

DESIGNATION OF NEW TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREAS (TMAs)

What is a Transportation Management Area (TMA)?

A Transportation Management Area (TMA) is an area designated by the Secretary of Transportation, having an urbanized area population of over 200,000, or upon special request from the Governor and the MPO designated for the area.

When will new TMAs be designated?

The Secretary of Transportation designated new TMAs in the *Federal Register* on July 8, 2002. (An update based on additional information from the Census Bureau will be reissued in the *Federal Register*.)

What happens when an area is designated as a TMA?

An area designated as a TMA enjoys certain benefits and incurs additional requirements beyond those of smaller urbanized areas (23 USC 134 (i))

- Transportation plans and programs within a TMA must be based on a continuing and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out by the MPO in cooperation with the State and transit operators.
- The transportation planning process must include a Congestion Management System (CMS).
- The FHWA and the FTA must certify the transportation planning process no less often than once every three years.

Does an existing MPO in an area that is designated as a TMA have to modify its policy board?

At a minimum, the policy board of an MPO that serves a TMA must include local elected officials, appropriate state officials, and officials of public agencies that administer or operate major modes of transportation in the metropolitan area. The MPO should review its policy board membership to determine if all of these groups are represented and add new members, as appropriate (23 CFR 450.306).

When must an area that is designated as a TMA establish a Congestion Management System (CMS)?

Newly designated TMAs need to implement a CMS within 18 months of their designation by the Secretary of Transportation.