



Association of
Metropolitan
Planning
Organizations

Connecticut Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Affairs

*Special Act No. 23-13
An Act Studying the
Consolidation of MPOs*

November 14th, 2023

About AMPO



AMPO Values

Member led; Member driven.



Knowledge



Impact



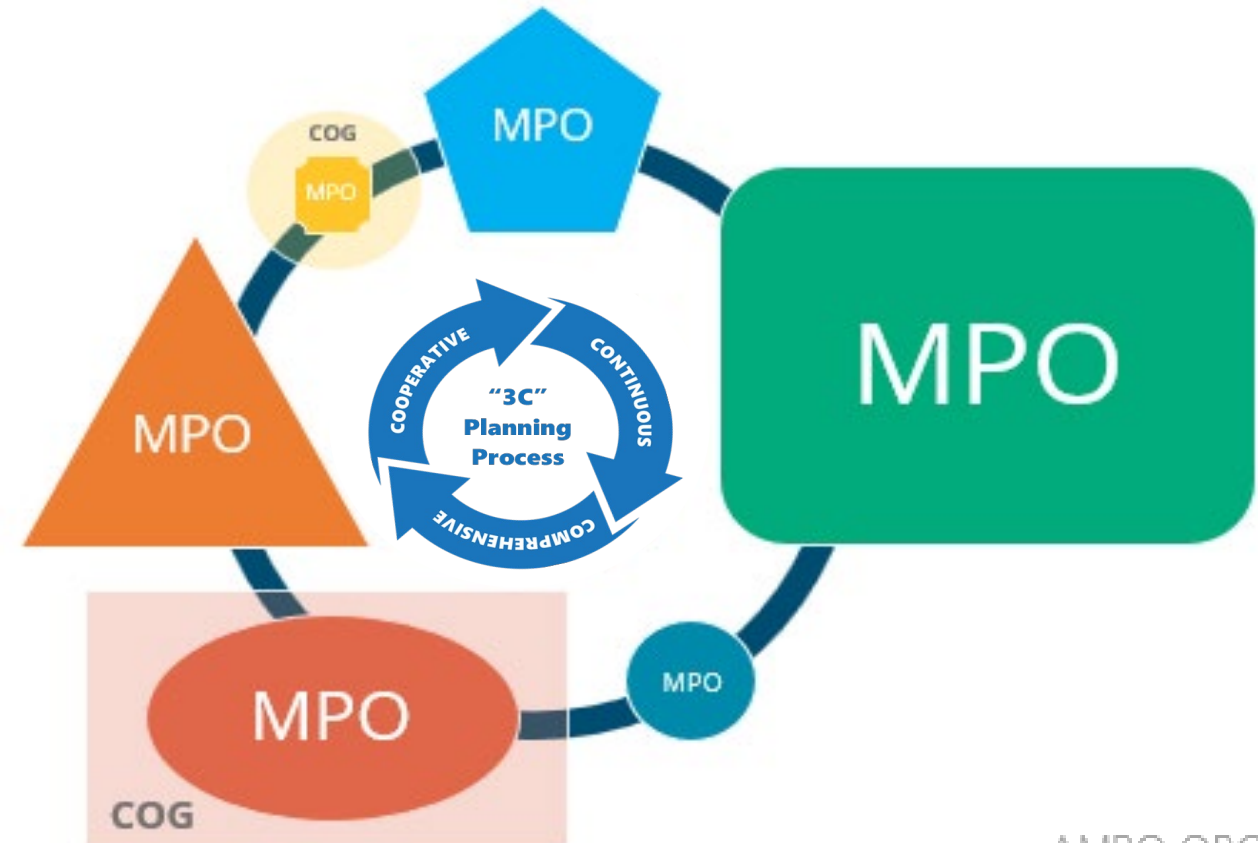
Collaboration

Study Purpose: “Consistency” & “Efficiency”

Make recommendations regarding the consolidation of MPOs to achieve a greater level of **consistency** & **efficiency** in transportation planning.

400+ MPOs: Varied Structure & Approaches, Unified in Purpose & Requirements

- **Consistency:** Uniform policy, standardized procedures, performance-based targets, and 3C process, federal reviews, etc.
- **Efficiency:** Resource allocation, realistic TIPs/LRTPs, optimized processes, data informed decision-making, and 3C process, target achievement, etc.



Aim 1: Minimum Population

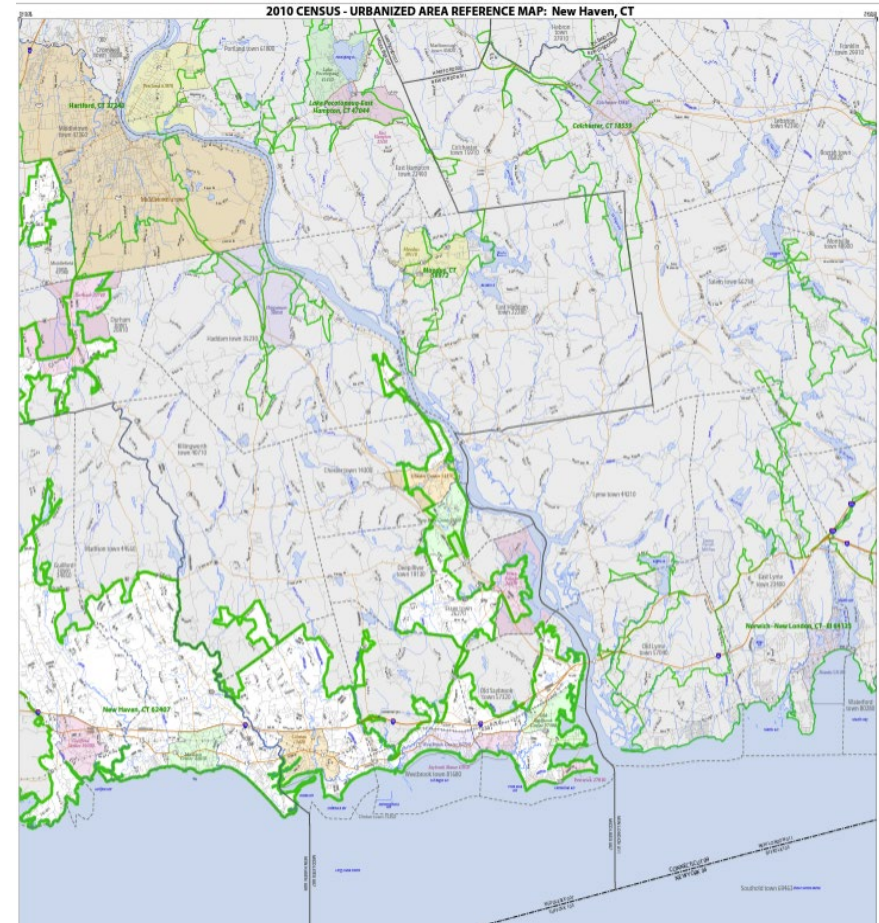
Recommend a minimum population to be represented by an MPO

Federal Statute

- U.S. Code, Title 23, Section 134, and Title 49, Section 5303
- MPOs are required for all UZAs with populations > 50,000
 - Fixed benchmark for MPO designations across US
 - Ensure areas with significant transportation needs are covered
 - Requirement for MPOs to access federal highway and transit funds

Implications for Modifying Standards

- Federal law establishes uniformity in designations
- Any changes to population criteria would require federal legislative action



New Haven, CT UZA Map

Image Source: US Census Bureau (2010)

Aim 2: MPO Consolidation

Recommend MPOs that can be consolidated or reconfigured to represent a larger population

Compliance with Federal Regulations

- Redesignation must align with U.S. Code Title 23, Section 134
 - Requires Governor and local government consensus representing $\geq 75\%$ of affected population
 - Local units can propose redesignation for $\geq 25\%$ of UZA population, subject to federal standards

Consolidation Justification

- Often based on regional needs and identified inefficiencies
- Maintaining regional priority integrity and MPO core functions
 - MPOs centralize local knowledge for tailored transportation solutions
 - Must maintain 3C approach



"3C" Image Source: Middle Rouge MPO

Aim 3: Benefits

Identify the potential consistencies, efficiencies and benefits to the state and municipalities as a result of consolidating MPOs

Potential Benefits of Consolidation



Resource Centralization



Broad Scope



Evaluate Trade-Offs

Aim 4: Barriers

Identify any barriers that the state or municipalities may encounter while planning, and during, the consolidation of MPOs

Potential Challenges of MPO Consolidation

- Risk of overlooking unique transportation needs

Regional Priorities



- Diverse operational styles and cultures.
- Disruption to established practices & partnerships.

Organizational Integration



- Supermajority agreement.
- New IIJA Requirements: Board Structure.

Governance & Legislative Hurdles



- High time & financial costs.
- Disruption to planning activities.
- Staff turnover & recruitment issues

Consolidation Challenges



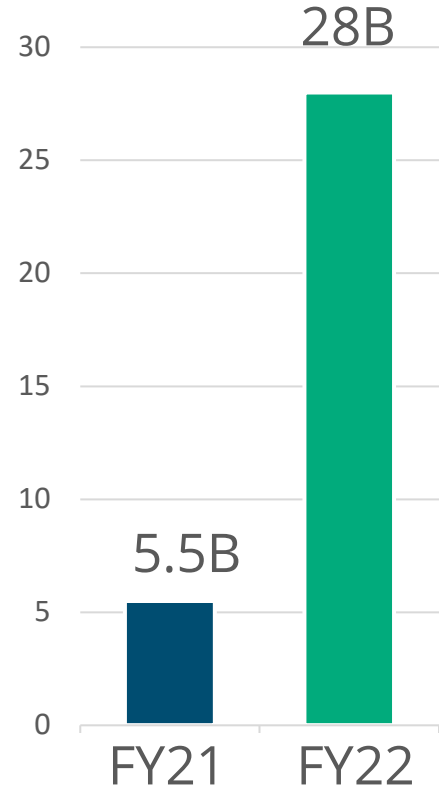
Aim 4: Barriers

- Substantial time and financial costs.
 - **~2-3 years**
- Disruption to ongoing planning activities.
- Staff turnover & recruitment issues during transition.

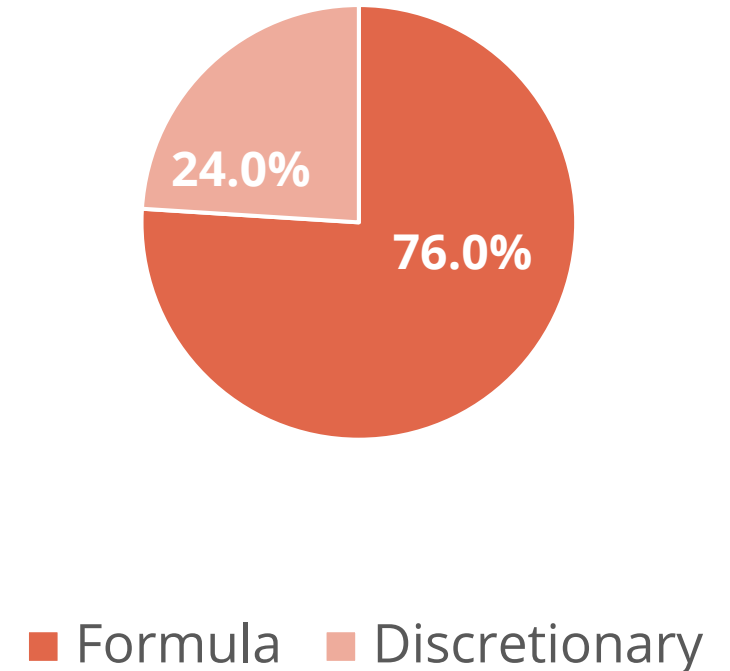
Consolidation Challenges



Discretionary Funding FAST ACT >> IJA/BIL



Total Funding Split FY22 – **FY26**



Aim 7: MPO Configurations

Identify any conclusions that can be drawn from the configuration of MPOs in other states.



Urbanized Area Boundary Adjustment



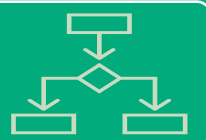
New Urbanized Areas



Federal Compliance



Local Jurisdiction Initiative



Governance Structure Changes

MPO Restructuring Options



Mergers Uncommon

Collaboration and Coordination in MPOs



**Statewide MPO
Associations**



**Coordination
Meetings**



Shared Datasets



Shared Functions



**Planning &
Programming on
Federal Programs**



**Shared Plans &
Studies**



**Hosting
Arrangements**



**Additional
Efforts**

MPO/COG Performance in CT

High Performing MPOs

- Strategic Regional Planning
- Community Engagement
- Project Delivery & Prioritization
- Performance-based Outcomes
- Multimodal Transportation
- Innovative Planning Approaches
- Collaboration across Regions
- Equity & Accessibility Prioritization

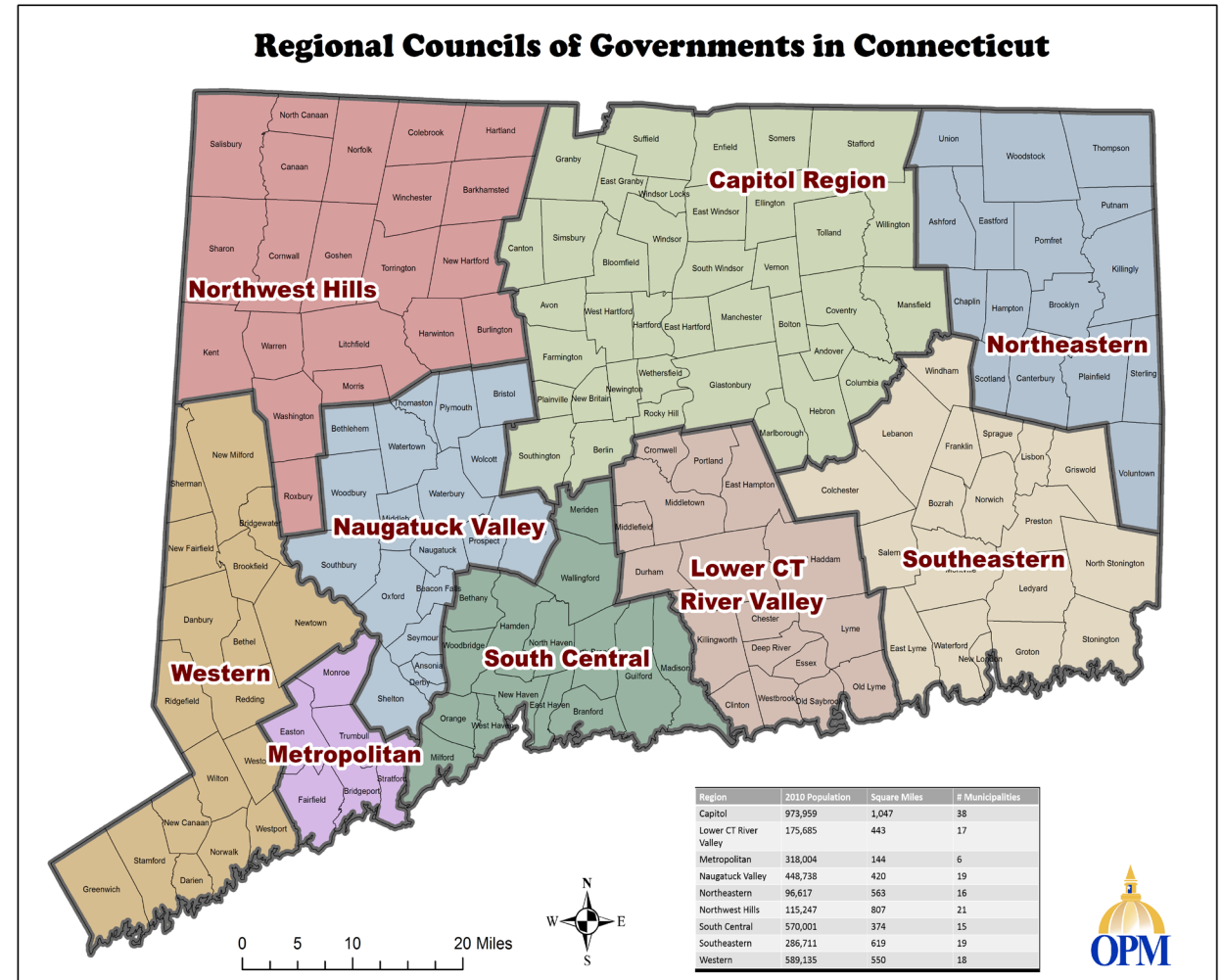
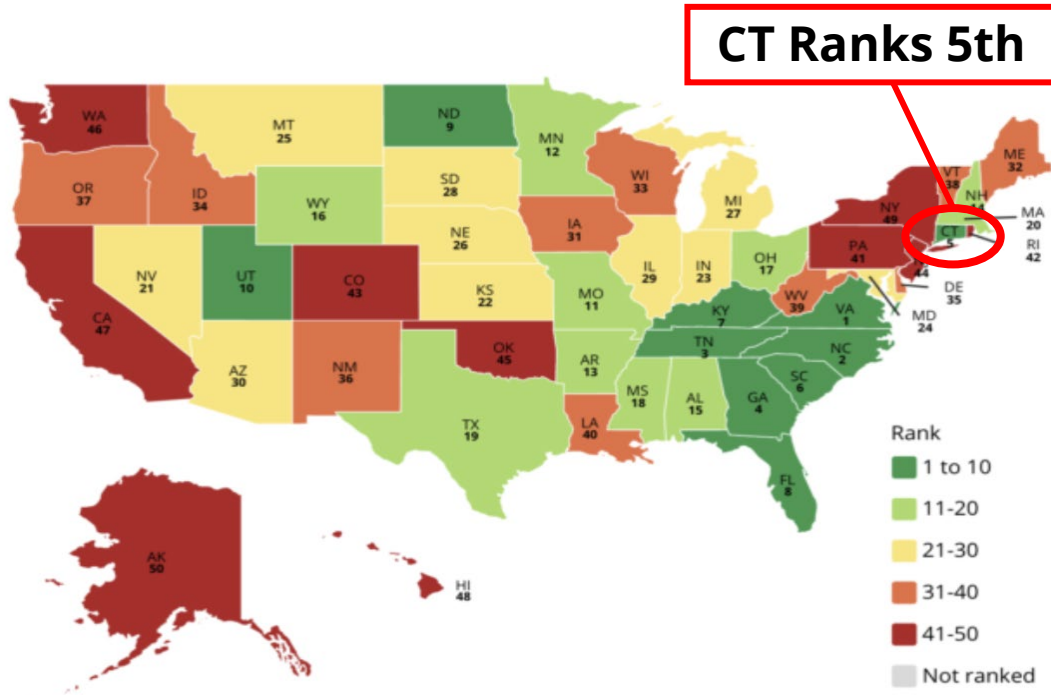


Image Source: Connecticut Office of Policy Management (2022)

AMPO.ORG

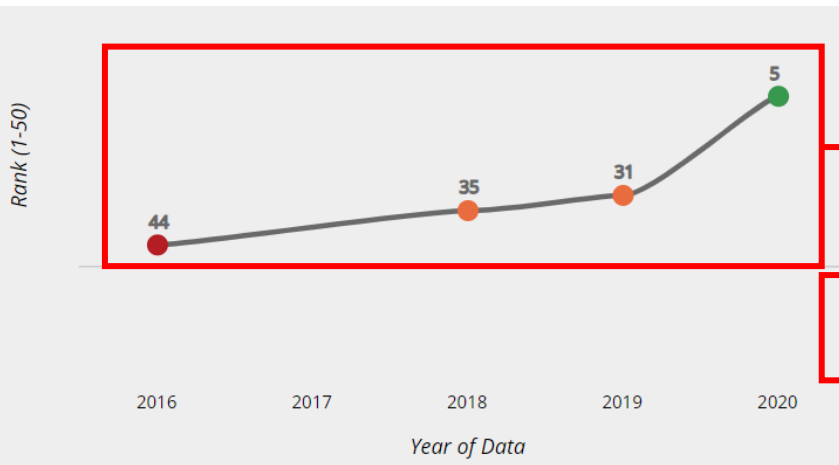
Statewide Performance in CT

CT Ranks 5th



Connecticut Performance

- 5th Overall in 27th Annual Highway Report (Reason Foundation)
- 26 spot improvement from 2019
- “Compared to nearby states, Connecticut’s overall highway performance is better than New York (49th), Massachusetts (20th), and New Hampshire (14th).”



26 Spot Improvement

“Reason Foundation’s Annual Highway Report measures the condition and cost-effectiveness of state-controlled highways in 13 categories, including pavement condition, traffic congestion, structurally deficient bridges, traffic fatalities, and spending (capital, maintenance, administrative, other) per mile.”

Image & Information Source: Reason Foundation Annual Highway Report (2023)

CT BIL/IIJA Outlook

Connecticut FY22 Transportation-related BIL/IIJA Discretionary Grants

Measure: Funding per 1,000 residents (equity indicator); Comparison Across the states in the US

- **Bridge Investment Program: \$44,573**
 - Median among other states: \$223
- **RAISE: \$11,642**
 - Median among other states: \$7,773
- **All Stations Accessibility: \$8,290**
 - Median among other states: \$6,600
- **Buses and Low/No-Emission: \$5,712**
 - Median among other states: \$3,068
- **Port Infrastructure Development: \$4,910**
 - Median among other states: \$2,424
- **PROTECT: \$4,845**
 - Median among other states: \$4,839
- **Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities: \$2,436**
 - Median among other states: \$1,944
- **SS4A: \$674**
 - Median among other states: \$1,123

RESOURCES

- **AMPO:** www.AMPO.org
- **METROPLAN:** "[METROPLAN's Transportation Planning Process and Structure: A White Paper](#)"
- **NJTPA:** "[History of Metropolitan Planning Organizations](#)"
- **National Academies:** "[Metropolitan Planning Organizations: Strategies for Future Success](#)"
- **FCRC Consensus Center:** "[Evolving Roles of Metropolitan Planning Organizations: An Overview of Models from Around the Country that Illustrate Cross-Jurisdictional, Discipline, and Mode Planning Approaches](#)"
- **FHWA:** "[MPO Staffing and Organizational Structures](#)"

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