

## FTA Authorization Fact Sheet Metropolitan and Statewide Planning Programs

### **Purpose**

To provide planning funds for Metropolitan Planning Organizations and State Departments of Transportation for Metropolitan Planning required under Section 5303 and Statewide Planning required under Section 5305.

### **Eligibility**

Apportionments are made to the States for formula distribution to the Metropolitan Planning Organizations to be used in urbanized areas within each state.

### **Statutory References**

49 U.S.C. Section 5303 – Metropolitan Planning  
49 U.S.C. Section 5304 – Statewide Planning  
49 U.S.C. Section 5305 – Planning Programs

### **Features**

- Consolidates planning under a single section, funded from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund. It maintains the requirement for separate Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs, and requires certification of the planning process every four years.
  
- The Transportation Plan lays out long term transportation and environmental goals for a 20-year period. The Transportation Plan must be updated every four years (except in air quality attainment areas where the update cycle is every five years), and must relate to a 20-year forecast.
  
- The Transportation Improvement Program lists specific projects to be implemented over the next four years, and must be consistent with the Long-Range Transportation Plan.
  
- A new participation plan is established to afford parties who participate in the metropolitan planning process a specific opportunity to comment on the plan prior to its approval.
  
- The Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program publication requirements are expanded and detailed.
  
- Additional detail is provided on consideration of environmental factors.
  
- Security is added as a planning factor.

Information Courtesy of U.S. Department of Transportation- Federal Transit Administration

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