

# Fundamentals of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in Washington and Oregon

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# Today's Discussion

- What is an MPO?
- Federal Legislation and a Bi-State MPO
- Designation Steps
- MPO Membership and Organizational Structure
- MPO Duties and Functions
- Financial Aspects of MPOs
- Decisions for the Future
- Local Perspectives
- Summary and Next Steps
- Location and Host for Meeting #3

# What is an MPO?

- MPOs “*carry out a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3C) multimodal transportation planning process for the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) that encourages and promotes the safe and efficient development, management, and operation of surface transportation systems to serve the mobility needs of people and freight and foster economic growth and development, while minimizing transportation-related fuel consumption and air pollution...*” (23USC134)

# Federal Legislation

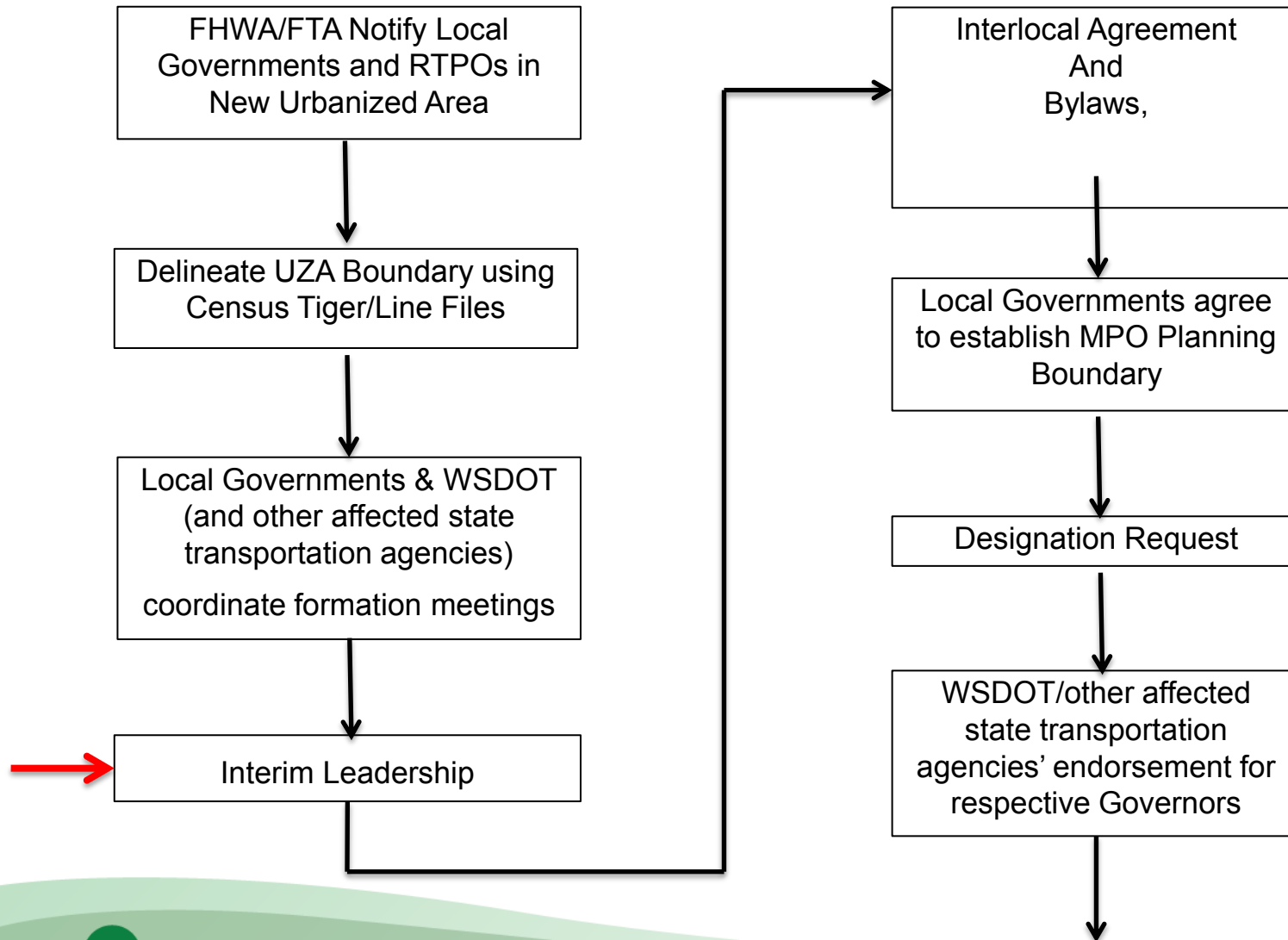
## A Bi-State MPO is created in OR and WA

- The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)
  - Expires on September 30, 2012
- Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)
  - Begins on October 1, 2012
  - Retains the 50K population threshold

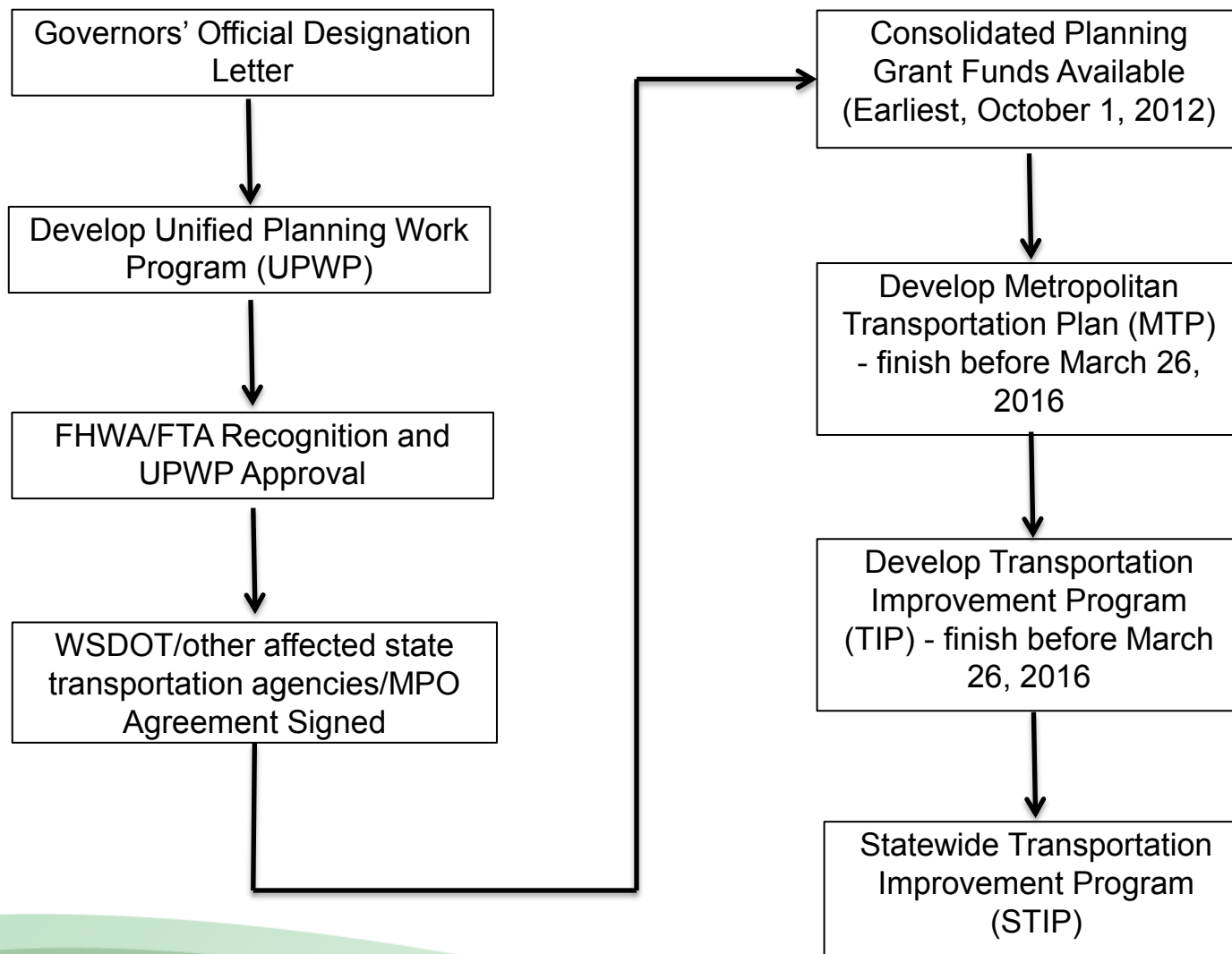
# Designation Process



# MPO Designation Process



# MPO Designation Process, cont'd



# Next Steps Toward Designation

- Choose an Interim Lead Agency to Facilitate the Designation Process
- Develop and Adopt an Interagency Agreement to Form the MPO
- Develop and Adopt Bylaws to Formalize the MPO Decision Making Process
- Establish the Metropolitan Area Boundary
- Submit Requests to OR and WA Governors with endorsements from ODOT and WSDOT



# Determine Local Participation and Select an Interim Lead Entity

- Interested jurisdictions, transit providers, tribes, and organizations pass resolutions
- An Interim Lead Entity is Identified by the participating locals in WA and OR
- A Formal Request for Seed Money is sent to WSDOT and ODOT
- Locals Develop a Scope of Work for Seed Money Jointly with the State DOTs
- Agreement allows for work to begin on designation packet

# Designation Packet Documents

- Letters of Request to both Governors
- WSDOT and ODOT Endorsement letters
- A Signed Interlocal Agreement
- Adopted Bylaws
- Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary Map

# MPO Membership and Organizational Structure

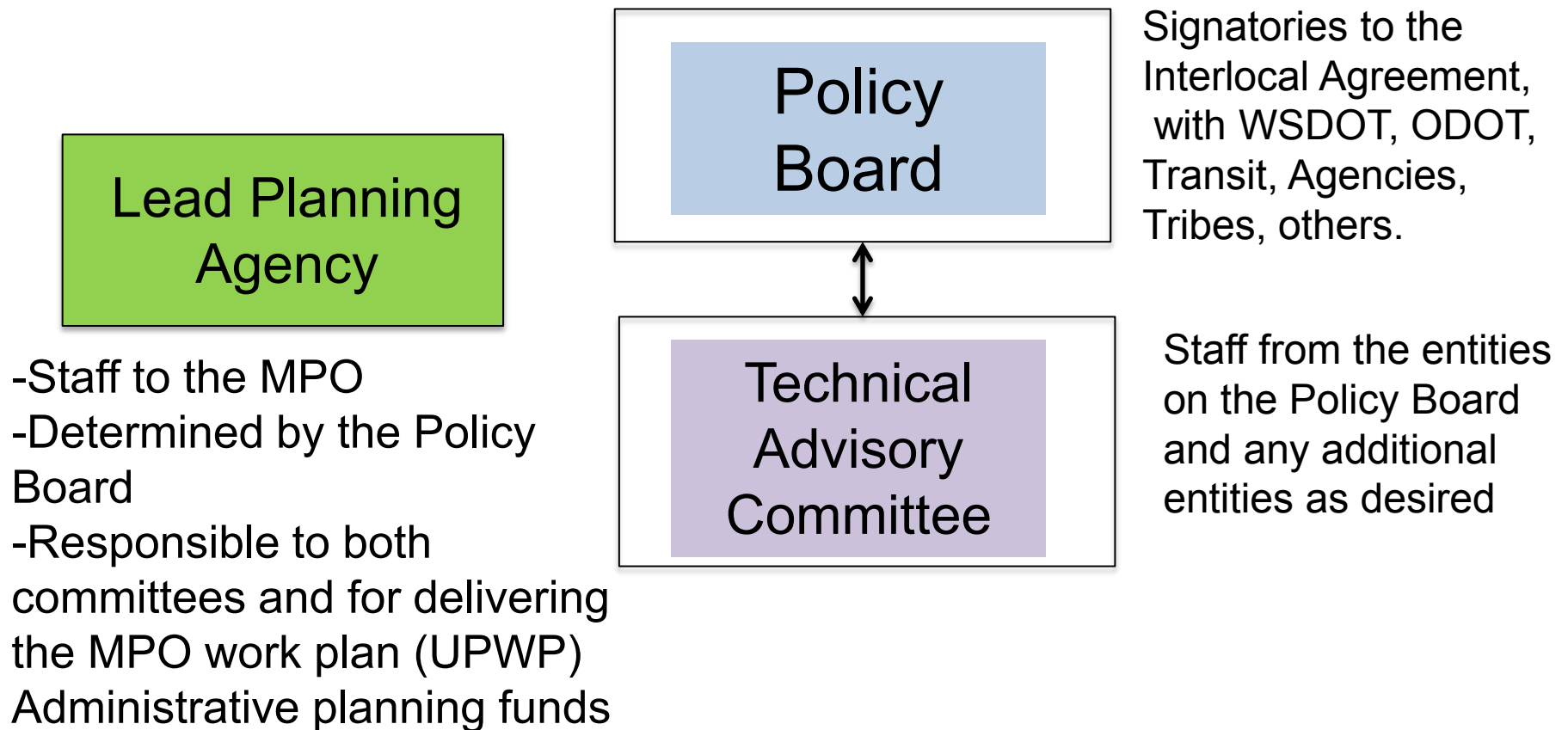


# MPO Participants in “3C” Planning

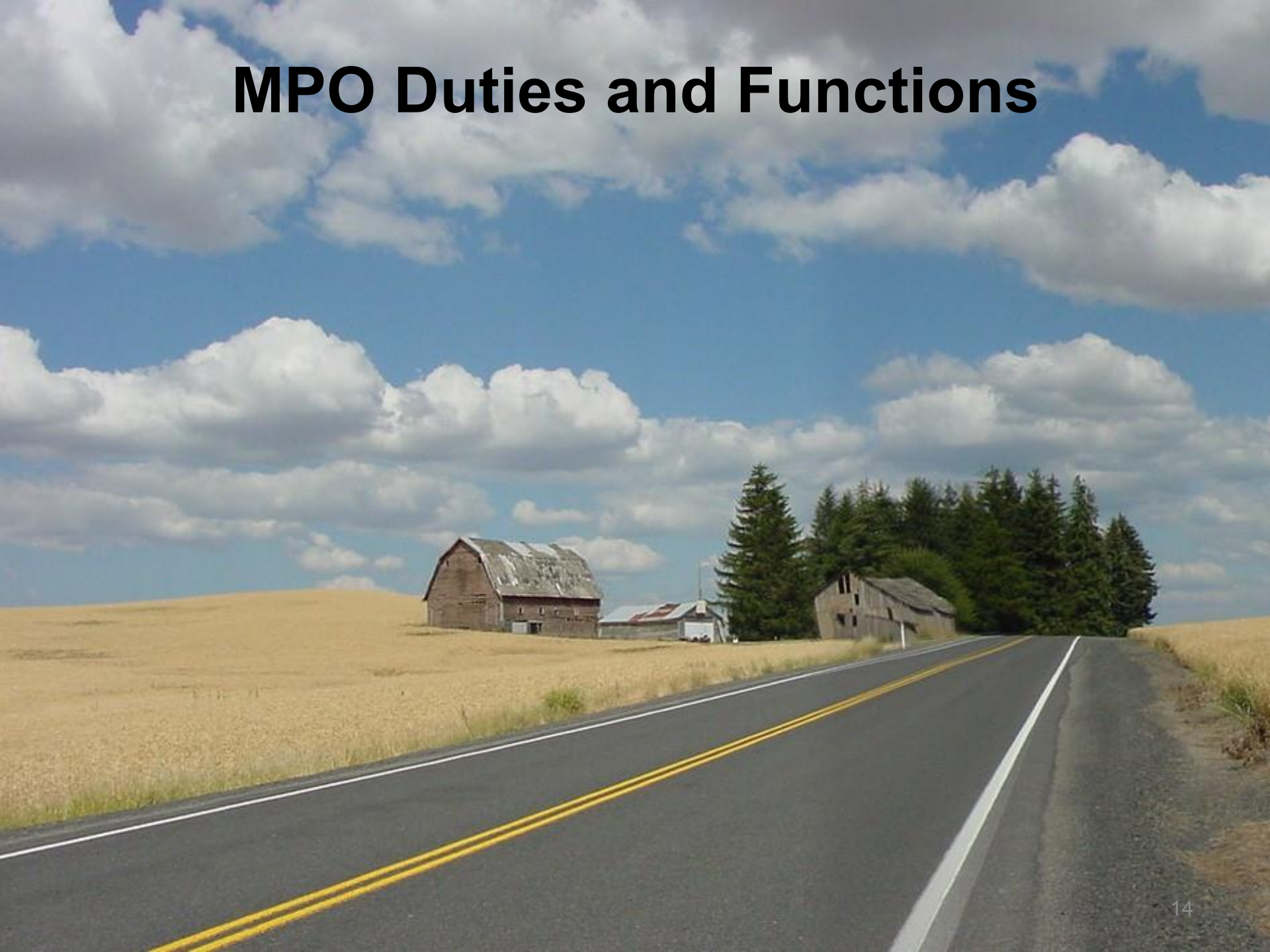
- Local Governments
  - Elected Officials
  - Staff
- State agencies
  - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
  - Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Public Transportation Providers
- Tribes
- Stakeholders
- The Public

# MPO Organizational Structure

Membership is documented in the Interlocal Agreement



# MPO Duties and Functions



# MPO Duties

- Develop and Adopt:
  - Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
  - Agreements (MOUs) with Transit and DOT(s)
  - Documented Public Participation Process
  - Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
  - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
  - Annual Listing of Obligated Projects
- Certifies compliance with federal regulations

# Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- Metropolitan transportation planning activities performed with funds provided under Titles 23 U.S. C. and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 shall be documented in a UPWP.
- The UPWP covers 1-2 years and is approved by FHWA and FTA.
- MPOs must report annually on UPWP progress.



# Metropolitan Planning Agreements

The MPO(s), the State(s), and the public transportation operator(s) shall cooperatively determine their mutual responsibilities in carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning (3C) process. These responsibilities shall be clearly identified in written agreements.

# Public Participation Procedures

- The MPO develops public participation procedures to help ensure early and continuing public involvement in the development of plans and programs
- All of the MPO products (MTP, TIP, etc.) are subject to documented public participation procedures
- The procedures are periodically reviewed and updated

# Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

- 20-year planning horizon at time of adoption
- Includes:
  - Long- and short-range strategies
  - All modes
  - Public involvement
- Outlines past and present transportation trends; projects future growth and land use
- Forecasts travel demand
- Financial constraint (revenues, costs)
- Updated every five (5) years (attainment areas); every four (4) years (nonattainment and maintenance areas)
- Approved by the MPO

# Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Approved by the MPO and the Governor (or designee)
- Updated every four (4) years
- Covers a four (4) year period
- Must be financially constrained by year
- Projects/programs must be consistent with the MTP
- Development process includes public involvement
- Includes:
  - All federally funded projects
  - All regionally significant projects that require approval by FHWA/FTA (such as projects that may affect conformity), regardless of the source of funds

# TIP, cont'd

- TIP must include –
  - All federally funded projects
  - All regionally significant projects that require approval by FHWA/FTA (such as projects that may affect conformity), regardless of the source of funds
- Project Selection from the TIP
  - Separate from TIP development
  - See 23 CFR 450.330

# Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

- Must include projects for which funds under 23 USC and 49 USC 53 were obligated in the preceding program year
- Cooperatively developed between the MPO, State DOT, public transportation operators
- Published within 90 days of the end of the program year
- Supplied to FHWA and FTA

# Self-Certification

Concurrent with submittal of the TIP to FHWA and FTA, the State and the MPO shall certify at least every four years that the metropolitan transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all applicable federal requirements.

# Financial





# MPO Funding

MPOs receive federal funds through the state DOTs to carry out their program.

Funding is calculated by formula and distributed on a biennial basis and is tied to annual UPWPs.

The formula includes a base amount for each MPO plus adjustments for air quality status and population.

# Funds Available for MPO Planning

- FHWA
  - Title 23 U.S.C. Planning Funds (PL)
  - 13.5% required match in WA
  - 10.27% required match in OR
- FTA
  - Title 49 U.S.C. Section 53 Planning Funds (5303)
  - 13.5% required match (WA uses a FHWA/FTA Consolidated Grant)

# New Funding & Planning Responsibilities for Transit Providers



# FTA Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program

- October 1, 2013, public transit providers will be eligible for FTA's Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program.
- Previously apportioned funds will not be affected, for example,
  - funds apportioned under the Section 5311 program for rural areas prior to FY13, may continue to be used for areas that were classified as rural prior to the 2010 Census

# FTA Section 5307 Apportionment

- FTA apportions 5307 funds for small UZAs (<200k pop.) to the Governors
- For small UZAs that cross state lines (like Walla Walla, WA-OR), each Governor will apportion an amount based on that state's share of the UZA's population.

# New Opportunities for Transit Providers

- Transit providers may receive funds through the state or may elect to become a direct recipient
- Direct recipients are subject to FTA oversight, including additional reporting requirements and compliance reviews (e.g., civil rights reviews; triennial reviews)
- Transit agencies may receive FHWA funds transferred, or “flexed” through participation in the MPO 3C process

# Additional Information on FTA Funding

FTA has published a report series, entitled "Transit at the Table," which identifies how transit agencies can participate effectively and strategically in planning processes.

See

[www.planning.dot.gov/focus\\_transit\\_atable.asp](http://www.planning.dot.gov/focus_transit_atable.asp)

# The Difference Between MPOs, RTPOs, and ACTs





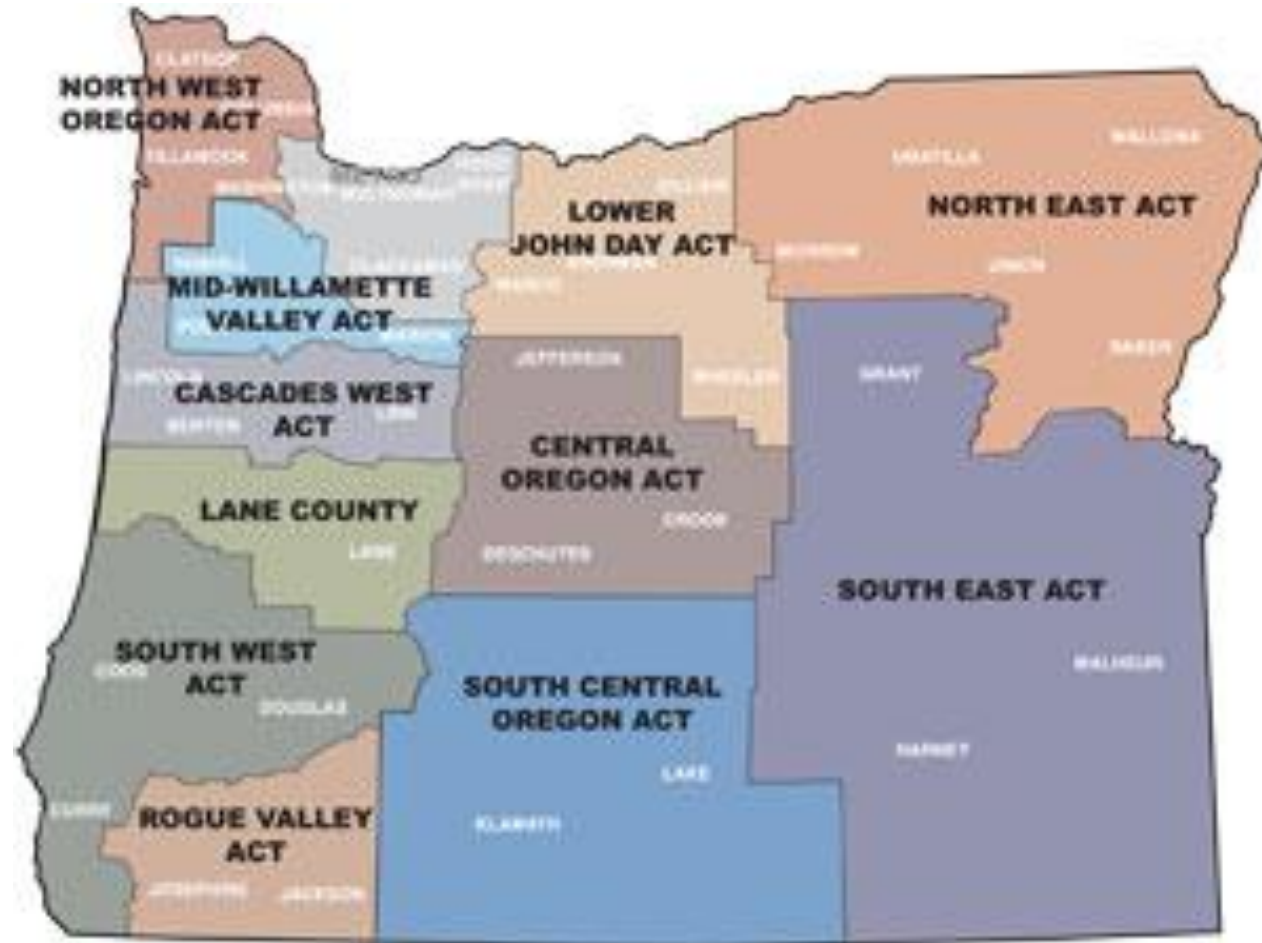
# Decisions for the Future

Factor in the MPOs functions with existing planning and programming efforts and structures

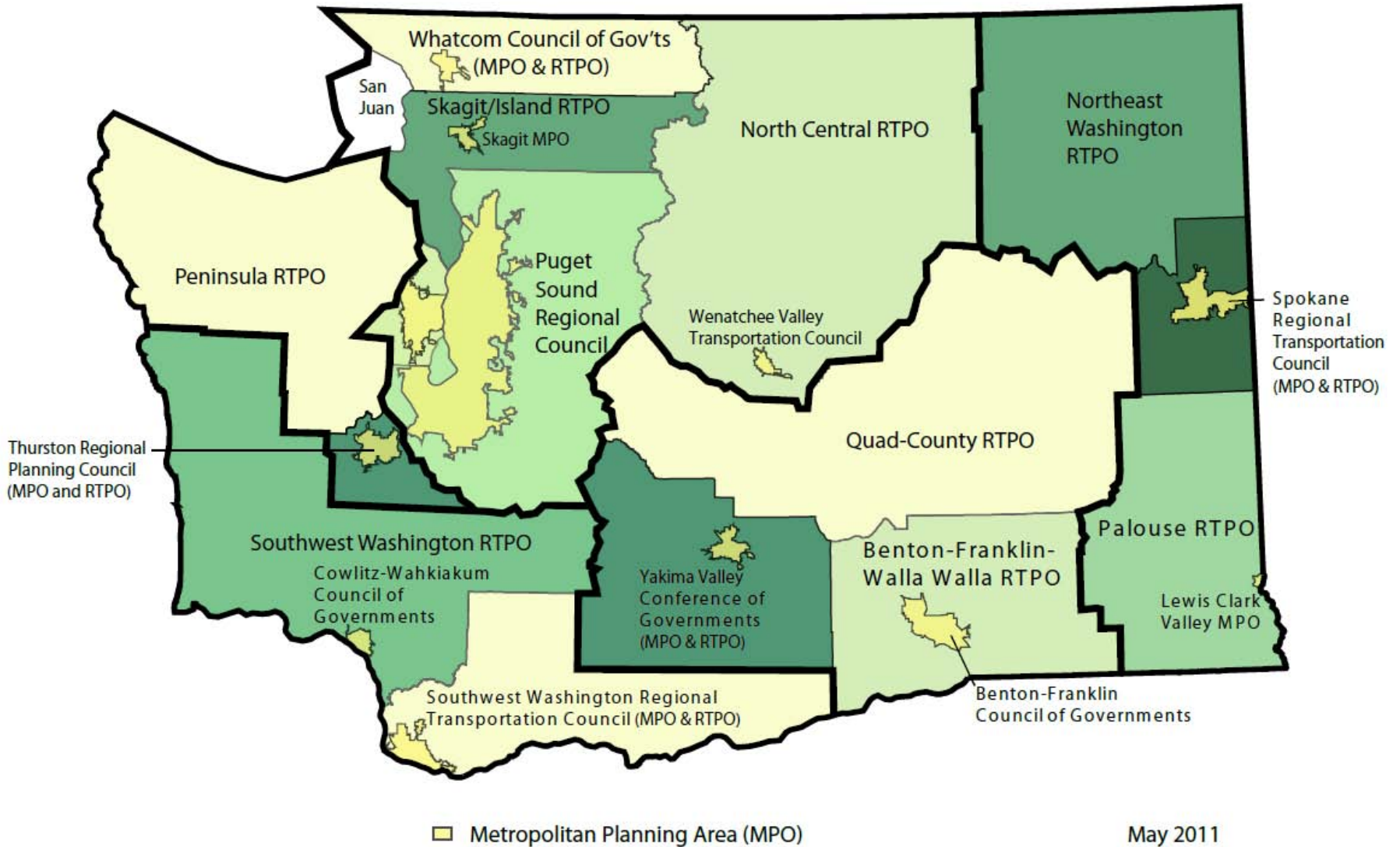
OR – NE Area Commission on Transportation:  
Membership, Participation, and Coordination

WA – Regional Transportation Planning  
Organizations: Participation, Membership, and  
Coordination

# Oregon Area Commissions on Transportation



# Washington State Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs)



# The Difference Between MPOs and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) in WA

- Federal legislation created MPOs.
- State legislation created RTPOs. \*
- An MPO covers an urbanized area and receives federal funding in support of its planning efforts.
- An RTPO covers both urban and rural areas and receives WA state funding in support of its planning efforts.

*\* MAP-21 created a new optional RTPO program but details will be unknown until rules are promulgated in 2013 at the earliest.*

# Relationship to MPOs

- RTPOs should be integrated with the MPO program in urban areas.
- State law establishes the MPO as lead agency for the RTPO



# Local Perspectives



- Did your primary questions get answered?
- Did your comfort level about being part of a MPO improve?
- What else would you like information about?
- Who do you think should serve as the temporary lead entity to coordinate the next steps?



# In Summary MPOs

- Responsible for coordinating transportation planning within their Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA).
- Required by law to:
  - develop 20-year long-range metropolitan transportation plans cooperatively with the state, transit operators.
  - develop a four-year transportation improvement program.
  - jointly certify with the state, at least every four years, that metropolitan planning process is carried out in accordance with all federal regulations.

# Summary, cont'd.

- Required by law
- The MPO program will be administered in Washington by WSDOT and in Oregon by ODOT.



# Whose Role is it Anyway?

Decisions and Activities	Policy Board	TAC	MPO Director	MPO Staff	Transit Agency	WSDOT / ODOT	FHWA & FTA
Organization Structure*	✓	Recommend	Lead	✓	✓	✓	✓
UPWP & Budget	✓	Recommend	Lead	✓	✓	✓	Approve
Metropolitan Planning Agreements (MOUs, 23 CFR 450.314)	✓	Recommend	Lead	✓	✓	✓	✓
Metropolitan Transportation Plan	✓	Recommend	Lead	✓	✓	✓	✓
Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program	✓	Recommend	Lead	✓	✓	Governor's Approval	✓
Certification of Compliance	✓		Lead			✓	✓
UPWP Annual Report	✓	Recommend	Lead	✓		✓	✓
Annual Listing of Obligated Projects	✓		Lead		✓	✓	
* Joint Designation by both Governors							

# Questions?

