



New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

PROSPECTUS for Continuing Transportation Planning

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Continuing · Comprehensive · Cooperative · Transportation Planning

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INTRODUCTION

The Town of Bridgeton, Craven County, City of New Bern, Town of River Bend, Town of Trent Woods, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation in cooperation with the various administrations within the U.S. Department of Transportation participate in a ***Continuing, Comprehensive and Cooperative (3Cs)*** transportation planning process in the New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (NBAMPO) Metropolitan Area as required by Section 134 (a), Title 23, United States Code. A Memorandum of Understanding approved by the municipalities, the county, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation establishes the general operating procedures and responsibilities by which short-range and long-range transportation plans are developed and continuously evaluated.

This Prospectus is primarily a reference document for the transportation planning staff. Its purpose is to provide sufficiently detailed descriptions of work tasks so that staff and agencies responsible for doing the work understand what needs to be done, how it is to be done, and who does it. The format of this Prospectus was developed by the North Carolina Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (NCAMPO) and the Transportation Planning Division (TPD) of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), in consultation with the NC Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Region 4 of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) of NCDOT. This revised version collapses the previous 44 Task Codes into 20 Task Codes that better describe the planning requirements set by Transportation Authorizations (currently the FAST Act).

A secondary purpose of the Prospectus is to provide sufficient documentation of planning work tasks and the planning organization and procedures so that documentation is minimized in a required annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP identifies the planning works tasks which are to be accomplished in the upcoming fiscal year and serves as a funding document for the FHWA and FTA of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The City of New Bern is designated as the Lead Planning Agency (LPA) and is primarily responsible for annual preparation of the UPWP and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The transportation planning work is divided into two elements in the Prospectus according to type of activity:

- **Continuing Transportation Planning**
- **Administration**

The major work tasks are those relating to continuing transportation planning and are listed in Chapter II. Administrative work tasks include preparation of the annual UPWP, periodic preparation of a surveillance report to analyze growth trends, documentation required for FTA Title VI compliance, and routine management and operations.

The MPO staff, the TPD of NCDOT and the Craven Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS) are the agencies with the primary responsibility to perform the necessary tasks in this Prospectus to meet federal planning requirements. However, every participating agency is responsible for providing data and support to achieve the MPO's goals.

Primary responsibility for each task will be included in the **Task Code Titles and Subtitles**.

CONTINUING TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

II-A: Data and Planning Support

II-A-1: Network and Support System

This section contains data and processes used to support transportation planning related to transportation infrastructure. It includes, but is not limited to:

Traffic Volume Counts – NCDOT TPD

Traffic counts will be taken on a biennial schedule at specified locations. These summaries can also be calculated on an annual basis by TPD inside the transportation study area. Traffic data will be collected on weekdays for a minimum of 48 hours and converted to Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) counts. The respective municipal department is responsible for obtaining counts at specified locations on the municipal owned streets within the MPO region and for furnishing the raw daily traffic counts, count information, and location maps to the NDDPT TPD the first week of November for each scheduled collection year. The TPD is responsible for obtaining counts at specified locations on other segments of the major street system, for updating the count location map biennially to reflect any changes made in the major street system, for preparing the AADT Volume Map, and for sending this information to the LPA. MPO counts will be available to the general public on the NCDOT web page in spring of each year. Special counts may be taken during travel model updates or validations. These include counts at screen-line stations, external stations, major trip generators, and key intersections as needed. Traffic count types may include daily, hourly, vehicle classification or turning movements. The TPD will coordinate traffic data collection for these special counts.

Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) – NCDOT TPD

Vehicle miles of travel are computed by multiplying the length of each link times the annual average daily traffic volume on that link. Vehicle miles of travel are tabulated annually by county and functional classification by NCDOT TPD. MPOs may also choose to estimate VMT for the municipal limits in their MPA, urbanized area and/or the entire MPO on a regular basis.

Street System Changes – NCDOT and Municipal Public Works Departments

Records of improvements to the state highway system, whether planned, underway, or completed, are maintained by the Division Engineer of the NCDOT. Each municipality should maintain similar records for its municipal street system. The municipalities participating in the Powell Bill Program must certify city street mileage maintained annually. An inventory of the geometrics and signalization of existing major street system for the planning area should be maintained by the MPO. The inventory may be updated periodically or as changes or additions to the major street system occur. This inventory will need to be current when the travel model is updated.

Traffic Crashes – NCDOT Traffic Mobility and Safety

North Carolina law requires that any traffic crash involving personal injury and/or property damage in excess of \$1,000.00 be reported in detail to the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) of the NCDOT. The DMV also receives a detailed report on any crash investigated by a law officer. Copies of all these reports are forwarded to the Transportation Mobility and Safety Section of NCDOT, where the information is summarized and stored. Annual analysis is produced in online maps and is used to identify short term improvements and problem areas for future improvements. High Frequency Crash location maps are available on NCDOT's website.

Transit System Data - CARTS

Items to be considered are transit patronage, route changes, service miles, load factor, route ridership changes, boarding and alighting counts, headways, frequency, and service hours.

Air Travel – Coastal Carolina Regional Airport (EWN)

Data may be collected and analyzed to determine the influence of local air travel on the area's transportation system and identify needs for additional services. Airport enplanements/deplanements may help relate air travel to ground travel in future updates. A ground transportation survey is a good example of this.

Central Area Parking Inventory – NBAMPO/Municipal Public Works Departments

Inventories of both on- and off-street parking supply in the MPO central areas are maintained by the MPO. Periodic updates and inventories of other parking facilities in other areas will be performed as determined by the MPO through the development of the UPWP. Data collected should include parking policies, ownership, and rates.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Inventory - NBAMPO

An inventory of significant municipal, county and state, and bicycle and pedestrian transportation facilities shall be maintained. These systems shall be incorporated into the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and analyzed in conjunction with other transportation performance measures.

Collection of Network Data – NCDOT TPD and NBAMPO

Collection of the transportation network data is necessary to build a base network for the travel model and for other planning purposes. Data may include, but not be limited to 1) posted speed limit; 2) width / number of lanes; 3) segment length; 4) traffic signal locations. These items are generally the standard parameters required but others may be needed as models become more sophisticated.

Capacity Deficiency Analysis – NCDOT TPD and NBAMPO

A system planning level capacity deficiency analysis will be made to determine existing and projected street deficiencies. Link capacities will be calculated in accordance with procedures based on the latest edition of the HIGHWAY CAPACITY MANUAL and other resources.

II-A-2: Travelers and Behavior

This section covers data and processes used to support transportation planning related to socioeconomic data and conditions. It includes, but is not limited to:

Dwelling Unit, Population, and Employment Changes – NBAMPO

Changes in population and development across the service area will be identified and evaluated to determine the necessary restructuring of transportation services to meet current and forecasted demand. Census data, local parcel, zoning, and tax data records; Employment Security Commission; and private vendors are acceptable sources of information for this purpose. This item may include the development and maintenance of a GIS database.

Collection of Base Year Data - NBAMPO

Collection of the following variables for existing conditions, by traffic zone, is required: 1) population; 2) housing units; and 3) employment. It is expected that rejections of travel patterns, including transit, would require a retabulation of these factors used in development the travel models. A GIS database may be used to maintain housing and land use information. The MPO will normally be responsible for providing socioeconomic data to TPD. This also includes the creation and maintenance of traffic zones.

Travel Surveys – NBAMPO and CARTS

These surveys may be implemented to attain such items as origins and destinations, travel behavior, transit ridership, commercial vehicle usage, workplace commuting, freight movement, etc. Therefore, these surveys may be home interviews, cordon O/D's, and on-board transit surveys to name a few. New surveys will be conducted at such a time as is necessary for the reevaluation of travel models. Because these surveys are very cost prohibitive, the survey responsibility and funding sources will be determined at the onset of the study.

Vehicle Occupancy Rates (Counts) – NBAMPO

Vehicle occupancy counts are collected across the service area to measure effectiveness of transportation investments and operations. Information will also be used to comply with the Clean Air Act and is useful in the trip generating process of modeling traffic during the travel modeling phase, as well as other parts of the MTP.

Travel Time Studies – NCDOT TPD

Peak and off-peak travel time studies may be conducted for those street segments that are experiencing congestion. The travel time studies may be required during the travel model calibration phase as well to help refine the model speeds.

II-A-3: Transportation Modeling

This section covers data and processes used to forecast future conditions for planning horizons. It includes, but is not limited to:

Travel Model Updates – NCDOT TPD

For each MTP update, a “Modeling Agreement” between the MPO and TPD will be adopted, and it will be a stand-alone document. There are different kinds of models applied at different scales; the right balance of model types will be agreed between the MPO and TPD. The responsibility for building and applying the model will also be agreed upon between the MPO and TPD as part of the Modeling Agreement.

Forecast of Data to Horizon Year – NBAMPO

The travel models determine what planning data must be projected to a new design year. In general, the procedure will be to project population and socioeconomic factors independently on an area-wide basis, to cross check these projections and convert them to land use quantities if required, and to distribute the projected planning data to traffic zones based on land capabilities, accessibility, and community goals as implemented through land use controls. The MPO will provide the approved socioeconomic forecasts.

Forecasts of Future Travel Patterns – NCDOT TPD

The forecast of future travel patterns will result from using the forecasted planning data as input to the travel demand models. The models are sensitive to changes in trip generation, trip purpose, trip length, vehicle occupancy, travel mode, and patterns of daily travel. The forecast of travel patterns will include a review of these factors and comparison to community goals and objectives to determine if changes in assumptions are warranted. The network development process is included in this task item.

Financial Planning – NBAMPO and NCDOT TPD

As required by the FAST Act, the MTP must have a financial plan. Project cost estimates and revenue forecasts are required. Federal regulations allow flexibility in the methodologies used for analysis, but they must include estimates for maintenance and operations as well as construction. This item also covers identifying new and alternative funding sources, including new taxing strategies, impact fees, and public-private partnership. This also includes a financial analysis for the TIP.

II-B: Planning Process

II-B-1: Targeted Planning

This section includes non-modal specific planning and focuses on themes across modes. It can include, but is not limited to:

Air Quality Planning / Conformity Analysis – NBAMPO and NCDOT TPD

Official air quality conformity determinations on the MTP are not currently required of every NC MPO. However, due to the interest of local and state governments in the quality of the environment, including air quality, an analysis on the MTP may be performed. In non-attainment and maintenance areas, the transportation sector is a key participant in the development and application of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality.

MPOs have the responsibility to determine whether the MTP and TIP conform to the intent of the SIP. Elements involved in this task include but are not limited to: Participation in interagency consultation process as part of STIP development and conformity determination development; Providing assistance to NCDENR in developing and maintaining mobile source emission inventories; Participating in development of TCM's for the SIP; Implementation of TCM's as appropriate; and Performing analysis and approving conformity determination as required (the MPO must approve conformity determination).

Alternative Fuels / Vehicles - NBAMPO

MPOs can support transportation projects that reduce mobile source emissions and reduce vulnerability of fuel supplies and enhance fuel security in times of extreme weather events or other reasons for petroleum scarcity. Eligible activities include transit improvements, travel demand management strategies, traffic flow improvements, and public fleet conversions to cleaner fuels, among others. Alternative fuel projects for the public and private sector fleet can include coordination of education and incentive programs and/or planning for the provision of fueling or charging infrastructure and pipeline security.

Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Planning – NBAMPO

Conduct analysis in areas related to climate change and extreme weather adaptation such as assessments of transportation vulnerability to extreme weather events, or to develop options for improving resiliency of transportation facilities or systems related to climate changes and/or extreme weather events.

Congestion Management Strategies - NBAMPO

The 3-C Transportation Planning Process, as enhanced by the FAST Act, stresses efficient system management and operations.

Freight Movement / Mobility Planning - NBAMPO

As one of the FAST Act's eight planning factors, emphasis is placed on increasing accessibility and mobility options available to people and freight. Tasks included in this category may be a survey of freight carriers, recommendations for improving truck mobility or train/truck intermodal movements, and identifying acceptable truck routes.

II-B-2: Regional Planning

This Task Code includes development and creation of both the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) (NC requirement) and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (FAST Act requirement). To be valid and useful for corridor protection and other uses, the CTP must be mutually adopted by both the MPO and NCDOT.

Community Goals and Objectives - NBAMPO

In the evaluation of community goals and objectives, the MPO will formulate policies ensuring local goals and objectives are discerned and addressed during the development and implementation of the MTP.

Highway Element of the CTP/MTP – NCDOT TPD and NBAMPO

The CTP (a subset of which is the highway element of the CTP/MTP) will be evaluated in terms of projected travel, capacity deficiencies, travel safety, physical conditions, costs, design, travel time, and possible

disruption of people, businesses, neighborhoods, community facilities, and the environment. The evaluation will include an analysis of the MTP and the interrelationship between alternative travel modes. Recommendations should include adequate right-of-way for improvements consistent with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Transit Plan and other intermodal connection facilities along logical corridors. If major deficiencies are found with the existing plan, alternative plans will be evaluated. In non-attainment areas, it should be noted that any regionally significant MTP revisions must be analyzed for conformity with the STIP in non-attainment / maintenance areas.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Element of the CTP/MTP - NBAMPO

A bikeway and pedestrian plan is an essential part of the multi-modal CTP/MTP for an urban area. The report entitled Incorporating bicycle and Pedestrian Elements into Transportation Plan, produced by the TPD, describes the essential of this task. At a minimum, an update to the inventory of existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian elements should be included in the CTP/MTP.

Airport/Air Travel Element of the CTP/MTP – Coastal Carolina Regional Airport/NBAMPO

The Airport Master Plan may be coordinated with the MPO (where feasible) and be an element of the CTP/MTP.

Collector Street Element of the CTP/MTP - NBAMPO

Collector street planning will be conducted as required to develop standards and preliminary locations for collector streets in advance of development. The objective of this planning activity is to ensure optimum traffic operations for the developing street system and transit accessibility to developing areas.

Rail, Waterway, or Other Mode of the CTP/MTP - NBAMPO

Some MPOs may have additional transportation elements that link to the multi-modal CTP/MTP. The MPO should provide documentation to be included in the CTP/MTP.

II-B-3: Special Studies

This Task Code includes mode-specific plans and special studies that do not fall under Operational Planning.

Special Studies - NBAMPO

During the regular reevaluation of the MTP, there occasionally is a need to make a specific study of a transportation corridor to determine the best solution to a problem. While this may include development of a simple functional design for corridor protection, more detailed studies may include evaluations of alternative modes or alignments for cost, feasibility, environmental screening, and functional designs. In a similar manner, special problems may arise in relation to major land use changes when large-scale traffic generators (hospitals, regional malls, etc.) will either be developed or closed. These land use changes could significantly affect the regional distribution and/or amount of traffic that could require changes to the MTP to accommodate for the newly forecasted growth. The extent, responsibility, and cost for a corridor or sub-area study, which should be conducted within the work plan of the TCC, would be determined prior to its initiation.

ADMINISTRATION

III-A: Work and Performance Programs

III-A-1: Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Development of Annual Unified Planning Work Program and Five-Year Program - NBAMPO

A Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will be prepared annually by the MPO in cooperation with other participating agencies. The UPWP will present the proposed planning work program for the next fiscal year and review the most recent accomplishments of the planning process. The UPWP will be cross-referenced to the Prospectus to minimize repetitive documentation. The UPWP will be reviewed and approved by the MPO Policy Board, the NCDOT, and Federal agencies providing planning funds for continuing transportation planning. These Federal planning funds are provided by FHWA (Section 104(f)) and FTA (Section 5303). Preparation of a Section 5303 Grant application is also required in addition to the UPWP to receive planning funds from the FTA. The MPO must annually certify the 3-C Transportation Planning Process as part of the UPWP adoption.

A Five-Year plan that shows basic assumptions for work to be performed in future UPWPs for the current fiscal year and subsequent 4 years should also be developed. This will reflect the high-level UPWP categories and show the progression of projects that require more than one year to complete and ongoing maintenance tasks.

III-A-2: Metrics and Performance Measures – NBAMPO

Each MPO shall establish performance targets and measures that address performance of the transportation system. MPOs shall coordinate with appropriate State and transit agencies in developing targets for the transportation system. The MPO shall integrate in the metropolitan planning process directly or by reference the goals, objectives, performance measures, and targets described in other State transportation plans and processes, as well as any plans developed under Chapter 53 of Title 49 by providers of public transportation, required as part of a performance-based program.

III-B: Transportation Improvement Program

III-B-1: Prioritization – NCDOT and NBAMPO

The MPO list of projects to evaluate under NCGS § 136-18 (42) is developed biennially to communicate the MPOs priorities regarding the funding schedule on already programmed projects, the acceleration of long-term projects into the program, and the addition of new projects to the STIP. The list may include cost estimates, purpose and need statements, and other supporting materials. A prioritization process is a key step in cooperative TIP development between the MPO, the transit operator, and NCDOT and must be evaluated and approved biennially.

III-B-2: Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) - NBAMPO

Every two years, the MPO will prepare a metropolitan program document (TIP) which is coordinated with the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The local programming document is a short range, five to ten-year multi-modal program which identifies transportation improvements recommended for advancement during the program period, identifies priorities, groups improvements into staging periods, includes estimated costs and revenues, and is fiscally constrained.

As conditions change, it may be necessary to amend the TIP to ensure consistency with the STIP. The MPO will coordinate with NCDOT to keep the documents aligned and bring modifications / amendments before the MPO boards as needed.

The MPO will coordinate with local governments to include major non-NCDOT projects in the TIP, with a blanket local STIP identifier to be assigned by NCDOT. The MPO will develop criteria to define “major” along with NCDOT and federal partners.

III-B-3: Merger and Project Development

The proposed Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) and selected alternative plans will be evaluated based on criteria established by the goals and objectives reevaluation study and impact on the environment. The Airport Master Plan or other modal plan not included in the CTP would also be evaluated on these criteria. It is anticipated that the evaluation will be in the following areas:

- a. efficiency in serving travel demands
- b. energy conservation
- c. cost
- d. impact on the physical, social, and economic environment.

The physical environmental evaluation will include air quality, water quality, soil and geology, wildlife and vegetation. The social environmental considerations will include housing and community cohesion, low-income and minority populations, noise, churches and educational facilities, parks and recreational facilities, historic sites, public health and safety, national defense, and aesthetics. Effects on business, employment and income, land development patterns and public utilities will be studied as part of the economic environmental evaluation.

Merger Process - NCDOT

Merger is a process to streamline the project development and permitting processes, agreed to by the USACE, NCDENR (DWQ, DCM), FHWA and NCDOT, and supported by other stakeholder agencies and local units of government. To this effect, the Merger process provides a forum for appropriate agency representatives to discuss and reach consensus on ways to facilitate meeting the regulatory requirements of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act during the NEPA/SEPA decision-making phase of transportation projects.

Each project that goes through the Merger process will include a project team that will consist of appropriate primary signatory agencies and partnering signatory agencies. The composition of agencies on each project team will vary depending on the specific project’s location and scope.

FHWA, USACE, NCDOT and NCDENR are the primary signatories for the Merger Process agreement and are also known as the process owners or sponsors. The partnering agencies are as follows: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; National Marine Fisheries Service; N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission; N.C. Department of Cultural Resources; U.S. Coast Guard; U.S. Forest Service; National Park Service; and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). Some of the partnering agencies will participate only when the project is in their respective geographic area of responsibility or statutory authority.

Feasibility Studies - NCDOT

MPOs will participate as needed in NCDOT-sponsored feasibility studies identified in the STIP/TIP.

III-C: Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI) and other Regulatory Requirements

III-C-1: Title VI – NBAMPO and CARTS

Provide update of Civil Rights statistics report for submittal to FTA to determine MPO compliance to civil rights provision. Title VI states: The MPO shall comply with all the requirements imposed by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252), 49 U.S.C. 2000D to 2000D-4; the Regulations of DOT issued thereafter in the Code of Federal Regulations (commonly and herein referred to as CFR) Title 49, Subtitle A, Part 21, and the assurance by the MPO pursuant thereto. NCDOT Office of Civil Rights is responsible for ensuring that each MPO meets these requirements.

III-C-2: Environmental Justice (EJ) – NBAMPO

Executive Order (E.O.) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations, requires all Federal agencies to identify and address Title VI and Environmental Justice requirements. Recipients of federal funds, including NCDOT and the MPOs, must assure compliance with these requirements. As mandated by the FHWA, planning activities should focus on complying with E.O. 12898 and the three basic principles of Environmental Justice as follows:

- a. ensure public involvement of low-income and minority groups in decision making
- b. prevent disproportionately high and adverse impacts to low-income and minority groups resulting from decisions made
- c. assure low-income and minority groups receive a proportionate share of benefits resulting from decisions made

Specific tasks include mapping of populations, and businesses, conducting quantitative analysis of the benefits and burdens the transportation system / programs have on the MLI communities, etc.

III-C-3: Minority Business Enterprise Planning (MBE) – CARTS/NBAMPO

There is a continuing need to address the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) as part of the planning and programming phases of project development. Areas are encouraged to consider the potential services that could be provided by MBEs in the development of transit plans and programs, and the provision of transit service. Transit properties with established MBE programs are encouraged to work with MPOs, utilizing transportation planning funds to update existing MBE programs as necessary.

III-C-4: Planning for the Elderly and Disabled - CARTS

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) ensures that persons with disabilities enjoy access to the mainstream of American life. The ADA expands on the Section 504 program to comprehensively address mobility needs of persons with disabilities. Joint FHWA and FTA regulations require that the urban transportation planning process include activities specifically emphasizing the planning, development, evaluation and reevaluation of transportation facilities and services for the elderly and disabled, consistent with ADA. This process should include an analysis of inventories of disabled persons, their locations, and special transportation services needed. These regulations emphasize estimation of travel needs through statistical analysis and a self-identification process. Both thoroughfare and transit planning activities should focus on complying with the key provisions of the ADA, and include special efforts to plan transportation facilities and services that can be effectively utilized by persons with limited mobility, such as:

- a. Public transit agencies providing fixed route transit service must provide comparable level paratransit services to disabled individuals who cannot otherwise use the fixed route service
- b. Transit agencies providing elderly and disabled oriented demand responsive service must also buy or lease accessible vehicles unless it can be demonstrated that the system provides a level of service to the disabled equivalent to that provided to the general public
- c. New facilities built must be accessible and existing facilities with major alterations must be made accessible to the maximum extent feasible
- d. Planning for better mobility through such items as wheelchair curb cuts, longer pedestrian crosswalk times at certain intersections, and special parking spaces and rates for cars with one or more transportation disadvantaged occupant(s)

III-C-5: Safety / Drug Control Planning - CARTS

Transit operators perform safety audits and develop safety/security improvement and in alcohol/drug control planning, programming, and implementation. Attention should be given to the development of policies and planning for the proper safety related maintenance of transit vehicles, fire safety, substance abuse where it affects employee performance in critical safety related jobs, emergency preparedness to improve the capability to respond to transit accidents/incidents, security to reduce theft and vandalism of transit property and to counter potential politically motivated terrorism directed against transit users, facilities, and equipment. Additional, two of the eight planning factors for metropolitan planning is to *increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized use, and to increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.*

III-C-6: Public Participation – NBAMPO

An effective public involvement process provides for an open exchange of information and ideas between the public and transportation decision-makers. The overall objective of an area’s public involvement process is that it be proactive, provide complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and opportunities for early and continuing involvement (23 CFR 450.212(a) and 450.316 (b) (1)). It also provides mechanisms for the agency or agencies to solicit public comments and ideas, identify circumstances and impacts which may not have been known or anticipated by public agencies, and, by doing so, to build support among the public who are stakeholders in transportation investments which impact their communities. The MPO should have a formalized, written and adopted public participation process.

III-C-7: Private Sector Participation - CARTS

Federal regulations require that private operators be afforded the “maximum feasible opportunity” to participate in the planning and provision of local transportation services. The purpose of the private sector participation requirement is to give private operators the opportunity to initiate involvement. In an effort to more effectively address this requirement, the evaluation of private sector service alternatives has been incorporated into the transportation planning process. The general criteria for making public/private service decisions may include but is not limited to:

- a. Comparative cost of private versus public services in similar situations
- b. Perceived quality and reliability of service
- c. Local control of services
- d. Responsiveness and flexibility of operators

III-D: Civil Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning

This section covers planning and policy development outside the region and support of state and national user groups and organizations. Legislative issues also covered.

Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning – NCDOT TPD and NBAMPO

Coordinate with state and federal agencies involved in transportation planning activities on the regional, state, and national levels. Examples of such activities include:

- a. Functional Reclassification of roads
- b. Designation of Urban Area Boundaries
- c. National Highway System coordination
- d. Participation in statewide planning such as the Vision Plan
- e. Highway Performance Monitoring System activities
- f. Regional transit coordination

Involvement could include, but not limited to:

- a. Collection and compilation of data
- b. Participation in related workshops, conferences, and meetings
- c. Review and administrative approval or endorsement of documentation

Extra-regional plans might include corridor plans or large-area transit plans that span multiple planning regions (US 70, US 17), or similar bike/trail plans (ECG, MTST, local member agency plans, etc.).

Statewide and Federal Policy Development and Implementation – NBAMPO

Coordinate with state and federal agencies as a partner for developing policy direction and implementation. Examples include participation in SPOT, CMAQ or other NCDOT workgroups to develop scoring criteria, provide technical expertise to AMPO, AASHTO, ITE or other organizations at the national and state level that provide policy development assistance; responding to requests from NCGA or individual legislators as needed.

III-E: Management, Operations, and Program Support Administration

Board Support – NBAMPO

Support of advisory and governing bodies, including maintenance of membership and appointments, meeting planning, agenda preparation and posting, conducting meetings and hearings, minutes preparation, and compliance with Open Meetings and Public Records statutes.

Subcommittee Support – NBAMPO

Same as above for standing and ad-hoc subcommittees. Examples include Citizen’s Advisory Committee, Complete Streets Subcommittee, Data and Modeling Subcommittee, Bike/Ped Subcommittee.

Workgroup Support – NBAMPO

This includes the support of staff-level committees that do not trigger Open Meetings/Public Records requirements.

Member Services – NBAMPO

This includes responding to specific members’ needs not covered in other items. It includes presentations to local boards on MPO business and missions, assistance with transportation-related grant applications, or local staff technical assistance as examples.

General Administration – NBAMPO

This includes day-to-day operational necessities not directly related to the UPWP. Examples include filling out paperwork for finance department, including timesheets, leave requests, expense reports, benefit forms, etc. Staff meetings may fall under this category, particularly if they include non-MPO staff. Updates to the MOU, Prospectus, or other tasks that do not have another category are also covered here, to include procurement of supplies related to transportation planning activities.

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