause allows multiple MPOs to be designated within a single area if the Governor and MPO determine that the size and complexity of the area make multiple MPOs appropriate.
- An additional exception indicates that “The boundaries for an MPA that includes an urbanized area designated as a nonattainment area for ozone or carbon monoxide under the Clear Air Act after August 10, 2005, may be established to coincide with the designated boundaries of the ozone and/or carbon monoxide nonattainment area.”



MPO Planning Area Reform:

- But, if there are multiple MPOs in an MPA, the MPOs must jointly prepare the following unified planning products:
 - ✓ **a single** metropolitan transportation plan (CLRP) for the entirety of the MPA,
 - ✓ **a single** transportation improvement program (TIP) for the entirety of the MPA, and
 - ✓ **a single** conformity determination for the entirety of the MPA, and
 - ✓ **a jointly established** set of performance targets for the entire urbanized area (MPA).
- The proposed rules also require:
 - ✓ metropolitan planning agreements to include coordination strategies and dispute resolution procedures between the States and the MPOs and, MPO to MPO for those sharing UZA boundaries.
 - ✓ Planning data to be consistent between States and MPOs.



MPO Planning Area Reform:

- USDOT has held two national webinars (July 15 & July 21) to explain the proposed rulemaking.

Materials posted at: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tpm/rule.cfm> (near the bottom of the page).

- COG DTP staff and COG DEP staff participated at both webinars
- Extensive questions and comments were typed in by participants, and the most common USDOT response was to recommend that askers/commenters officially submit their question or comment to the docket.



MPO Planning Area Reform:

- Comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before August 26, 2016
- TPB plans to provide comments



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