MPO Roles and Responsibilities

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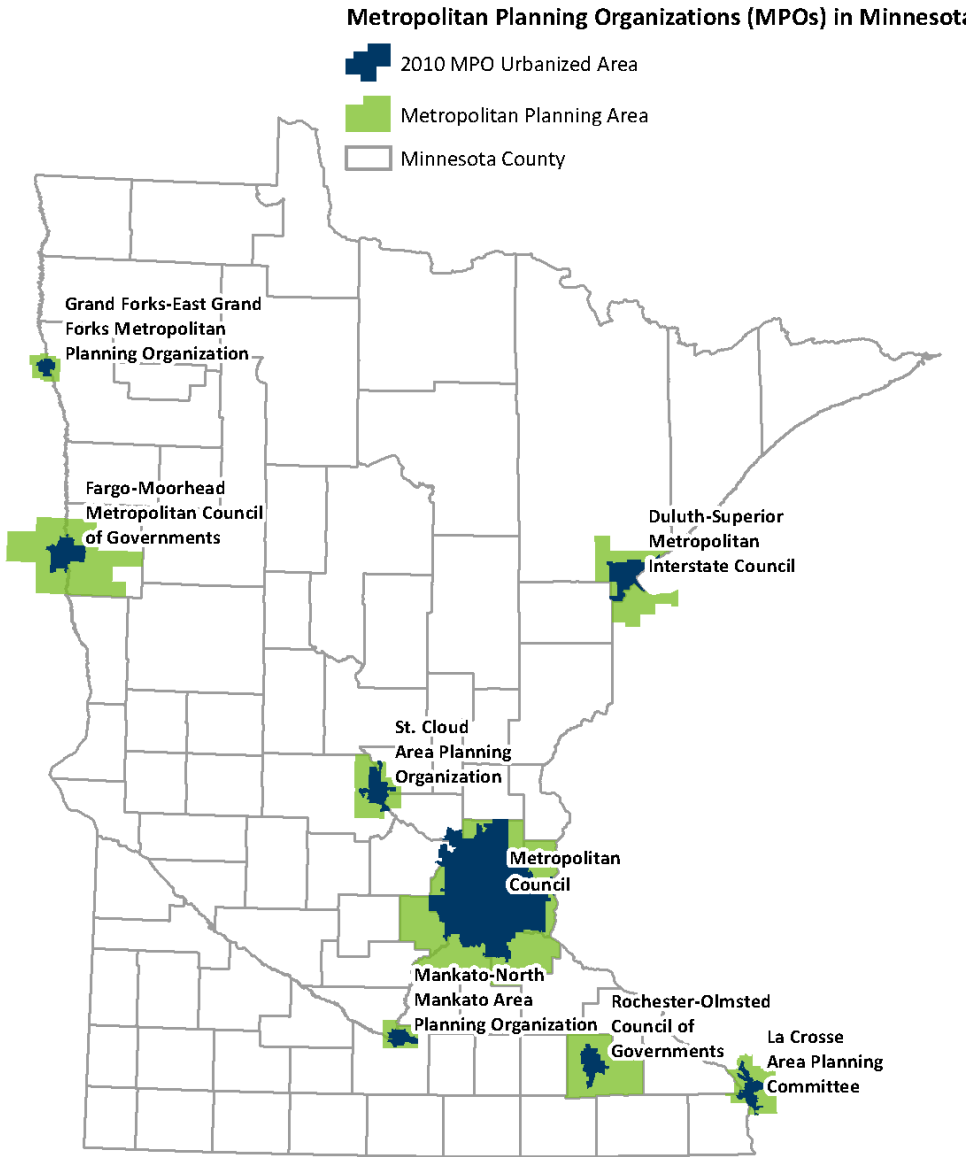
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

What is an MPO?

- Designation – An MPO is designated for each urbanized area with a population of more than 50,000 individuals
- Definition – “The term MPO means the policy board of an organization created as a result of the designation process in an urbanized area” (23 CFR 134)
- Purpose – Carry out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive performance-based multimodal transportation planning process

Primary responsibilities of an MPO

- Maintain a Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Develop a Transportation Improvement Program
- Develop a Unified Planning Work Program
- Nondiscrimination requirements
- Establish performance targets & integrate into planning process
- Public participation plan



Metropolitan Transportation Plan basics

- The MTP assists in carrying out a **continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive** performance-based multimodal transportation planning process (23 CFR 450.324)
- 20-year planning horizon
- Update at least every 5 years (4 years in nonattainment areas)
- Developed through metropolitan transportation planning process
  - As opposed to statewide transportation process, but must align with MnDOT Multimodal plan
- Sets the overall vision for the MPO area's multimodal transportation network

Unified Planning Work Program

- An MPO must document metropolitan transportation planning activities performed with federal funds in a unified planning work program (UPWP)
- A UPWP identifies work proposed for the next 1-2 years by major activity and task.
  - UPWP is a requirement to use federal funds and it must be approved annually by the end of the calendar year
- The UPWP is reviewed and approved by each state DOT and the FHWA

Impacts of Delayed UPWP

- Without an approved UPWP,
  - An MPO cannot be reimbursed federal funds or make any federal action
  - The regional TIP is frozen. The MPO cannot approve project modifications or amendments for projects in the existing TIP or approve a new TIP
  - Transit operators would not be able to be reimbursed for FTA operating assistance funding

Redesignation

- Redesignation of an MPO is required whenever the existing MPO proposes to make:
  - A substantial change in the proportion of voting members on the existing MPO
  - A substantial change in the decisionmaking authority or responsibility of the MPO, or in decisionmaking procedures established under MPO by-laws
- Redesignation of an MPO serving a multistate area requires agreement between the Governors of each state and local units of government that represent at least 75% of the metropolitan planning area population
- An MPO designation remains in effect and will continue to hold planning responsibilities until an official redesignation has been finalized



Questions

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