

# Connecting Asset Management Governance and Structure to Institutional Success

#### Jason Bittner, MPA, PMP

11th National Conference on Transportation Asset Management

TAM Implementation Track. Oh the Places We'll Go: Creating an Implementation Roadmap

Minneapolis, MN July 11, 2016 10:30am-12:00noon









### **Presentation Overview**

- Transportation Asset Management Planning and Implementation
- Organizational Culture and Asset Management
- Governance Models for Asset Management
- Lessons





## Business process management relies on critical success factors

- Upper management support
- Buy-in and ownership
- Testing
- Training
- Measurement and metrics



# Structure organization process (SOP) provides a standard

Organizationally arranged versus operationally arranged

Asset management as a communications tool

- Corporate attitudes create a lot of success (or failure)
  - Top heavy versus horizontal alignments



# Implementation means different things to different players

- The scope of asset management systems varied substantially across the Country
- Unique features

Most agencies are struggling with exactly what to include or not to include

- > Asset management framework
- End product variation
  - MAP-21 requirements
  - Good business practices





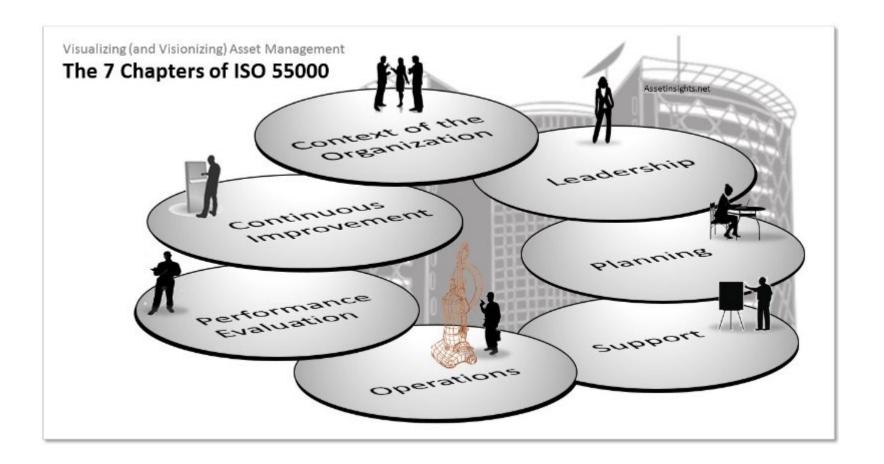
## Where does asset management fit?

- Again, it depends
- Size of network
- Asset categories
- Government level
- > Legislative mandates
- Overall approaches
  - Strategic
  - Tactical
- Might be in the eye of the beholder



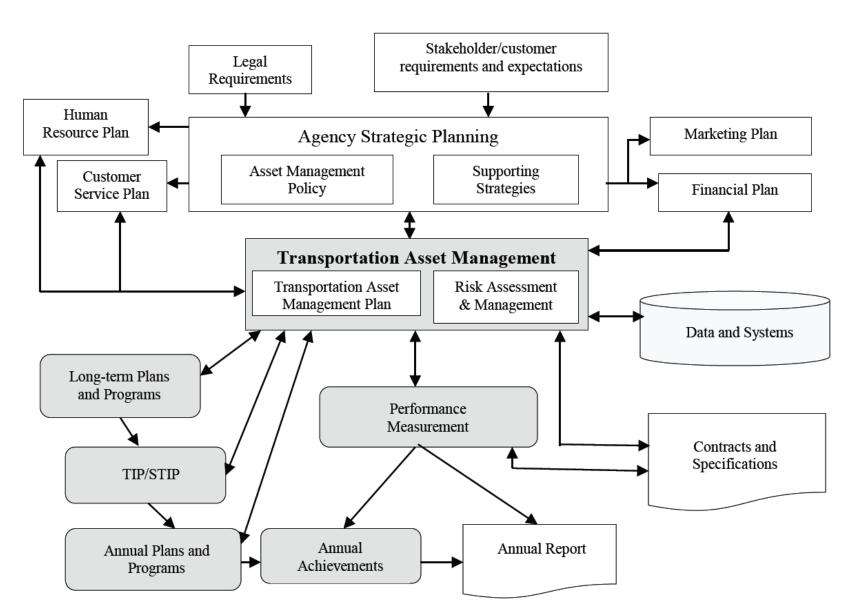


### **ISO 55000 starts with context**



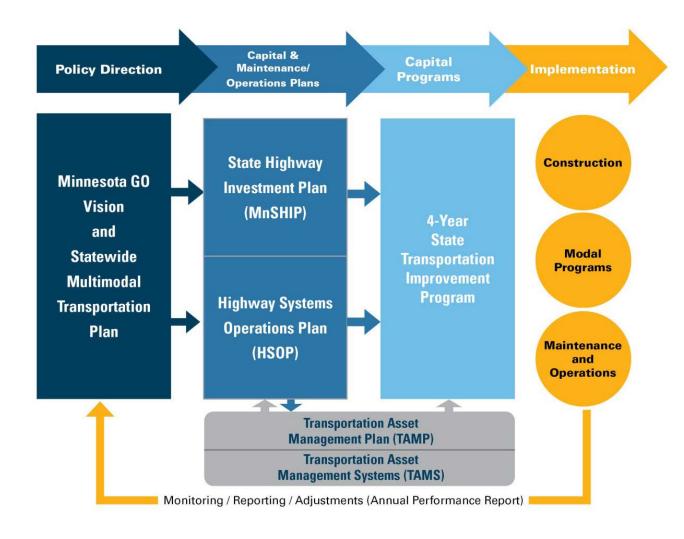


## **AASHTO Guide to Asset Management, Vol 2**



## **Examples**

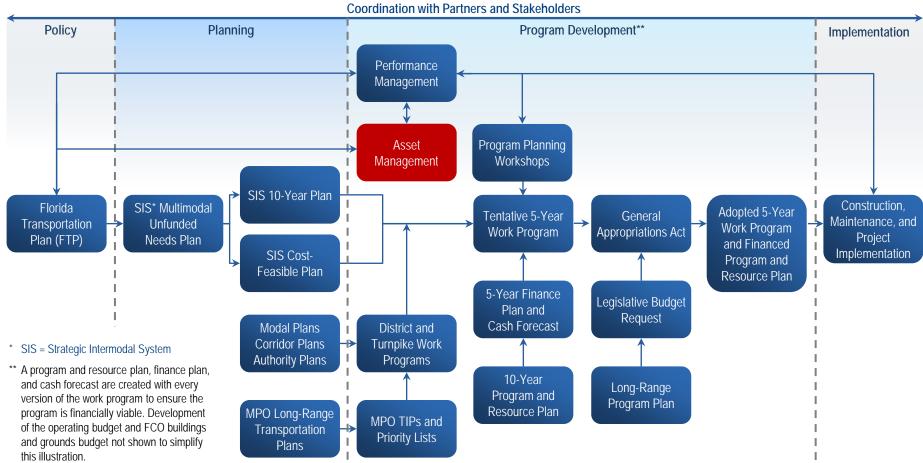
### **Minnesota**



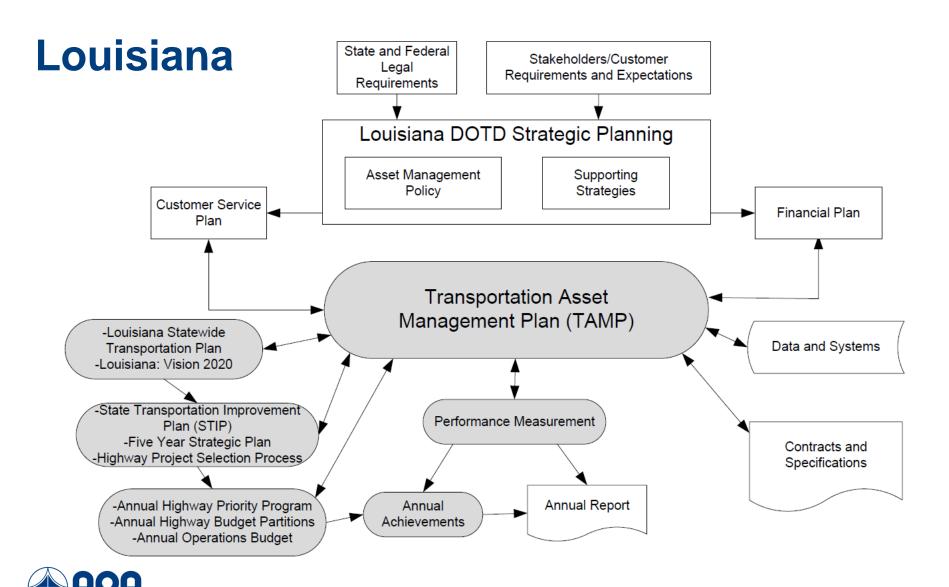


### **Florida**

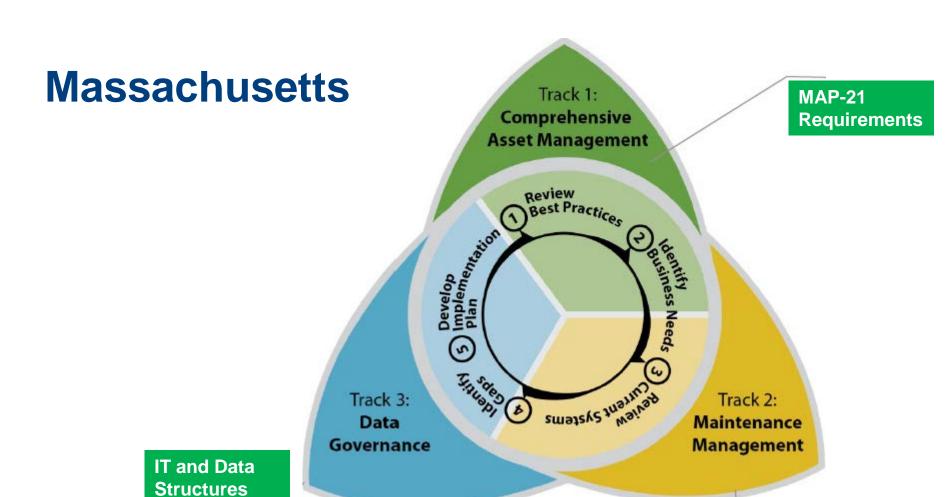
#### FDOT PROCESSES AND KEY DOCUMENTS







12





**Operations Decisions** 



## The organization remains king

- > Very few organizations have official change management plans
- Risk-based planning is a new approach for many
- > Organizational culture influences:
  - Financial analysis
  - Asset management governance
  - Business practices and standards
  - Risk management and mitigation
  - Education and training acceptance
  - Performance reporting
  - But most importantly, how decisions get made and implemented!



### Successful organizational change demands

- A consensus among leadership of the need for, and benefit of, change
- Development of a vision of changes and strategy
- Communication of that vision regularly
- Alignment of actions so that they are consistent with the vision
- Involvement of leadership to empower you to make changes consistent with the vision
- Celebration of the change effort with short-term successes





### Governance structures observed

- Executive championed, formalized steering committees
- Bureau-level re-organizations
- Limited duration ad hoc steering committees
- Dedicated individual leadership (champions)
- > New offices (with defined authority) or positions
- No formal structural changes
- > Hybrids
- Others



## Steering committees provide immediate action

- Directed in Provincial guides or State legislation
- High profile, including chartered
  - Typically sponsored by the chief executive
- Some examples of interagency committees

#### Primary challenges:

- Regular meeting schedules
- Decisions may not flow down to cause front line changes
- Changes in key leadership
- Stakeholder representation
- Works best in large organizations/many stakeholders



## Reorganizations prioritize key elements

- Directed in legislation or with executive changes
- High profile
  - Typically sponsored by the chief executive
- > Allows easier cross-departmental activities

- Primary challenges:
  - Prior relationships may be influenced
  - Ownership of new roles
  - Has to be driven by results



# Limited duration steering committees provide project focus

- Typically established for the planning process
- > High profile
  - Involving multiple stakeholders
  - Organizational self-assessment is critical due to short duration

#### Primary challenges:

- Need to establish solid post-plan governance or the document sits on the shelf
- Strong leadership required
- Maintaining focus



## Champions embody enthusiasm

- Influence at the highest levels
- Passion for asset management practices
- > Typically has departmental history or industry stature
- Can be disruptive influence to status quo

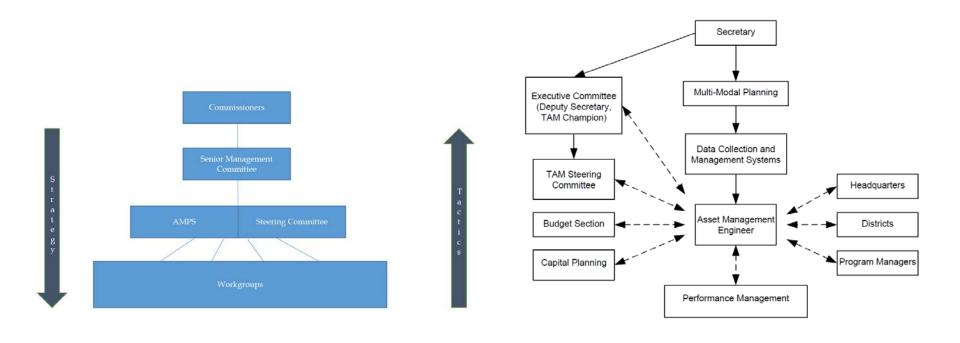
#### Primary Challenges:

- Army of One
- Conveying enthusiasm to overcome institutional inertia
- Has to be able to make decisions to gain respect
- Succession planning is critical



## New offices create clear responsibilities

- Examples include:
  - New Hampshire AMPS, Louisiana DOTD Asset Management Engineer





# No formal changes allow institutional processes to remain in place

- In-house development of programs
  - Adapt existing systems
  - Functional structures rather than organizational
- > Horizontal alignments

Best practices: regular team meetings, balanced scorecards, performance

agreements

> Primary challenges:

- Lasting influence
- Doing more with less
- "One more thing"





## Hybrid models encourage experimentation

Successful models incorporate different goals at different times

 Following BC framework – plan, implement, assess

#### Mix of staff

 Especially effective when comparing across modal interests

#### Ownership

- Situational leadership examples
- Some agencies have widely distributed asset management functions with all activities coordinated at a higher level

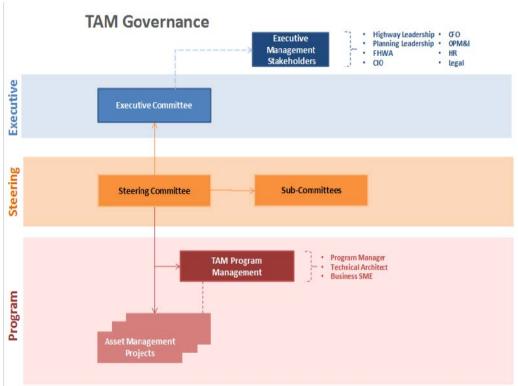




## **Ultimately...**

#### Clearly defining roles is critical

 Some agencies have the roles and responsibilities for each person/group involved in asset management activities specifically outlined in their business processes; some do not









## Lessons

- ➤ Use participatory strategies to involve users in changing the current practice, such as council tours and presentations to the public
- ➤ Agencies with the highest level of success have a dedicated asset management group consisting of representatives from all major stakeholder groups
- Project champions are vital but can be short lived
- Bottom up & top down can both be successful
- Multi-disciplinary nature of the steering committee and the project management team



## Lessons, continued

- Governance structure is successful with right communications and cross-functional collaborations
- Clear process overviews are important
- Don't be afraid to adjust based on the planning OR implementation process
- > Executive buy-in remains critical



## **Acknowledgements**

- ➤ TAC Synthesis of Asset Management Best Practices for Canada
- ➤ TRB Committee on Transportation Asset Management
- > TAM Expert Task Group
- Pilot TAMP States: Louisiana, Minnesota, New York
- Transportation Asset Management Pooled Fund States









Jason Bittner, Principal Analyst 608-770-0394 <u>jbittner@ara.com</u> @ARA\_Bittner



