



Connecticut Division Office

Connecticut River from Mount Sugarloaf

MPO Designation / Redesignation Process Overview

November 14, 2023

FHWA – CT Division

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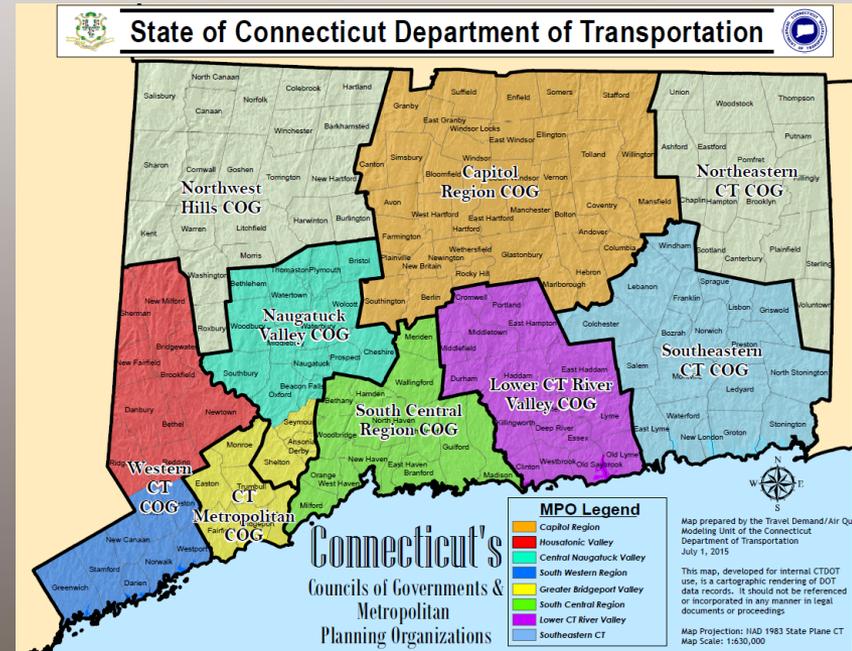
What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?

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Federally mandated, federally funded transportation policy-making organization

- Created to ensure regional cooperation in transportation planning
- Designated for each urbanized area with a population of more than 50k individuals
- Made up of representatives from local government, public agencies that administer or operate major modes of transportation (including public transportation), and appropriate state officials



23 CFR 450.310 Metropolitan planning organization designation and redesignation

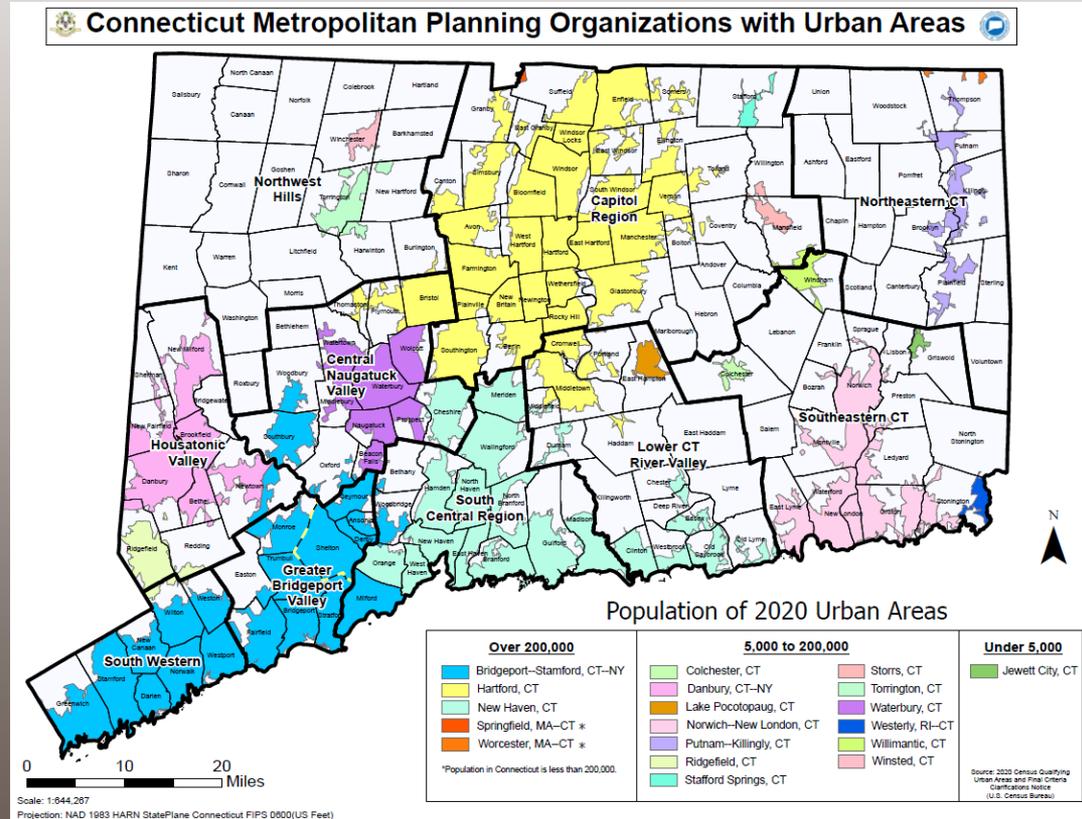


What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?

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Designated by agreement between the Governor and units of general purpose local government that together represent at least 75% of the affected population (including the largest incorporated city, based on population, as named by the Bureau of the Census) or in accordance with procedures established by applicable State or local law



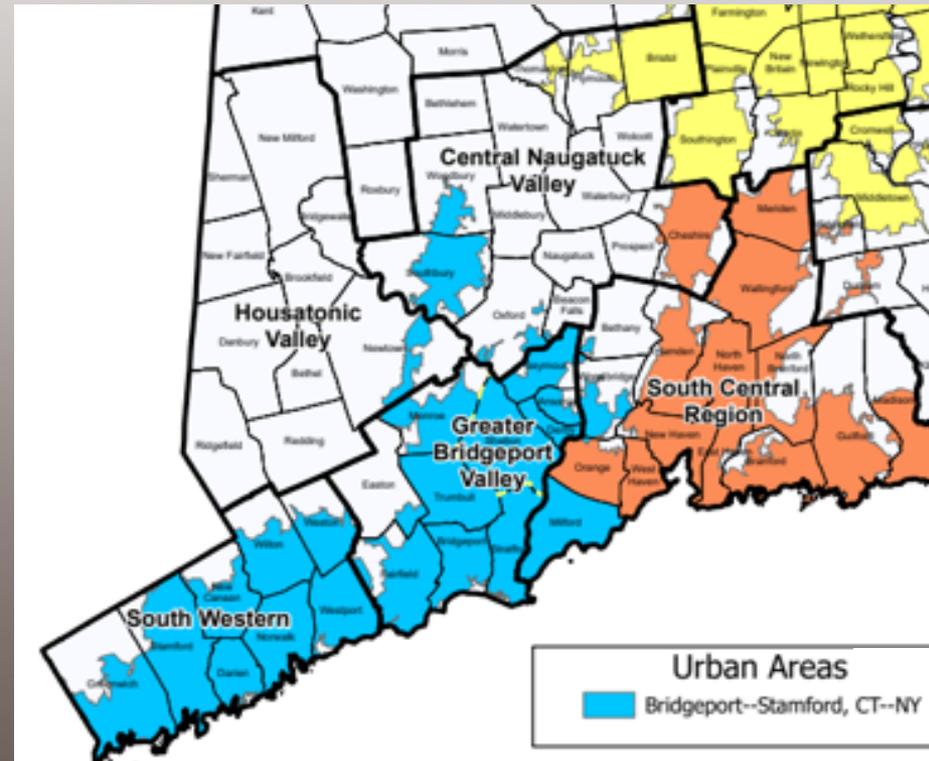
How Many MPOs Can Be Designated?

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To the extent possible – only 1 MPO shall be designated for each urbanized area or group of contiguous urbanized areas

More than 1 MPO may be designated to serve an urbanized area only if the Governor(s) and the existing MPO, if applicable, determine that the size and complexity of the urbanized area make designation of more than 1 MPO appropriate



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

23 CFR 450.310 Metropolitan planning organization designation and redesignation

What Agreements Are Needed?

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In cases where 2 or more MPOs serve the same urbanized area, the MPO shall establish official, written agreements that clearly identify areas of coordination, and the division of transportation planning responsibilities among the MPOs

AGREEMENT

Regarding Transportation Planning & Funding in the Bridgeport/Stamford TMA

Section I. Purpose of Agreement

As required by 23 CFR Sec. 450.314(a), The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the State, and the providers of public transportation shall cooperatively determine their mutual responsibilities in carrying out the metropolitan planning process, and 23 CFR Sec. 450.314 (e). If more than one MPO has been designated to serve an urbanized area, there shall be a written agreement among the MPOs, the State, and the public transportation operator(s) describing how the metropolitan planning processes will be coordinated. Therefore, an Agreement must be established among the Councils of Governments (COGs) and transit districts (TDs) within the Bridgeport/Stamford Urbanized Area, as well as the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT). The urbanized area is defined using the most recent Census blocks and population data. The Bridgeport/Stamford Urbanized Area is defined as the towns, cities and suburbs in the region surrounding the Cities of Stamford and Bridgeport. The population of the Bridgeport/Stamford Urbanized Area is over 200,000 and therefore is considered a Transportation Management Area (TMA). The attached map outlines each TMA in Connecticut. The COGs include the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG), the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG), and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) (collectively the COGs). The transit operators consist of: the Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority (GBTAA); the Housatonic Area Regional Transit District (HART); the Norwalk Transit District (NTD); the Milford Transit District (MTD); the Valley Transit District (VTD); and, the CTtransit Stamford Division (collectively the TDs). The CTDOT is responsible for the coordination of planning and funding for the CTtransit divisions within the Bridgeport-Stamford UZA. The NVCOG is the designated FTA recipient for the lower Valley municipalities of Ansonia, Derby, Seymour and Shelton and is responsible for planning and funding for the VTD.

The purpose of this Agreement is:

1. to define the method for distributing metropolitan planning funds received by the CTDOT from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for transportation planning within the Bridgeport/Stamford Urbanized Area;
2. to define the method for the development of financial plans for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the list of obligated projects along with the coordination involved in Air Quality Conformity and Congestion management;
3. to define the method for distributing and administering FHWA Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) suballocated funds, Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside

MOU Bridgeport/Stamford TMA

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[23 CFR 450.314](#) Metropolitan planning agreements

How Are MPOs Funded?

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State required to make Planning (PL) funds available to MPOs in accordance with a formula developed by State DOT and approved by FHWA ([23 USC 104\(d\)](#))

Each State's PL apportionment is calculated based on a ratio specified in law ([23 USC 104\(b\)\(6\)](#))

The Transfer of PL funds to other apportioned programs is prohibited



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Federal Transit Administration
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617-494-2055
617-494-2865 (fax)

Federal Highway Administration
CT Division
450 Main Street, Suite 612
Hartford, CT 06103
860-659-6703
860-659-6724 (fax)

June 27, 2023

Mr. Garrett Eucalitto, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
PO Box 317546
Newington, Connecticut 06131-7546

Subject: Approval of the SFY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Programs
Approval of Metropolitan Planning funds and Section 5303 Transit Planning Funds Allocation
Formula

Dear Commissioner Eucalitto:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have reviewed the SFY 2024 and 2025 Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWPs) and submitted comments in April 2023. Consistent with our interagency agreement, the FHWA and FTA coordinate our reviews of all UPWPs and provide a joint approval. The final revised work plans were submitted to us by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) on June 5, 2023.

FHWA and FTA also reviewed the metropolitan planning funds and Section 5303 transit planning fund allocation formula and methodology, as summarized in the Department's letter to us dated June 8, 2023 with supplemental information provided on June 23, 2023 and June 26, 2023.

Comments generated by our review have been coordinated with CTDOT liaison staff and resolved. This joint letter covers the review by both agencies for the UPWPs for the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and the Rural Planning (RPOs) Organizations. The UPWPs address FHWA's and FTA's current policy initiatives and transportation planning requirements and the allocation formula is consistent with requirements of 23 CFR 420.109, and these documents are approved for FHWA and FTA planning and grant purposes. Effective July 1, 2023, the SFY 2024-2025 UPWPs for the MPOs and RPOs and the metropolitan planning funds and Section 5303 transit planning funds allocation formula are hereby approved subject to the following:

1. Satisfactory agreements between the CTDOT and the MPOs and RPOs must be executed to undertake the work presented in their SFY 2024-2025 UPWPs.

FHWA / FTA Stewardship And Oversight of MPOs

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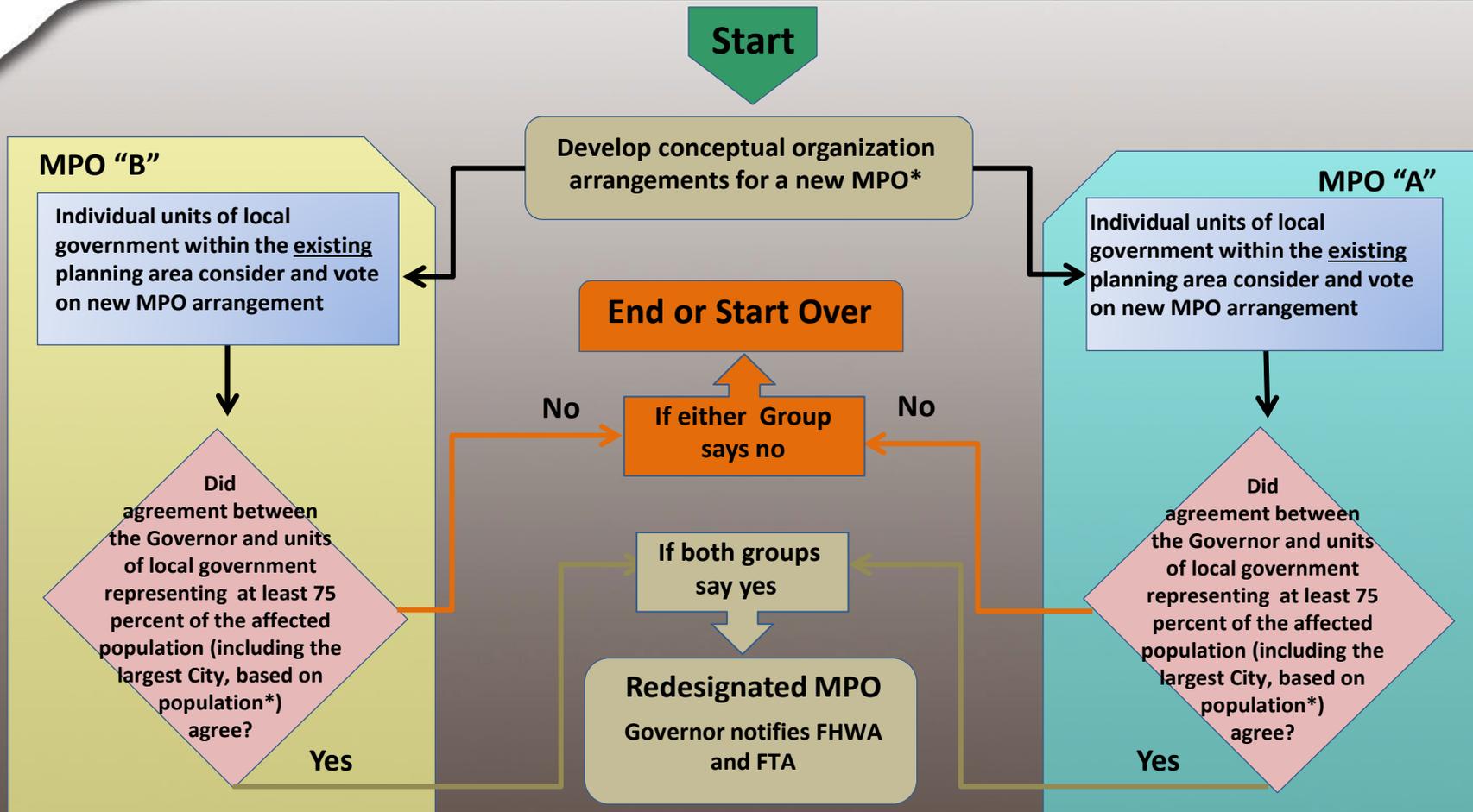
- ✓ Review and Certification of Transportation Planning Process (3C)
- ✓ STIP / TIP (including public input)
- ✓ Metropolitan Transportation Plan: Provide planning guidance, identify planning emphasis areas, technical guidance/assistance
- ✓ Air Quality Conformity Determinations (in consultation with EPA)
- ✓ Performance-Based Planning & Programming
- ✓ Unified Planning Work Programs, Planning Funds, and Complete Streets



Federal Redesignation Steps To Consolidate MPOs

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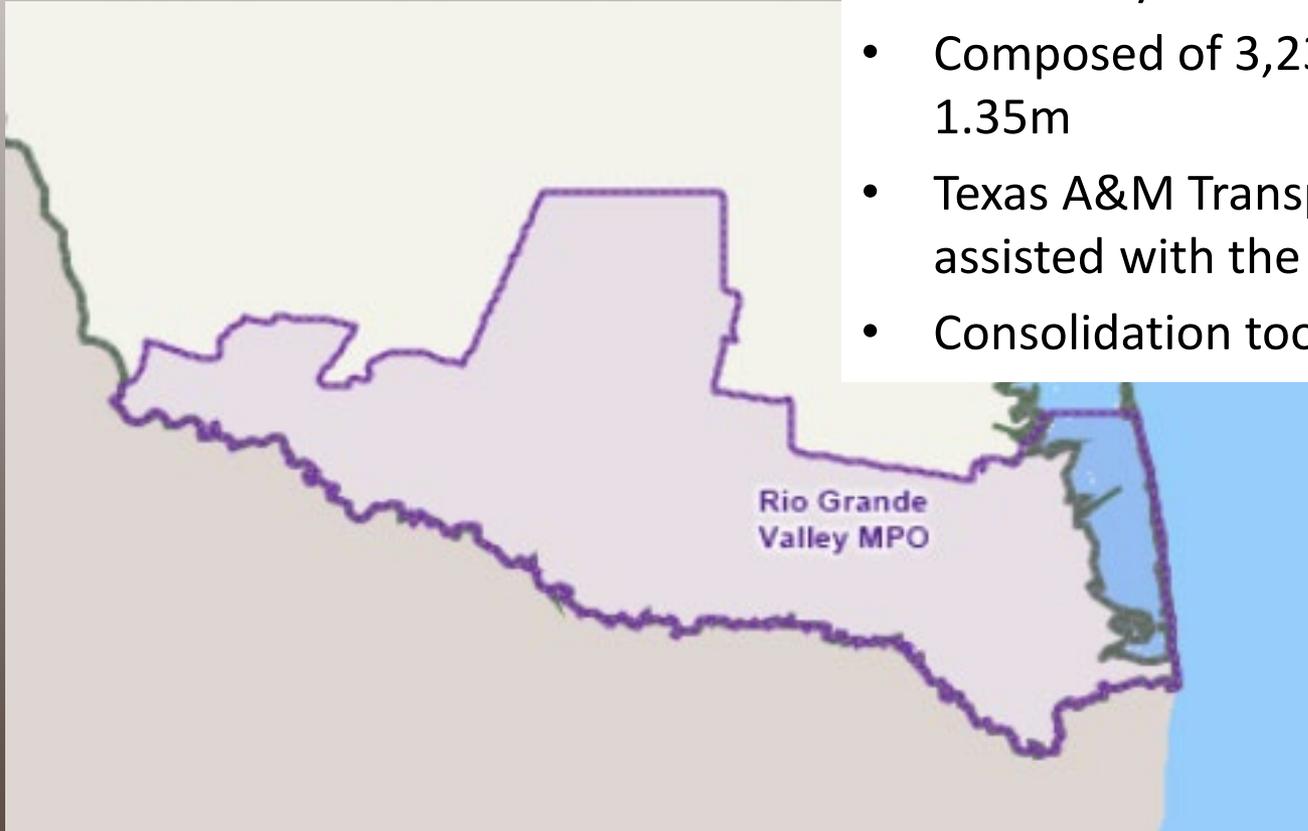
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MPO Redesignation: Texas Example

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- Rio Grande Valley MPO (RGVMPO) is a newer (2019) designated MPO
- Previously consisted of 3 MPOs
- Composed of 3,232 sq miles; Population 1.35m
- Texas A&M Transportation Institute assisted with the consolidation
- Consolidation took approx. 3 years



FHWA Resources

Connecticut Division Office

- Guidance (Federal Regulations, Subject Matter Experts, Agreements, Transportation Planning Requirements)
- Training (e.g. MPO Bootcamp / National Highway Institute)
- Peer Exchange
- MPO Database: <https://www.planning.dot.gov/mpo/>

Further Questions: David Williams, (860) 494-7568 or david.williams@dot.gov

