



# Results of the FY 2008 Lubbock MPO Certification Review by FTA/FHWA

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# Joint FTA/FHWA Certification for MPO Planning under Title 23 U.S.C.

- The FHWA and FTA are required under federal law (23 USC 134 and 49 USC 5305(e)) to jointly determine that the metropolitan transportation planning process in each TMA planning area meets or substantially meets Federal “3-C” transportation planning requirements.
- As part of this certification process, the MPO process may be: (1) jointly certified; (2) jointly certified subject to certain specified corrective actions; (3) have only certain programs jointly certified and others subject to corrective action; or (4) it may be determined that the metropolitan planning process does not substantially meet requirements.
- If the process is not certified, FTA 5309 and 5307 and FHWA Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds may be withheld.

# Joint MPO Certification Process

- Required every four years per SAFETEA-LU legislation and implementing regulations;
- Last TMA certification completed in June 2004 by the FTA/FHWA Review Team;
- Current TMA certification review was completed on-site by the FTA/FHWA Review Team on June 11-13, 2008.

# Areas of Notable Strengths Noted by FTA/FHWA Review Team in FY 2008

- Below is a summary of the MPO's notable strengths acknowledged during the Lubbock MPO certification review completed by FTA/FHWA in FY 2008:

## Notable Strengths

### Focus Area: MPO Agreements, Roles and Responsibilities

- The transportation planning partners are commended for their extensive work toward developing interagency MOU/MOA agreements among its planning stakeholders including: TxDOT, Citibus, city and county of Lubbock, and member jurisdictions.

# Areas of Notable Strengths Noted by FTA/FHWA Review Team in FY 2008

## Notable Strengths

- The Lubbock MPO planning partners are complemented for their work to incorporate actual congestion and traffic accident-related data into the local project selection and prioritization process for the MTP/TIP planning documents.
- The use of congestion data to feed into the CMP project selection process was particularly noted by the federal review team as documented in the review of the CMP.

# Areas of Notable Strengths Noted by FTA/FHWA Review Team in FY 2008

## Notable Strengths

- The Lubbock MPO transportation planning partners are commended for their collaborative work with TxDOT and the City of Lubbock related to the recently updated regional ITS architecture and the development of the new traffic monitoring center (TMC) that will serve to provide regional safety, operations & management, as well as other security data and information as part of the metropolitan planning process.

# Areas of Notable Strengths Noted by FTA/FHWA Review Team in FY 2008

## Notable Strengths

- The federal review team was impressed with the overall good working relationships and rapport established between the Lubbock MPO staff and leadership and its current stakeholders.
- We believe that this collaborative spirit will assist the Lubbock MPO in establishing a regional vision and forum for its communities, businesses, universities and schools, and will ultimately result in improved quality of life for all Lubbock citizens.

# FTA/FHWA Recommendations on the Lubbock MPO Planning Process

- Public involvement as part of the Lubbock MPO metropolitan planning process needs to be strengthened with greater emphasis on reaching out to the general public. This could be accomplished by attending local civic and rotary club organizational meetings, town hall meetings, and via neighborhood planning events.
- It appears that the MPO has developed a new accessible website and has made great progress in updating its current participation plan and other planning documents on-line, however the participation plan should be periodically reviewed and evaluated by the MPO for its effectiveness to ensure full and open participation under 23 CFR 450.316(a)(1)(x).

# FTA/FHWA Recommendations on the Lubbock MPO Planning Process

- The Lubbock MPO in cooperation with TxDOT and the City of Lubbock should provide mandatory training, briefings, and instructions to new and current MPO policy board and technical advisory committee members (as found reasonable and necessary) as part of its efforts to educate these decision-makers on their various roles and responsibilities.
- We noted that the Lubbock MPO has recently provided both on-line and hardcopy versions of the MPO briefing book to its transportation policy board members recently and this effort was fully acknowledged by the federal review team.

# FTA/FHWA Recommendations on the Lubbock MPO Planning Process

- During the federal review team's on-site MPO certification meeting with the Lubbock MPO it was noted that all relevant regional planning activities (regardless of funding source) related to either highway or transit planning activities should be addressed within the current and future UPWP (even if they do not involve federal-aid highway or transit planning funds.)
- This is a requirement under 23 CFR 420.111(b)(1)(iv) under "documentation requirements for use of FHWA planning and research funds."

# FTA/FHWA Recommendations on the Lubbock MPO Planning Process

- During the on-site certification review, the federal review team noted that the MPO has not yet begun to periodically share planning information or data, or begun consultations with State and local resource agencies involved in land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, and historic preservation as part of the development of the MPO long-range metropolitan transportation plan (MTP) and TIP.
- Under SAFETEA-LU metropolitan planning regulations, these interagency participation requirements will need to be clearly documented and addressed as part of the next long-range transportation plan and TIP update per 23 CFR 450.322(g).

# FTA/FHWA Recommendations on the Lubbock MPO Planning Process

- As part of the annual listing of obligated highway and transit projects by the Lubbock MPO, it was noted by the federal review team that the Lubbock MPO needs to identify any federal-aid funded bicycle or pedestrian improvements under Safe Routes to Schools or any other applicable title 23 or 49 federal-aid programs funded under SAFETEA-LU per 23 CFR 450.332.
- The annual listing of obligated highway and transit projects are due to TxDOT and the FHWA 90 days after the end of each federal fiscal year.

# FTA/FHWA Recommendations on the Lubbock MPO Planning Process

- For purposes of funding transportation operations and maintenance (O&M), the MPO long-range transportation plan and TIP should include system level estimates of costs and revenue sources that are reasonably expected to be available to adequately operate and maintain Federal-aid highways (as defined under 23 USC 101(a)(5)) and public transportation (as defined by title 49 USC Chapter 53) as part of the MTP/TIP financial plan requirements per 23 CFR 450.324(h) and 23 CFR 450.322 (f)(3) of the SAFETEA-LU metropolitan planning regulations.
- We recommend the use of the five-year strategic operating plan recently developed by Citibus for purposes of identifying the transit portion of this O&M financial plan.

# FTA/FHWA Recommendations on the Lubbock MPO Planning Process

- For purposes of developing the next long-range metropolitan transportation plan and TIP, the FTA and FHWA encourage the greater use of visualization tools to help develop a regional vision for the Lubbock metropolitan area. The use of scenario planning to better plan for smart land use and population growth in the outer years of the long-range MTP is also encouraged.
- The use of visualization tools and scenario planning models may assist the MPO and decision makers identify trends, compare different land-use and growth scenarios, and infrastructure improvement needs. The use of these tools may serve to provide improved communications with the general public, elected officials, interested parties, media, and stakeholders as part of the Lubbock MPO metropolitan planning process.

# Joint FTA/FHWA MPO Certification Action

- Upon review and evaluation of the Lubbock metropolitan transportation planning process, the FHWA and FTA Review Team found that the Lubbock MPO transportation planning process was substantially compliant in meeting Federal transportation planning requirements under 23 CFR 450 and 49 CFR 613

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