

## **California Planning Emphasis Areas For Program Year 2018**

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 for the Overall Work Programs for Program Year 2018 are:

- Core Planning Functions
- Performance Management
- 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 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) legislation provided 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**

Since MAP-21 was passed in 2012, Caltrans and most of California's MPOs have developed performance measures that inform their Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) and Federal Transportation Improvement Programs (FTIPs). The objective of the 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:

- **Safety** - To achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.
- **Infrastructure Condition** - To maintain the highway infrastructure asset system in a state of good repair
- **Congestion Reduction** - To achieve a significant reduction in congestion on the National Highway System
- **System Reliability** - To improve the efficiency of the surface transportation system
- **Freight Movement and Economic Vitality** - To improve the national freight network, strengthen the ability of rural communities to access national and international trade markets, and support regional economic development.
- **Environmental Sustainability** - To enhance the performance of the transportation system while protecting and enhancing the natural environment.
- **Reduced Project Delivery Delays** - To reduce project costs, promote jobs and the economy, and expedite the movement of people and goods by accelerating project completion through eliminating delays in the project development and delivery process, including reducing regulatory burdens and improving agencies' work practices

Although the final rulemaking is not yet completed, the FHWA and FTA want each MPO to explicitly identify their process for determining performance targets and measures within their Overall Work Programs for FY 2017.

## **State of Good Repair**

MPO's are required to evaluate their transportation system to assess the capital investment needed to maintain a State of Good Repair for the region's transportation facilities and equipment. MPO's shall coordinate with the transit providers in their region to incorporate the Transit Asset Management Plans (TAM's) prepared by the transit providers into the Region Transportation Plan (RTP). Analysis of State of Good Repair needs and investments shall be part of any RTP update, and must be included in the Overall Work Program task for developing the Regional Transportation Plan. MPO's are expected to regularly coordinate with transit operators to evaluate current

information on the state of transit assets; to understand the transit operators transit asset management plans; and to ensure that the transit operators are continually providing transit asset information to support the MPO planning process.