

# Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 101

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## What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is an organization of local governments designated per 23 USC and 23 CFR 450 to provide transportation planning and programming in areas with a collective population of 50,000 or over, termed as an Urbanized Area. As a condition for receiving federal transportation dollars, MPOs must have a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process in cooperation with their state Department of Transportation.

## What is the purpose of an MPO?

The primary purpose of the MPO is to coordinate transportation planning efforts among local jurisdictions for the entire “urbanized” area. MPOs are responsible for the development of the following work products:

### Regional Transportation Plan (RTP):

- A 20-25 year long-range plan that establishes transportation policies and project priorities for the MPO area (must be updated every 5 years)

### Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

- Schedule of funded federal, state, and some local transportation projects and programs for next 3-4 years
- Comparable to city capital improvement program

### Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP):

- Annual work program which outlines CAMPO’s transportation planning and programming activities for the upcoming fiscal year

### Other items

- Public Participation Plan; Safety Planning; Title VI & Environmental Justice Plan; Annual List of Obligated Projects; Regional Transportation System Plan

## What is the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO)?

The Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) serves as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Corvallis Urbanized Area, as designated by the Oregon Governor on December 2002. This region includes the Cities of Corvallis, Philomath, Adair Village, and parts of Benton County. The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG), under a contract with the Policy Board, provides administrative services and staffing to CAMPO.

## How is CAMPO governed?

CAMPO is governed by a five-member Policy Board consisting of representatives of the cities of Corvallis, Philomath and Adair Village, the County of Benton and the Oregon Department of Transportation. CAMPO’s Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is made up of professional staff of the above entities, an ODOT Transportation Planner, a representative from Oregon State University, and a representative from the Albany Transit System. The representatives of relevant federal and other state agencies have ex-officio status on TAC. The TAC reviews technical material and provides recommendations to the Policy Board.

The City of Corvallis is the owner of the Corvallis Transit System and their representation on the MPO Policy Board also represents the interests of the transit system.

Oversight of MPO activities is the responsibility of the Oregon Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration and Federal Highway Administration

## **Where does MPO funding come from?**

### Federal Sources:

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

### State Sources:

- Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) provides match for FHWA funds
- ODOT allows for state fund exchange with federal monies in which CAMPO receives \$0.94 for every dollar it puts in but gains significant flexibility in where spending can take place

### Local Sources:

- In-kind contributions to match FTA funds

## **What is the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)?**

- 20-25 year long-range transportation plan
- Addresses all modes of transportation
  - Autos, transit, bicycles, sidewalks and trails, freight, etc.
- Establishes transportation policy and project priorities
- Must be updated every 5 years

## **What is the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?**

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a short-range capital improvement program that enumerates priority transportation projects in the Corvallis Metropolitan Area for funding. The TIP encompasses a period of three fiscal years (FY) and is updated every two years. The TIP development process relies upon building consensus among federal, state and local agencies on funding priorities of near term transportation projects. These projects may range from improving highways and funding transit to adding bicycle lanes on major urban streets and preserving existing roads.

## **What is the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)?**

The purpose of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is to outline the transportation planning and programming activities of the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) for the upcoming fiscal year. The UPWP serves as CAMPO's annual work plan containing major work tasks and many specific subtasks. The UPWP allocates staff time and funding for each activity as estimates subject to change with the consent of the CAMPO Policy Board.