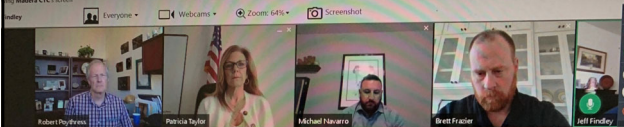






  
 Introduction to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process  
 MCTC 101 – Part 1 of 2  
 Adapted by  
 Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC)  
 2021  
**Better Planning –  
 Better Transportation**  





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**The MCTC Policy Board:**  
 1 Elected City Council Member from the City of Chowchilla  
 2 Elected City Council Members from the City of Madera  
 3 Members of the Board of Supervisors  
 PAC: Ex-Officio Members: Caltrans District 6  


2



  
**Voting Structure of the Board**  

- All Board members with voting privileges can vote
- 2-Hats: 1) Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), and 2) the Policy Board
- PAC can contain "ex-officio" members that participate but do not vote

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## Regional Government (MCTC) Basics



**DESIGNATED RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Federally designated **MPO = Metropolitan Planning Organization**
- State designated **RTPA = Regional Transportation Planning Agency**
- **Measure T = Madera County Transportation Authority**

If we form a COG – additional duties may include:

- State designated Affiliate Data Center – U.S. Census coordination/training
- State/Federal designated Local Clearinghouse for grant applications

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## The MPO as the Forum



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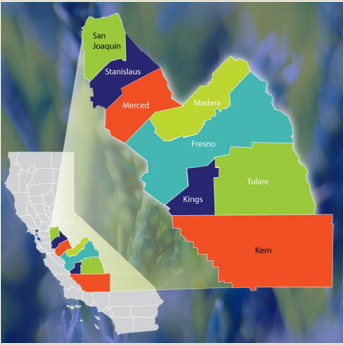
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## Working Beyond Jurisdictions

- MPO is the forum for discussion
  - Place to air issues
  - Find solutions that benefit all jurisdictions/regions
- MPOs work with adjoining regions
  - Consistency of projects
  - Multi-regional projects



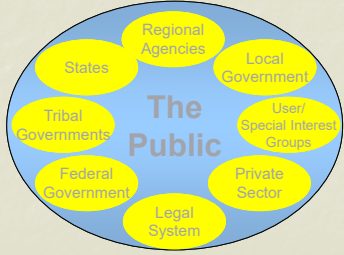
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## The People in the Process



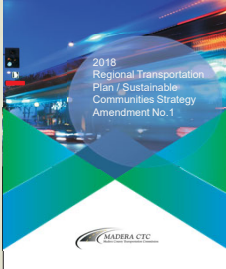
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## Key Decisions and Products



- Long-Term Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
- Short-Term Transportation Improvement Program/Plan (TIP)
- Public Participation Plan
- Overall Work Program (OWP)

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## Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

### To be Eligible for Federal Funds:

- **a project must be consistent with the approved transportation plan**

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## The Long-Term RTP...

- Documents conclusions and decisions
- Includes long term and short-term policies, strategies, and actions
- Covers capital improvements and operations
- Addresses federal requirements including:
  - Movement of People and Goods
  - Environmental Mitigation
  - Environmental Justice
- Is financially constrained by reasonably available resources

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## Short-Term Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Allocates limited transportation funds to projects and programs
- List of transportation projects to be implemented in the short-term (no less than 4 years)
- Includes nearly all federally funded surface transportation projects
- Includes all regionally significant projects – regardless of funding source in air quality non-attainment and maintenance areas
- Identifies funding source for each project

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## Programming Transportation Improvements

- TIP adoption requires identifying top priority projects for funding
- The total cost of worthy projects always exceeds available funding – must set priorities
- The TIP and STIP are products of the programming process

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## Characteristics of a Successful Programming Process – Collaborative, Comprehensive, Continuous

- Early consensus on planning goals
- Effective communication among technical and policy leaders
- Continuous public involvement
- Qualitative as well as quantitative criteria

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## Federal Requirements for Public Involvement

- MPOs must prepare a public involvement plan
- Plan must be proactive and provide for:
  - ◆ Complete information and timely public notice
  - ◆ Early and continuing involvement
  - ◆ Full public access to key decisions
  - ◆ Explicit consideration and response to input



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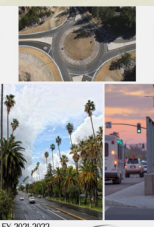
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## Overall Work Program (OWP)

- Lists the metropolitan area's program of planning studies
- Identifies sources of funding, schedules and responsible agencies
- Coordinates the planning by all regional participants
- Describes all Federally-funded studies
- Lays out MPOs Strategic Plan



FY 2020-2022  
Overall Work Program

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## Major Policy and Planning Issues




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## Federal Transportation Funding



- Each state is different (in California there is a 60/40 split between Southern and Northern California, Madera is in the North)
- "Earmarked funding" such as High Priority Projects – no projects earmarked at this time in Madera

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## Future Funding is Subject to Change

- Federal FAST Act was set to expire 9/30/20
- Administration & Congressional priorities may change
- Future motor fuel revenues may vary
- The Highway Trust Fund has been saved from insolvency by Congress multiple times

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## Freight Movement

- Good freight movement is vital to a region's economy
- MPO should examine how freight moves in and out of its region
- Engage the freight community to find "win-win" solutions to problems




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## Safety



- 2010 saw a reduction in fatality levels not seen since the 1950s.
- MPO can examine system for trends and allocate resources to address safety related issues.
- MPOs can serve as a forum for safety related discussion with applicable agencies.

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## What is Conformity?



- Established by the Federal Clean Air Act
- Requires evaluation of emissions from transportation plans, programs, and projects BEFORE any element may be implemented;
- Applies in geographic areas where transportation-related pollutants violate national air quality standards; or
- Have violated national air quality standards in the past.
- Connects Air Quality and Transportation Planning

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## Resources/Questions



Transportation Funding in California 2020  
<https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/transportation-planning/documents/transportation-economics/transportation-funding-booklet/2020-final-transportation-funding-a11y.pdf>

Transportation Planning Process Briefing Book  
[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/publications/briefing\\_book/fhwahep18015.pdf](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/publications/briefing_book/fhwahep18015.pdf)

Long Range Performance Based Planning  
[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/performance\\_based\\_planning/mlrtp\\_guidebook/fhwahep14046.pdf](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/performance_based_planning/mlrtp_guidebook/fhwahep14046.pdf)

Transportation Conformity – A Basic Guide for State & Local Officials  
[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air\\_quality/conformity/guide/guide00.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/conformity/guide/guide00.cfm)

California Mobility Investment Opportunities  
<https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctc-media/documents/ctc-reports/other-reports/cal-mobility-investment-opportunities-final-a11y.pdf>

Understanding SB 375 (link from Kern COG)  
[https://www.kerncog.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/395\\_Understanding%20SB%20375.pdf](https://www.kerncog.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/395_Understanding%20SB%20375.pdf)

A Guide to Transportation Decision-making (link from Kern COG)  
[https://www.kerncog.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2015\\_TransportationDecisionmakingGuide\\_USDOT.pdf](https://www.kerncog.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2015_TransportationDecisionmakingGuide_USDOT.pdf)

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## Consider MCTC as an extension to Your Local Government Staff.

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