

Public Participation

MRPA invites the public to participate in the transportation planning process since it is essential to the implementation of the MPO's programs. We solicit and welcome comments during the development of plans, programs, projects, and all of our planning activities.

The MRPA policy board meets monthly on the first Tuesday and all meetings are open to the public. Agendas are available at the town clerk's offices and posted on our website.

Contact MRPA to be added to the MPO's mailing list to stay informed of the region's transportation planning activities.

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Interpretation services for the hearing impaired and various foreign languages can be made available if requested five days in advance of scheduled meetings.

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Midstate
Regional
Planning Agency

Metropolitan Planning Organization



www.midstaterpa.org

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Midstate Regional Planning Agency (MRPA)

In all urbanized areas of the United States, MPO's were designated to conduct regional transportation planning. Federal statutes mandate the establishment of MPO's as a precondition to allow the flow of federal transportation funds to urbanized areas.

The state Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) administers the expenditure of the majority of federal transportation funds, and all federally funded projects in the region must be approved by the MPO. This includes all plans and projects for roadway construction and improvements, intersection improvements, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, bridge improvements, bus and transit improvements, as well as other surface transportation projects in the region.

The Midstate Regional Planning Agency is the designated MPO for the Midstate region. It is one of three MPO's that share the federal funding allocated to the Hartford Urbanized Area (UZA). The Midstate region consists of eight municipalities including: Cromwell, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Haddam, Middlefield, Middletown, and Portland. The towns occupy approximately 260 square miles and has an estimated population of 105,000.

The MRPA agency board consists of two representatives from each town and three from Middletown based on its larger population. The board acts as the authority on the MPO's plans, policies, and priorities that guide local decision making on transportation issues affecting the region and state.

Major Duties

MRPA conducts a variety of transportation planning studies and approves the expenditure of federal funds.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

The RTP provides a twenty-five year overview of the proposed major transportation investments in the region. It promotes the development of an integrated transportation system encompassing various modes of transportation in an effort to provide for an efficient system of moving people and goods throughout the region. The RTP is updated every three years.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The TIP is a list of federally funded transportation projects that maintains and enhances the region's roadway network. It also contains transit and commuter projects. All projects in the TIP are scheduled to receive funding over a five year period. The TIP is an "active" document and is continually being updated or amended. Projects for future TIP's can be found in the RTP. Projects in the TIP must not increase emissions to be in conformity with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The UPWP is developed annually to support the region's cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning program. It shows the major tasks the MPO will be involved with in the upcoming year. These tasks are separated into categories including: management of the planning process, data collection and analysis, planning activities, other technical assistance, and public participation.

Additional Duties

Corridor Studies/Access Management Studies

Specialized transportation corridor studies are occasionally conducted by the MPO. The overall goal is to provide direction for future transportation and land use planning efforts and improving efficiency and safety throughout the corridor. These studies help to plan for future transportation related expenditures, coordinate future land use and development with transportation

improvements, and help to further the goals of the RTP.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning

MRPA performs bicycle and pedestrian planning for the region. Cycling and walking improves the quality of life and makes for more vibrant, livable communities. It helps to reduce traffic congestion, parking needs, and improves air quality. Regional goals include provisions for a safe and efficient network for recreational, commuting, and other types of bicycle and pedestrian travel.

Transit Planning

MRPA aids the Middletown Transit District (MTD) in its transit planning efforts, including fixed and rural route service, dial-a ride and ADA service, and other transit services.

Other Planning Activities

MRPA representatives serve on the advisory committees of many different studies including the Statewide Rest Area/Service Plaza Study, Middletown Area River Crossing Study, Route 9 Corridor Study, Statewide Incident Management Steering Committee, and I-91 Transportation Investment Area for example.

MRPA also coordinates with the other MPO's in the Hartford Urbanized Area for a comprehensive freight planning and congestion management system planning effort. The Regional ITS Architecture was similarly a joint MPO effort created at the UZA level.

MRPA maintains an extensive GIS database for transportation planning and land use purposes. This information is used to map and analyze transportation planning policies, programs and projects.

MRPA also maintains an extensive statistical data base consisting of information from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, State Departments of Transportation, Public Safety, Economic and Community Development, Public Health and other public and private agencies utilized for transportation planning purposes.