Rural Task Force Outreach Presentation Overview

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This Section Overview
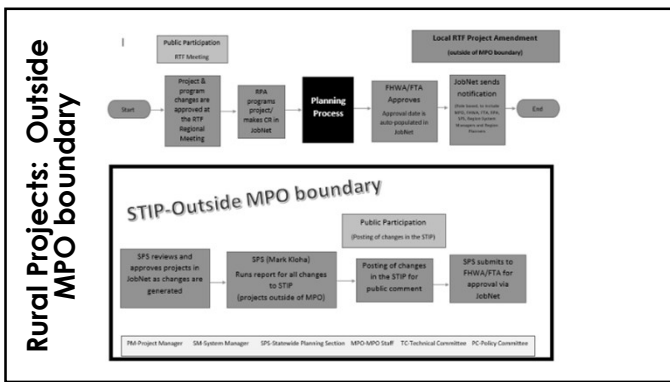
- Overview of planning process
- What are General Program Accounts
- What project changes require action at a Regional RTF meeting
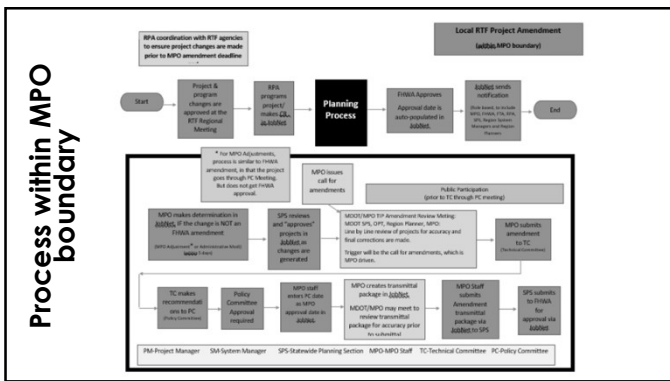- What project changes can be handled with an e-mail vote of the Regional RTF committee

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Overview

- Must follow the Federal Planning process to utilize Federal funds
- Two stage process in the Rural Task Force (RTF) Program
1. Project Selection Planning process (RTF process)
    1. Follow 3C planning process
    2. Public involvement While selecting/adjusting projects
    3. Opportunity for local officials to give comment on projects
2. S/TIP planning process
    1. All projects utilizing federal funds must be included in the S/TIP to be eligible for federal funding under 23 USC and 49 USC 53.
    2. S/TIP are approved by FHWA and FTA

Today's Presentation

- We will cover issues in both RTF planning process and the S/TIP planning process
- Dempnstrate how they fit together and give RTF members strategies for working within the processes

Rural Projects: Outside MPO boundary

Process within MPO boundary

General Program Accounts

General Program Account (GPA)

► Projects that have similar work type activities can be grouped together in a GPA based on that work type activity.

General Program Account (GPA)

► GPA Threshold (not individual projects within the GPA) are approved by FHWA/FTA
► Cost changes based on the whole GPA not each project in the GPA
► Reduces the number of S/TIP amendments

GPA Categories

▶ **Previously:** 1 GPA for the whole RTF program in the Rural STIP

▶ **Now:** 6 GPAs for Rural STIP and 6 GPAs available for each MPO TIP
   1. Local Bridge
   2. Local Road
   3. Local Livability and Sustainability
   4. Local Traffic Operations and Safety
   5. Transit Capital
   6. Transit Operations

Work type and location determines GPA (not funding type)

Constraints for GPA projects

▶ **Reconstruction projects cannot be included in a GPA**
   ▪ See GPA guidance for GPA eligible work types
   ▪ Accurate Work type is critical, as criteria is contained within JobNet
▶ **Projects containing Advance Construct funding cannot be included**
▶ Cannot be a new road, capacity (expansion or reduction
▶ Cannot be funded with an earmark
▶ Must be a categorical exclusion and Air quality neutral

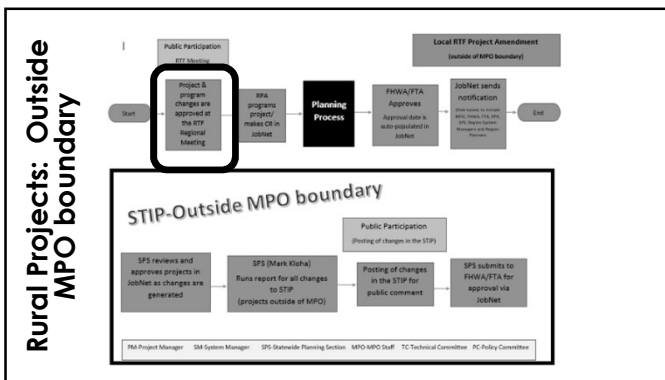## More....Constraints for GPA projects*

▶ ROW phases cannot be included in a GPA
▶ Diesel retrofit projects can ONLY be in a TRANSIT GPA
▶ Cannot be experimental
▶ Total project cost:
   ▪ Cannot exceed $5 million
   ▪ Cannot exceed $10 Million for SEMCOG

* **(For full list, see p. 4 of GPA Guidance Document)**

RTF Amendment vs Administrative Modification

WHEN DO I NEED A REGIONAL MEETING?
WHEN CAN I USE AN E-MAIL VOTE?

Rural Projects: Outside MPO boundary

STIP-Outside MPO boundary

RTF Amendment vs Administrative Modification

▶ RTF Amendment requires action at a regional task force meeting

▶ RTF Administrative Modification can be done with either e-mail agreement/voting or e-mail notification

▶ Description can be found in the RTF Guidelines, Appendix F

RTF Amendment = Regional Meeting

► Project additions or deletions

► Project move: approved project list to Illustrative List

► Major Project Cost Changes
  ▪ S/TIP Line Item Projects: 25% TOTAL participating cost change (+/-)
  ▪ GPA Projects: 25% FEDERAL participating cost change (+/-)

RTF Amendment = Regional Meeting ...continued

► Major scope changes: project name/route/location change

► Major Project limit changes (½ mile or more)

► Project Work Type changes

► Repurposing of cost savings from a **flexed** transit project, for project that is NOT shown on the Illustrative List.

► Moving a project from the Illustrative List to the approved project list (S/TIP line item)

RTF Administrative Modification = e-mail vote

► Minor Project Cost Changes
  ▪ S/TIP Line Item Projects: < 25% TOTAL participating cost change (+/-)
  ▪ GPA Projects: < 25% FEDERAL participating cost change (+/-)

► Minor Project limit changes less than ½ mile

RTF Administrative Modification = e-mail vote

▶ FY change, within the current TIP Cycle (2017-2020)

▶ Projects move from the Illustrative List to a project list within a GPA

▶ Repurposing of cost savings from a **flexed** transit project, for project that IS shown on the Illustrative List.

RTF Administrative Modifications = e-mail vote process

▶ **For Administrative Modifications**
1. Road/transit agency informs RPA, submit updated project data sheet
2. RPA **requests approval** from the regional task force via e-mail
3. **Once approved**, RPA submits the change request in JobNet

RTF Administrative Modifications = informational e-mail process

▶ **For Technical Corrections, Changes to Local, or Non-participating Funding:**
1. Road/transit agency informs RPA, submit updated project data sheet
2. RPA make the change in JobNet
3. RPA submits **informational email** to apprise Task force