



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

**Federal Highway Administration
California Division**

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In Reply Refer To:
HDA-CA

Mr. Malcolm Dougherty
Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Garth Hopkins, Chief - Office of Regional and Interagency Planning

SUBJECT: California Planning Emphasis Areas for 2013

Dear Mr. Dougherty:

The letter is to transmit the 2013 Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs). The PEAs are policy, procedural and technical topics to be considered by Federal planning fund recipients when preparing work programs for metropolitan and statewide planning and research assistance programs. The PEAs in the attachment address objectives identified in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Strategic Plans. They also address a mix of planning issues and priority topics identified during ongoing reviews of metropolitan and statewide transportation planning processes as requiring additional work.

The FHWA and FTA view these PEAs as critical elements of the transportation planning process and highly encourage the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and all California MPOs to include each PEA within their respective planning processes. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jack Lord, Planning and Air Quality Team Leader at jack.lord@dot.gov or (916) 498-5888.

Sincerely,

For
Vincent P. Mammano
Division Administrator

Attachment

California Planning Emphasis Areas For Program Year 2013

Planning emphasis areas (PEAs) are policy, procedural and technical topics that should be considered by Federal planning fund recipients when preparing work programs for metropolitan and statewide planning and research assistance programs.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) California Division and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region IX have determined that the areas of emphasis for California's transportation planning and air quality program in Federal FY 2013 are:

- Core Planning Functions
- Performance Management
- Safety
- Livability/Sustainability
- State of Good Repair

Core Planning Functions

MPOs are reminded that their Overall Work Programs (OWP) must identify the Core Planning Functions and what work will be done during the program year to advance those functions. The Core Functions can be found in 23 CFR 450, Subpart C, and typically include:

- Overall Work Program
- Public Participation and Education
- Regional Transportation Plan
- Federal Transportation Improvement Program
- Congestion Management Process (required for TMAs)
- Annual Listing of Projects

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) legislation provides metropolitan transportation planning program funding for the integration of transportation planning processes in the MPA (i.e. rail, airports, seaports, intermodal facilities, public highways and transit, bicycle and pedestrian, etc.) into a unified metropolitan transportation planning process, culminating in the preparation of a multimodal transportation plan for the MPA. The FHWA and FTA request that all Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) review the Overall Work Plan (OWP) development process to ensure all activities and products mandated by the metropolitan transportation planning regulations in 23 CFR 450 are a priority for FHWA and FTA combined planning grant funding available to the region. The MPO OWP work elements and subsequent work tasks must be developed in sufficient detail (i.e. activity description, products, schedule, cost, etc.) to clearly explain the purpose and results of the work to be accomplished, including how they support the Federal transportation planning process (see 23 CFR 420.111 for documentation requirements for FHWA Planning funds).

Performance Management

Many of California's MPOs have developed performance measures that inform their Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) and Federal Transportation Improvement Programs (FTIPs). Other MPOs are in various stages of identifying and implementing performance measures and targets. However, MAP-21 establishes a performance- and outcome-based program. The objective of this performance- and outcome-based program is for States and MPOs to invest resources in projects that collectively will make progress toward the achievement of the national goals. MAP-21 requires the DOT, in consultation with States, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and other stakeholders, to establish performance measures in the areas listed below. It provides for DOT to establish such measures within 18 months of enactment in the following areas:

- Pavement condition on the Interstate System and on remainder of the National Highway System (NHS)
- Performance of the Interstate System and the remainder of the NHS
- Bridge condition on the NHS
- Fatalities and serious injuries—both number and rate per vehicle mile traveled-- on all public roads
- Traffic congestion
- On-road mobile source emissions
- Freight movement on the Interstate System

USDOT is planning to provide opportunities for stakeholders to contribute their input regarding the measures. FHWA and FTA encourage each MPO as well as Caltrans to provide their input to DOT Performance Management Rule Making Process. Once the performance measures are established by DOT, Caltrans should coordinate with MPOs and to develop and implement performance targets for each measure within the Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Process.

Safety

MAP-21 continues the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) as a core Federal-aid program. The overall purpose of this program is to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads (including non-State-owned public roads and roads on tribal lands) through the implementation of infrastructure-related highway safety improvements.

The specific provisions pertaining to the HSIP are defined in Section 1112 of MAP-21, which amended Section 148 of Title 23, *United States Code* (23 USC 148) to incorporate these provisions. These requirements include the development of Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) in consultation with other key State and local highway safety stakeholders.

23 CFR 450.206 and 23 CFR 450.306 requires the State and Metropolitan transportation planning process be continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive, and provide consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services that will increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users. 23 CFR 450.306 also requires the metropolitan transportation planning process to be consistent with the Strategic Highway Safety Plan, as specified in 23 U.S.C. 148, and other transit safety and security planning and review processes, plans, and programs, as appropriate. Furthermore 23 CFR 450.216 requires that the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)/Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) include all safety projects included in the State's SHSP.

Caltrans and the MPOs are strongly encouraged to assure that all Regional Transportation Plans, FTIPs and the FSTIP are consistent with the Caltrans SHSP.

Livability/Sustainability

Livability/Sustainability is about tying the quality and location of transportation facilities to broader opportunities such as access to good jobs, affordable housing, quality schools, and safe streets. This includes addressing safety and capacity issues on all roads through better planning and design, maximizing and expanding new technologies such as ITS and the use of quiet pavements, using Travel Demand Management approaches to system planning and operations, etc. MPOs are encouraged to assure that new Regional Transportation Plans incorporate the following livability/sustainability principles:

- Provide more transportation choices
- Promote equitable, affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Leverage Federal policies & investment
- Value communities and neighborhoods

State of Good Repair

The President has called for new state-of-good-repair (SGR) investments in our nation's transit systems, sounding the call to reinvest in and modernize our assets. MAP-21 places new emphasis on restoring and replacing aging transportation infrastructure by establishing a new needs-based formula program, with a new tier for high-intensity bus needs. The new program defines eligible recapitalization and restoration activities, with a goal of bringing all systems into a state of good repair. Grantees are required to establish and use an asset management system to develop capital asset inventories and condition assessments, and report on the condition of their system as a whole.

Maintaining transit systems in a high state-of-good-repair is essential for the provision of safe and reliable service. SGR is the effective recapitalization of transit assets, identifying critical timing for preventive maintenance and increasing the focus on asset management practices. It also includes the assessment of capital asset condition,

strategies to obtain additional local re-investment including innovative financing strategies and additional identification of preventive maintenance practices. MPOs are encouraged to support planning strategies for the effective recapitalization of transit assets that would include:

- Asset Management, Assessment and Replacement Planning,
- Planning and Programming for Effective Preventive Maintenance, and
- Planning Innovative Financing Strategies for System Repair and Expansion.