



# The Future Metropolitan Planning Organization, Present and Future Conference

August 27–29, 2006

Keck Center of the National Academies

## Preliminary Agenda

*(Revised 8/18/06 and subject to change)*

<b>Sunday, August 27</b>	
9:00 am – 11:30 am	<b>PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS</b>  Safety Workshop Environment Workshop
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	<p><b>OPENING PLENARY SESSION</b> <i>The opening plenary session will set the tone for the conference and present a framework for the discussions, breakout groups and outputs of the conference.</i></p> <p><b>Welcome</b> Peter Plumeau, Metropolitan Policy, Planning and Process Committee Chair and Conference Chair</p> <p><b>The Evolution of MPOs</b> Kevin Heanue, Independent Consultant</p> <p><b>Federal Perspective on MPO Requirements</b> Cynthia J. Burbank, FHWA Brigid Hynes-Cherin, FTA</p> <p><b>The State of the MPO</b> Jim McKenzie, AMPO Board Member</p> <p><b>Charge to Participants from Conference Chair</b> <i>Using the preceding presentations as a framework, Peter Plumeau will lay out the conference objectives and put forth a charge to conference participants for the remainder of the event.</i></p>
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	<i>BREAK</i>

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm	<p><b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1: What are Current MPO Issues and Needs? / Why &amp; How do MPOs Need to Change?</b>  <i>The participants will be asked to complete a survey to identify the major issues and needs for their MPO. The results will be compiled by MPO size. For this set of breakouts, the MPO participants will be grouped by size. The sessions will begin with discussion of these current issues and annotations to the results of the survey. The discussion will then move to how MPOs need to change to respond to these issues. A list of issues and needs, potential responses, and examples of successful and unsuccessful responses are the intended outcomes.</i></p> <p><b>BO1-A – For Non-TMA MPOs (Population 50,000 to 200,000)</b>  Moderator: Bob Bright, Fargo Moorhead Metropolitan COG</p> <p><b>BO1-B – For Smaller TMA MPOs (Population 200,000 to 1,000,000)</b>  Moderator: Steve Kish, Georgia DOT</p> <p><b>BO1-C – For Larger TMA MPOs (Population over 1,000,000)</b>  Moderator: Libby Rushley, Ohio DOT</p>
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	<i>BREAK</i>
4:15 pm – 5:45 pm	<p><b>PLENARY SESSION: The Coming Transformation of Travel</b>  <i>Panelists will present and discuss the results of the June 2005 “Colloquy on the Coming Transformation of Travel” convened in Albany, New York by the NYSMPO Association and FHWA. The session will help inform the proceedings of this conference by providing critical expert perspectives on “inevitable, avoidable and unknowable” issues and events can be integrated into transportation planning and decision-making.</i></p> <p>Presenter: John Poorman, Capital District Transportation Committee</p>
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	<b>Reception (Koshland Science Museum of The National Academy of Sciences)</b>
<b>Monday, August 28</b>	
8:30 am – 10:00 am	<p><b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2: General Topics (to be repeated at 10:30 am)</b></p> <p><b>BO2-A – Looking to the Future: MPO Organizational Structures that Work and Why</b>  <i>Since their inception, MPOs have organized themselves in a variety of ways. There are three primary organizational structures MPOs employ including host agency arrangements, contract services arrangements and completely free-standing arrangements. This</i></p>

*session will explore the benefits and drawbacks of each of these organizational structures and consider which, if any, makes sense in the future given the changing roles and responsibilities of MPOs.*

Moderator: Jeff Kramer, University of South Florida (CUTR)

Speakers:

Ronald F. Kirby, Metropolitan Washington COG

Mike Nunn, Mobility Solutions Unlimited, LLC

Harry Barley, METROPLAN ORLANDO

**BO2-B – Implementing Decisions & Institutional Arrangements**

*How decisions are made from a leadership vantage and how those decisions are communicated is a very important part of carrying out MPO duties and also enhancing and disseminating the importance of MPO work within the region and State. This session will focus on institutional and interagency relationships from a local elected official perspective that MPOs conduct with State Departments of Transportation, other MPOs, local governments, other organizations including statewide regional associations and how they communicate and implement decisions.*

Moderator: Fred Abousleman, National Association of Regional Councils

Speakers:

James Healy, DuPage County Board (Napperville, Illinois)

Honorable Dannie McConkie, Davis County (Farmington, Utah)

**BO2-C – Revenue, Fiscal Constraint & Finance**

*During this time of shrinking resources and increasing demand for system preservation, operation improvements and expansion, MPOs are challenged to balance available revenues with project costs. This session will explore the challenges of federal fiscal constraint requirements for plans and programs. Participants will discuss the challenges to estimating project costs and future revenue and predicting operating and maintenance needs. Moreover, many MPOs are exploring options to increase revenue for the organization and the transportation system. Participants will explore experience with gas tax initiatives, becoming operating agencies, public private partnerships or other innovative financing.*

Moderator: Mary Lynn Tischer, Virginia DOT

Speakers:

Larry Anderson, FHWA

Jason Jordan, Advocacy Associates

	<p><b>BO2-D – Working Successfully with Decision Makers</b>  <i>Transportation planners must communicate successfully to decision makers through out the planning process from the development goals, identification of alternatives, evaluating of strategies, financing the plan and programs, to implementing and monitoring the results. Transportation planners must also be able to listen to ideas and proposals from decision makers and respond appropriately to these suggestions. Over the years, the array of decision makers has expanded to include elected and appointed officials, transportation operators, interest groups, and citizens. And the range of concerns has expanded to cover passenger and freight travel, economic development and land use, transportation operations, public and private financing, environmental issues, energy concerns, safety and security issues. This session will discuss the needs of decision makers and successful approaches to address these needs.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ed Weiner, U.S. DOT</p> <p>Speakers:  Michael Morris, North Central Texas COG  Neil Pedersen, Maryland State Highway Administration</p>
10:00 am – 10:30 am	<i>BREAK</i>
10:30 am – Noon	<p><b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3: General Topics (repeat of first round)</b></p> <p><b>BO3A – Looking to the Future: MPO Organizational Structures that Work and Why</b>  Moderator: Jeff Kramer, University of South Florida (CUTR)</p> <p>Speakers:  Ronald F. Kirby, Metropolitan Washington COG  Mike Nunn, Mobility Solutions Unlimited, LLC  Harry Barley, METROPLAN ORLANDO</p> <p><b>BO3B – Implementing Decisions &amp; Institutional Arrangements</b>  Moderator: Fred Abousleman, National Association of Regional Councils</p> <p>Speakers:  James Healy, DuPage County Board (Napperville, Illinois)  Honorable Danny McConkie, Davis County (Farmington, Utah)</p> <p><b>BO3C – Revenue, Fiscal Constraint &amp; Finance</b>  Moderator: Mary Lynn Tischer, Virginia DOT</p>

	<p>Speakers:  Larry Anderson, FHWA  Jason Jordon, Advocacy Associates</p> <p><b>BO3D – Working Successfully with Decision Makers</b>  Moderator: Frank Francois, Consultant</p> <p>Speakers:  Michael Morris, North Central Texas COG  Neil Pedersen, Maryland State Highway Administration</p>
<p>Noon – 2:00 pm</p>	<p><b>LUNCH</b> <i>(included w/registration)</i></p> <p><b>MINI PEER EXCHANGES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MPO Networks</li> <li>• Asset Management</li> <li>• Training/Research</li> <li>• Staffing</li> <li>• Economic Development</li> <li>• Others TBD</li> </ul>
<p>2:00 pm – 3:15 pm</p>	<p><b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS 4: MPOs Response to Specific Issues</b></p> <p><b>BO4A – Private Funding and the MPO</b>  <i>One option for increasing revenue available for improved transportation infrastructure is private financing of projects. While private companies may be very interested in investing in transportation infrastructure, such arrangements can be risky for MPOs and DOTs who have to evaluate proposals from a wide variety of perspectives. Participants will explore options and issues associated with selling existing facilities, using or backing private bond for building new facilities and other private financing schemes. Issues to discuss will include: financial management, proposal evaluation, changes in project priority and decision-making, loss of travel information on private facilities, and others.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Asbhy Johnson, Houston Galveston Area Council</p> <p>Speakers:  Donald Kopec, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  Tamar Henkin, TransTech Management, Inc.</p> <p><b>BO4B – MPOs Address Transit, Bike and Pedestrian Planning Issues</b>  <i>Early planning and coordination can help in easier implementation of infrastructure projects. The MPOs are an ideal “forum” for facilitating the coordination of bicycle, pedestrian and transit facilities on a regional basis. The challenge is finding the appropriate entities to “speak” for and plan bicycle and pedestrian facilities. This</i></p>

	<p><i>session will examine the successes, failures and learning points of three different organizations in dealing with each issue.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Deborah L. Singer, AMPO</p> <p>Speakers:  Nancy Kays, Sacramento Area Council of Governments  Doug Hattery, Wasatch Front Regional Council  Barbara McCann, McCann Consulting</p> <p><b>BO4C – Land Use</b>  <i>This session will explore the state of land use planning within MPOs. Specifically, how land use plans are connected to transportation decision-making – policies, long-range plans and project selection. Among the topics to be covered will be specific MPO programs that target land use initiatives as well as how land use plays a part in the entire planning process. A large and small MPO will share their experience and then engage the attendees in an open dialog on the role MPOs should play in land use planning now and in the future.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Jane D. Hayse, Atlanta Regional Commission</p> <p>Speakers:  George J. Scheuernstuhl, Denver Regional Council of Governments  Harrison B. Rue, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (Charlottesville, Virginia)</p>
3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	<b>BREAK</b>
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	<p><b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS 5: MPOs Response to Specific Issues</b></p> <p><b>BO5-A – Freight</b>  <i>This breakout session will focus on the how MPOs can enhance planning for freight mobility and needs in metropolitan areas, with a particular emphasis on how MPOs should be structured, staffed and managed to enable effective freight planning. In addition, the breakout will address key issues of private sector involvement in the planning process and institutional coordination and cooperation, particularly as related to the inherent inter-regional and inter-state nature of freight movement, influences and impacts. A cross-section of the current “state of the practice” in MPOs will be highlighted to help inform the discussion. Among the options for this session are engaging participants in an analysis of gaps between the optimal future MPO role and structure for freight planning and the general current situation in MPOs.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Paula Dowell, Wilbur Smith Associates</p>

	<p>Speakers:  Caroline Marshall, Atlanta Regional Commission  Ted Dahlburg, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission</p> <p><b>BO5-B – MPO as an Operating Agency</b>  <i>Over the last decade MPOs have gotten more involved linking planning with operations and management of transportation systems. This session will learn about and discuss the experiences of two MPOs that have become actual operators - of transit systems, traffic management centers and even sewer systems.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Connie Kozlak, Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities (Minneapolis)</p> <p>Speaker:  Brian Hoeft, RTC of Southern Nevada</p> <p><b>BO5-C – Security and Emergency Response</b>  <i>What role do MPOs play today in security and emergency response in this post 9/11 world? How have their activities changed in the last five years? What role will MPOs play in the future? What resources will they draw from? What will their organizational structure be? Have the events of 9/11 changed the way other agencies view MPOs? Are MPOs responsive enough to meet the rapidly changing demands of security and emergency response. In this session, we will hear from representatives of MPOs who have been involved in security and emergency response activities before 9/11 and who have entered this area since 9/11. Today, most, if not all, MPOs have become involved in security and emergency response activities to some degree. We will discuss what some MPOs are currently doing and what this activity may look like in the future.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Al Foxx, Baltimore City Department of Transportation</p> <p>Panelists/Discussants:  Ashby Johnson, Houston–Galveston Regional Council  Gerry Bogacz, New York Metropolitan Transportation Commission  Ronald F. Kirby, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments</p>
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**Tuesday, August 29**

<p>8:30 am – 10:00 am</p>	<p><b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS 6: Research and Capacity Building</b>  <i>Breakout groups will each focus on one of two topics needed to transition towards or implement the future MPOs vision: research and capacity building. Each breakout group will also address the interrelationships and/or interdependence between these two topics.</i></p> <p><b>BO6-A/B – Research</b>  <b>BO6-C/D – Capacity Building</b></p>
<p>10:00 am – 10:30 am</p>	<p><i>BREAK</i></p>

<p>10:30 am – Noon</p>	<p><b>The MPO in 2020: Form, Role and Opportunities</b></p> <p><i>Based on the output of the last two days of work and the framework put forth in the opening plenary, this session will present a proposed pro forma profile of a “model MPO” in the year 2020. The goal of this session is to facilitate unconstrained thinking among conference participants on what an MPO should do (rather than can do under today’s rules and resources) to address existing and emerging metropolitan transportation needs and issues. The pro forma profile will include organizational, process, technical and institutional aspects of the MPO. The profile and accompanying discussion will lay the groundwork for the following breakouts on Next Steps, Research, and Capacity Building. The presentations will include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Overview: The MPO in 2020</i></li> <li>• <i>What does the MPO do? (process)</i></li> <li>• <i>Who is the MPO? (organized and structure)</i></li> <li>• <i>How does the MPO do its work? (technical/capacity)</i></li> <li>• <i>How does the MPO work within the metropolitan setting? (institutional relationships/issues)</i></li> </ul> <p><i>A facilitated group discussion (questions and answers) will follow the presentations, with a goal of achieving group consensus on the validity of the future MPO profile.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Howard Glassman, Florida MPO Advisory Council</p>
<p>Noon – 2:00pm</p>	<p><b>CLOSING PLENARY SESSION: Panel Discussion on the Future of MPOs</b> <i>(lunch included w/registration)</i></p> <p><i>This panel discussion will provide a wrap-up to the conference and reflect on the discussions, debates and outputs of the previous two days. Panelists will discuss their views on the future of MPOs, options and opportunities for MPO evolution, the role of politics in MPOs’ and transportation fundings future and related issues arising from the conference and the “future MPO” profile. The discussion will be unrehearsed; panelists will respond to questions and comments from the moderator and the audience, with dialogue among the panelists to ensure multiple points of view are represented on key questions.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Therese McMillan, Metropolitan Transportation Commission</p> <p>Speakers:  Anne Canby, Surface Transportation Policy Project  Mary Lynn Tischer, Virginia DOT  Harrison B. Rue, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (Charlottesville, Virginia)  Charlie Howard, Puget Sound Regional Council  Peter Plumeau, Wilbur Smith Associates</p>