

# Missouri DOT Collaborates with Partners on Transportation Performance Management

# **Sharing Information Early**

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) has a long-standing tradition of working closely with its Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and Regional Planning Commissions (RPC). MoDOT first met with the nine Missouri MPOs to discuss transportation performance management provisions in MAP-21 in November 2012, soon after MAP-21 became Subsequently, MoDOT set up a collaboration web site to facilitate the sharing of resources between the DOT and the MPOs. In addition, MoDOT sent emails to the MPOs as Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) and new resources were published.

# **Collaborating for Performance**

During the February 2015 annual statewide planning meeting, Missouri's MPOs indicated they were eager to collaborate with MoDOT, as well as other planning agencies and bordering states, on approaches to implementing the MAP-21 transportation performance management provisions in anticipation of the final rules being published.

In response to the MPOs' request for additional collaboration, MoDOT initiated monthly MAP-21 performance management webinars in March 2015. In addition to the Missouri MPOs, MoDOT invited DOT representatives from the States that share MPOs with Missouri: Arkansas, Kansas, and Illinois. Regional staff from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) were invited as well. Since then attendance has expanded to FHWA and FTA staff from neighboring States; MPOs specific to Arkansas; and regional planning commissions.

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#### **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Increased readiness to implement the transportation performance management requirements among MPOs and State DOTs.
- Creation of large, multi-state group with established relationships to serve as a knowledge pool for planning professionals.
- Established framework to collaborate on FAST Act/MAP-21 implementation.
- Best practices shared among MPOs, RPCs and State DOTs, with FHWA and FTA sharing these practices at a national level.

The webinars continue to be held monthly, with MoDOT facilitating each webinar and topics suggested by the MPOs. Topics have included NPRMs, data sharing, performance based planning and programming examples from MPOs, asset management, how to develop performance measures, MPO best practices, and target setting. Presentations are given by MoDOT, other State DOTs, and MPOs, with regular updates on the status of the performance management rules.

The presentations, links and other documents discussed during the webinars are posted to the collaboration site. In addition, an agenda is emailed out a week before the meeting. Discussion items noted from the webinar are emailed and posted after each meeting as well.

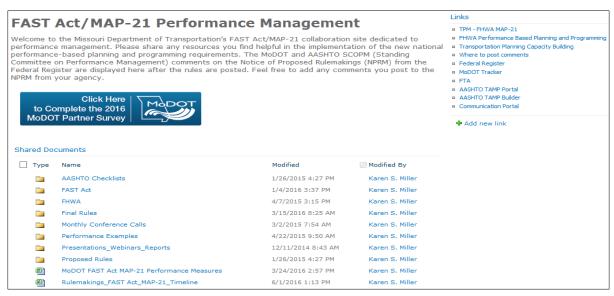
The webinars have been well attended, with an average of 40 attendees and seven MPOs (out of a total of nine) represented on each webinar. MoDOT has received positive feedback from the MPOs, indicating that they feel the webinars help them understand and prepare for what will be expected of them, as well as give them a forum to discus their perspectives on the rulemaking.

According to Jim Hubbell, Principal Planner at the Mid-America Regional Council,

"MoDOT has been proactive and thoughtful in its efforts to coordinate with regional planning agencies on the performance management requirements created in MAP-21. Significant activities include the monthly webinar series hosted by MoDOT to facilitate information exchange and an innovative suite of data sharing tools that will give regional partners easy access to transportation performance metrics.

MoDOT's efforts have improved working relationships among all the agencies involved, and have paved a clear path to collaboratively setting performance targets."

- Information sharing is critical. In the early stages of collaboration, information sharing was facilitated through emails and a collaboration web site. Later, webinars enabled all partners to share best practices and resources and ask questions.
- Communicate, Listen, Adjust, Evaluate. Emails and collaboration sites have their places. However, sometimes more direct collaboration is needed. MoDOT listened to the MPOs' needs and adjusted the level of collaboration through monthly FAST Act/MAP-21 webinars. These webinars provided an open dialogue for MPOs, RPCs, and state and regional transportation professionals. The webinars also helped bridge the gap for bi-state MPOs and Missouri's Border States.



As a result of these webinars, the framework has been created to implement the final rules in a collaborative environment. With FTA, FHWA, State DOTs and MPOs attending the webinars, the opportunity exists to learn from each other. Working relationships have not only been established in some cases, but also strengthened as a result of these webinars. Furthermore, it is not just the MPOs who benefit from the webinars, but also the State DOTs, as they have the opportunity to ask questions of each other and share ideas.

## **Lessons Learned**

 It's never too early to begin. MoDOT initiated contact with planning partners a month after MAP-21 passed to begin discussing collaboration. MoDOT started monthly webinars the month after the planning partners' request.

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