MPO Consolidation Proposed Rule

July 22, 2016
Background/Overview

- FAST Act Signed into Law -- December 4, 2015
- Final Planning Rules Released -- May 27, 2016
- MPO Consolidation NPRM Released -- June 27, 2016

- Outline of NPRM
- Impacts of NPRM
- Next Steps
- Questions
Urbanized Area (UZA) and Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Definitions

- **Census Defines UZA**
  - Greater than 50,000 population
  - “Comprised of a densely settled core of census tracts and/or census blocks that meet minimum population density requirements, along with adjacent territory containing non-residential urban land uses” Full evaluation with travel demand model

- **Governor and MPO Define Metropolitan Planning Area**
  - At a minimum, the MPA boundaries shall encompass the entire existing UZA plus the contiguous area expected to become urbanized within a 20-year forecast period for the long range plan. **Currently OK to have an MPA restricted to a state boundary.**
NPRM Redefines MPA

• Requires MPAs to include at a minimum, the entire urbanized area (UZA) and the area expected to become urbanized in the next 20 years, regardless of state boundaries.

• Once the MPAs are redrawn to meet this requirement, if more than one MPO exists within the same MPA, MPOs have two choices – merge or stay separate, but a false choice.
DOT encourages (but not requires) MPOs to merge, regardless of state boundaries.

Merger requires redesignation process under (23 CFR 450.310)

Redesignation requires agreement between the Governor(s) and units of general purpose local government that together represent at least 75 percent of the affected population (including the largest incorporated city, Chicago here).

CMAP and NIRPC, possible SEWRPAC Merge
Option B – Remain Separate MPOs

-- Governors and MPOs all must agree and determine the “size and complexity of the MPA make the designation of multiple MPOs appropriate”

-- If separate MPOs exist, DOT requires unified planning docs so the entire area has only one Long Range Plan, TIP, and sets of performance targets

-- AND separate MPOs must establish written agreements and procedures for joint decision-making, including a process for resolving disagreements
Concerns

- **Joint Planning Products**
  - TIP
  - Long Range Plan
  - Performance Targets

- **Approval of Products Required by MPOs and State Governors**
  - Increases Complexity of Agreement Process
  - Opportunity for Delay
  - Delay in Meeting Requirements Could Hold Up Federal HTF Funding

- **Consolidation and Joint Products Allowed Under Current Laws, Regulations and Procedures**
Next Steps

• Letters for More Time – Comment Period Closes August 26, 2016
  • CMAP-NIRPC Joint Letter on July 13th, 2016
  • Docket FHWA-2016-0016

• Work with other MPOs – 142 of 409 MPOs impacted by NPRM

• Outreach to Congressional Delegation
Questions?

Tom Kotarac
312.386.8654
tkotarac@cmap.illinois.gov