

**CERTIFICATION
OF THE
MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY (MACORTS)**

Be it known to all, the below signees do hereby endorse and certify the Athens MPO, and further certify that the Metropolitan Planning Process is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of:

I. 23 U.S.C. 134, 49 U.S.C. 5305, and this subpart

- a) Agreements are in place to address responsibilities of each MPO for its share of the overall Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), where multiple Metropolitan Planning Organizations share geographic portions of a Transportation Management Area (TMA).
- b) All major modes of transportation are members of the MPO
- c) Any changes to the MPA boundaries were reflected in the Policy Board representation.
- d) Agreements or memorandums are signed and in place for identification of planning responsibilities among the MPO, GDOT, public transit operator(s), air quality agency(ies), or other agencies involved in the planning process.
- e) Roles and responsibilities are defined for the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) / Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and other related planning documents.
- f) All MPO required planning products per 23 CFR Part 450, meeting minutes and agenda items are current and available on the MPO's website.
- a) The metropolitan transportation planning process shall provide for the establishment and use of a performance-based approach to transportation decision-making to support the national goals described in 23 U.S.C. 150(b) and the general purposes described in 49 U.S.C. 5301(c).

1. UPWP (23 CFR Part 450.308)

- a) The UPWP documents in detail the activities to be performed with Title 23 and the Federal Transit Act.
- b) The UPWP activities are developed, selected and prioritized with input from the State, MPO committees and public transit agency(ies).
- c) The final UPWP is submitted in a timely manner to GDOT with authorization occurring before the MPO's fiscal year begins.
- d) Initial Adoption and Amendments to the UPWP are developed and processed in accordance with procedures outlined in the MPO's Participation Plan.
- e) Planning activities and status reports are submitted quarterly by the MPO to GDOT and FHWA.

2. LRTP/MTP (23 CFR Part 450.324)

- a) The LRTP/MTP incorporates a minimum 20-year planning horizon.
- b) The LRTP/MTP identifies both long-range and short-range strategies and actions leading to the development of an intermodal transportation system.
- c) The LRTP/MTP is fiscally constrained.
- d) The development of the LRTP/MTP and the TIP are coordinated with other providers of transportation (e.g. regional airports, maritime port operators).
- e) All of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act planning factors were considered in the planning process.
- f) The LRTP/MTP includes a discussion of types of potential environmental mitigation activities and potential areas to carry out these activities in consultation with federal, state and tribal land management and regulatory agencies.
- g) The MPO approves the LRTP/MTP in a timely manner without entering into a planning lapse.
- h) Initial Adoption and Amendments to the LRTP/MTP are developed and processed in accordance with procedures outlined in the MPO's Participation Plan.
- i) The transit authority's planning process is coordinated with the MPO's planning process.
- j) In non-attainment and maintenance areas the MPO, as well as FHWA and FTA, must make a conformity determination on any updated or amended LRTP/MTP in accordance with 40 CFR Part 93.

3. TIP 23 CFR Part 450.326)

- a) The TIP is updated at least every 4 years, on a schedule compatible with STIP development.
- b) Each project included in the TIP is consistent with the LRTP/MTP.
- c) The MPO, GDOT and the transit operator collaborate on the development of the TIP.
- d) The TIP contains all projects to be funded under Title 23 U.S.C. and Title 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53.
- e) The TIP is financially constrained by year and revenue estimates reflect reasonable assumptions.

- f) The MPO TIP is included in the STIP by reference, without modification.
- g) Initial Adoption and Amendments to the TIP are developed and processed in accordance with procedures outlined in the MPO's Participation Plan.
- h) In non-attainment and maintenance areas, the MPO as well as the FHWA and FTA must make a conformity determination on any updated or amended TIP in accordance with 40 CFR Part 93.

4. Participation Plan (23 CFR Part 450.316)

- a) A 45-day comment period was provided before the Participation Plan was adopted/revised.
- b) Transportation plans, programs and projects provide timely information about transportation issues and processes to citizens and others who may be affected.
- c) Opportunities are provided for participation by local, State, and federal environmental resource and permit agencies where appropriate.
- d) The public involvement process demonstrates explicit consideration and responsiveness to public input received during the planning and program development process.
- e) The transportation planning process identifies and addresses the needs of those traditionally underserved, including low-income and minority households.
- f) The disposition of comments and changes in the final LRTP/MTP/TIP are documented and reported when significant comments are submitted.
- g) Additional time is provided if the "final" document is significantly different from the draft originally made available for public review.
- h) The MPO undertakes a periodic review of the public involvement process to determine if the process is efficient and provides full an open access for all.

5. List of Obligated Projects (23 CFR Part 450.334)

- a) The MPO provides a listing for all projects for which funds are obligated each year, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- b) The annual listing is made available to the public via the TIP or the LRTP/MTP.

II. In non-attainment and maintenance areas, sections 174 and 176(c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506(c) and (d)) and 40 CFR part 93

- a) The MPO's UPWP incorporates all of the metropolitan transportation-related air quality planning activities addressing air quality goals, including those not funded by FHWA/FTA.
- b) Agreements exist to outline the process for cooperative planning within full nonattainment/maintenance areas that are not designated by the MPO planning area.
- c) The MPO coordinates the development of the LRTP/MTP with SIP development and the development of Transportation Control Measures (TCM) if applicable.
- d) The LRTP/MTP includes design concept and scope descriptions of all existing and proposed transportation facilities in sufficient detail, regardless of funding source, to permit conformity determinations.
- e) The MPO's TIP includes all proposed federally and non-federally funded regionally significant transportation projects, including intermodal facilities.
- f) If applicable, the MPO ensures priority programming and expeditious implementation of TCMs from the STIP.

III. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21

- a) The MPO has adopted goals, policies, approaches and measurements to address Title VI and related requirements.
- b) The public involvement process is consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Title VI assurance execution by the State.
- c) The MPO has processes, procedures, guidelines, and/or policies that address Title VI, ADA, and DBE.
- d) The MPO has a documented policy on how Title VI complaints will be handled.
- e) The MPO has a demographic profile of the metropolitan planning area that includes identification of the locations of protected populations.
- f) As appropriate, the planning process identifies/considers/addresses the needs of protected/traditionally underserved populations (low-income/minority as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau).

IV. 49 U.S.C. 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment of business opportunity

- a) The MPO adheres to all requirements prohibiting discrimination against a person under, a project, program, or activity receiving financial assistance under because of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age.

V. Section 1101(b) of the FAST Act (Pub. L. 114-357) and 49 CFR part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in U.S. DOT funded projects

- a) The GDOT establishes overall goals for the percentage of work to be performed by DBE's based on the projections of the number and types of federal-aid highway contracts to be awarded and the number and types of DBE's likely to be available to compete for the contracts.

VI. 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts

- a) The MPO as required by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, does not discriminate on employment opportunities based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin;

VII. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and 49 CFR parts 27, 37, and 38

- a) The MPO as required by 49 U.S.C. 5332 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age, and prohibits discrimination in employment or business opportunity, otherwise known as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d, and U.S. DOT regulations, "Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation—Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act," 49 CFR part 21 at 21.7.

VIII. The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance

- a) The MPO has identified strategies and services to meet the needs of older persons' needs for transportation planning and programming.

IX. Section 324 of title 23 U.S.C. regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender

- a) The MPO adheres to the Act on Equality between women and men and prohibits both direct and indirect discrimination based on gender.
- b) The MPO adheres to the Equal Pay Act of 1963 (EPA), which protects men and women who perform substantially equal work in the same establishment from sex-based wage discrimination;

X. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR part 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

- a) The MPO adheres to Title I and Title V of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), which prohibits employment discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities in the private sector, and in state and local governments

John Daniell, Policy Committee Chairman
Athens MPO

Date

Radney Simpson, Assistant State Transportation Planning Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Planning

Date

Matthew Markham, Deputy Director of Planning
Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Planning

Date