

# CURRENT FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DEVELOPING THE MPO LRTP

As of March 1, 2010

- a. **Scope of the Planning Process.** The metropolitan planning process for a metropolitan planning area shall provide for consideration of projects and strategies that will (1) support the **economic vitality** of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency; (2) increase the **safety** of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users; (3) increase the **security** of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users; (4) increase the **accessibility and mobility** of people and for freight; (5) **protect and enhance the environment**, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns; (6) enhance the integration and **connectivity** of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight; (7) promote **efficient system management** and operation; and (8) emphasize the **preservation** of the existing transportation system.
- b. **Identify transportation facilities** such as major roadways, transit, multimodal and intermodal facilities that should function as an integrated metropolitan transportation system, giving emphasis to those facilities that serve important national and regional transportation functions.
- c. The LRTP must have a **minimum horizon date of 20 years** at date of adoption.
- d. **Environmental Mitigation.** A long-range transportation plan shall include a discussion of types of potential environmental mitigation activities and potential areas to carry out these activities, including activities that may have the greatest potential to restore and maintain the environmental functions affected by the plan.
- e. **Consultation.** The discussion shall be developed in consultation with Federal, State, and tribal wildlife, land management, and regulatory agencies. In each metropolitan area, the metropolitan planning organization shall consult, as appropriate, with State and local agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, and historic preservation concerning the development of a long-range transportation plan. The consultation shall involve as appropriate a comparison of transportation plans with State conservation plans or maps, if available; or a comparison of transportation plans to inventories of natural or historic resources, if available.
- f. **Operational and management strategies.** Operational and management strategies to improve the performance of existing transportation facilities to relieve vehicular congestion and maximize the safety and mobility of people and goods.
- g. **Capital investment strategies.** Capital investment and other strategies to preserve the existing and projected future metropolitan transportation infrastructure and provide for multimodal capacity increases based on regional priorities and needs.

- h. **Transportation and transit enhancement activities.** Proposed transportation and transit enhancement activities.
- i. Have a **financial plan** that demonstrates how the Plan is to be implemented, indicates resources from **public and private sources** that are reasonably expected to be made available to carry out the Plan, and recommends any additional financing strategies for needed projects and programs. The financial plan may contain, for illustrative purposes, additional projects should additional funding become available at a later date. However, a State or metropolitan planning organization shall not be required to select any project from the illustrative list of additional projects included in the financial plan. For the purpose of developing the LRTP, the MPO, transit operators, and the State shall cooperatively develop financial estimates of funds that will be made available to support plan implementation.
- j. **Coordination with clean air act agencies.** In metropolitan areas which are in nonattainment for ozone or carbon monoxide under the Clean Air Act, the metropolitan planning organization shall coordinate the development of a transportation plan with the process for development of the transportation control measures of the State implementation plan required by the Clean Air Act.

**Note:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed new air quality restrictions in March of 2008, which, if approved and enacted, cause Ulster County to fall out of air quality attainment and into nonattainment for ground-level ozone (violating the 0.075 parts per million threshold).

- k. **Public Participation.** Each metropolitan planning organization shall provide citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the transportation plan. A participation plan shall be developed in consultation with all interested parties; and shall provide that all interested parties have reasonable opportunities to comment on the contents of the transportation plan. The metropolitan planning organization shall, to the maximum extent practicable hold any public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times; employ visualization techniques to describe plans; and make public information available in electronically accessible format and means, such as the World Wide Web, as appropriate to afford reasonable opportunity for consideration of public information. A transportation plan involving Federal participation shall be published or otherwise made readily available by the metropolitan planning organization for public review, including (to the maximum extent practicable) in electronically accessible formats and means, such as the World Wide Web, approved by the metropolitan planning organization and submitted for information purposes to the Governor at such times and in such manner as the Secretary shall establish.