

Information Item

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting date: June 18, 2025

Topic

2024 Federal MPO Certification Report

District(s), member(s): All

Policy/legal reference: 23 U.S.C. 134(k) and 49 U.S.C. 5303(k)

Staff prepared/presented: Scott Mareck, Technical Services Team Leader, FHWA
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Information Item Background

Federal transportation law requires the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to jointly certify metropolitan transportation planning processes in Transportation Management Areas (metropolitan areas exceeding a population of 200,000) at least once every four years. The certification review focuses on compliance of the planning process with federal regulations and identification of challenges, successes and experiences of the metropolitan planning organization and its partner DOT and transit agencies within the regional planning process.

The review consists of a site visit and a review of the region's planning products (metropolitan transportation plan, transportation improvement plan, unified planning work program and participation plan), followed by the preparation and submittal of a Certification Review Report. The Certification report can issue three areas of action for each area of review: commendations for best practices and innovative planning work; recommendations for work areas that need clarification or improvement; and corrective actions for areas that fail to meet federal requirements.

The most recent certification review for the Twin Cities region took place on November 13-14, 2024. The review focused on eleven specific planning topics including the MPO planning area boundary, consultation and coordination, public participation, the metropolitan transportation plan, transportation improvement plan, transportation safety and corridor planning, among others. The review resulted in six commendations, ten recommendations and no corrective actions. The full 2024 Certification Review Report is attached. This review recertifies the Metropolitan Council as the federally designated MPO for the region and allows for continued receipt of federal transportation funds. The next certification review must take place prior to March 19, 2029.