

Briefing on the Recent U.S. Department of Transportation Review and Certification of the TPB Transportation Planning Process, and Findings and Recommendations for MOITS Program Areas

Andrew Meese
COG/TPB Staff

MOITS Joint Task Forces
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Overview

- USDOT periodically undertakes certification reviews of all metropolitan transportation planning processes
 - Every 3 years under TEA-21, will be every 4 years under SAFETEA-LU
 - Undertaken recently, focusing on a set of Sept. 2005 meetings
- USDOT report was presented to TPB March 2006
- A number of the report's findings and recommendations have implications for MOITS Program Areas

Findings

- FHWA/FTA determined that the TPB's process meets relevant federal requirements, and jointly certified that process
- Included a commendation to TPB for engaging members in the MOITS program
- Included a number of recommended enhancements
 - Many recommendations involved better documentation of activities already ongoing, rather than asking for new activities
 - Recommendations impacting MOITS will be covered here

Recommendations

- Congestion Management System (CMS)
 - TPB has fully included this within the long-range plan (CLRP) document
 - Recommended improved descriptions and documentation
 - Encouraged stand-alone document though not legally required
 - Wanted an “active, ‘operational’” CMS
 - Responsibility shared with TPB Technical Committee, others
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
 - Encouraged ITS architecture implementation
- Freight/Goods Movement
 - Encouraged expansion of TPB efforts
 - Outreach to freight stakeholders
 - Find a champion to focus on goods movement

Recommendations (cont'd)

- Safety and Security Planning
 - The TPB should explicitly demonstrate how safety and security are proactively addressed in the regional process
 - How do safety and security considerations impact project selection for the CLRP, TIP?
 - Are costs reflected in transportation plans?
 - TPB should document its input to security discussions with other agencies (i.e., overall emergency preparedness process)
 - No mention of relationship of USDOT and USDHS requirements
 - New RESF #1 group in conjunction with MOITS will help address security issues
 - MOITS will also be asked to increase its attention on transportation safety issues – summit in Fall 2006

Other Topic Areas

- Long-range plan/TIP
- Financial planning and fiscal constraint
- Travel demand forecasting
- Federal planning factors
- Land use planning
- Multimodal planning
- Environmental justice and the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Public involvement

Outlook

- Staff will support MOITS in following up on the federal recommendations
- Discussion of MOITS relationship in TPB committee structure at future meeting
- Will coordinate with RESF #1, TPB Technical Committee, others as necessary