

Roundtable Discussion on 2023 Unified Planning Work Program



Transportation and Air Quality Committee (TAQC)
October 12, 2022



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Federal Transit
Administration

Office of the Administrator

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

December 30, 2021

Attention: FHWA Division Administrators
FTA Regional Administrators

Subject: 2021 Planning Emphasis Areas for use in the development of Metropolitan and
Statewide Planning and Research Work programs.

With continued focus on transportation planning the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Offices of Planning are jointly issuing updated Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs). The PEAs are areas that FHWA and FTA field offices should emphasize when meeting with the metropolitan planning organizations, State departments of transportation, Public Transportation Agencies, and Federal Land Management Agency counterparts to identify and develop tasks associated with the Unified Planning Work Program and the Statewide Planning and Research Program. We recognize the variability of work program development and update cycles, so we encourage field offices to incorporate these PEAs as programs are updated.

Please note that this letter is intended only to provide clarity regarding existing requirements. It is not binding and does not have the force and effect of law. All relevant statutes and regulations still apply.

Sincerely,

Nuria Fernandez
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

Stephanie Pollack
Deputy Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Enclosure

Updated Federal Planning Emphasis Areas

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/2022-01/Planning-Emphasis-Areas-12-30-2021.pdf>

Federal Planning Emphasis Areas Form the Initial Foundation of Work Program Development

- Tackling the Climate Crisis – Transition to a Clean Energy, Resilient Future
- Equity and Justice⁴⁰ in Transportation Planning
- Complete Streets
- Public Involvement
- Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL)
- Data in Transportation Planning

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2023 Focus Areas include updating the Regional Plan and responding to evolving planning requirements from the IIJA

- Atlanta Region's Plan – two-phase update process:
 - Phase I: Interim update reflecting latest population and employment forecasts and adjusted project strategies in 2023 (for adoption by Jan. 2024)
 - Phase II: Extensive update of planning strategies reflecting the latest federal policy from IIJA (resiliency, climate, remote work, electrification, transit-oriented development - including corridors)
- Regional Planning Emphasis Areas in 2023 (examples):
 - IIJA Implementation and Coordination
 - Regional Transportation Plan
 - Climate/Resiliency
 - Equity/Justice 40

Potential Studies and Initiatives Requiring Consultant Assistance (under internal review)

FHWA and FTA Planning Funds

- Project Database Modernization (PLANIT)
- RTP Update
- IIJA Strategic Planning Assistance

Planned/Potential Studies Requiring Consultant Assistance

Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds

- Transportation Demand Management Plan (underway)
- Freight and Goods Movement Plan Update (underway)
- Household Travel Survey (underway)
- Human Services Transportation (HST) Plan Update (pending)
- Regional Electrification Plan (pending)
- Carbon Reduction Plan (under consideration)
- Regional TOD Plan (under consideration)
- Resilience Improvement Plan (under consideration - potential PROTECT funded)

On-Going ARC Community Support Programs

- Livable Centers Initiative (LCI) Study Program
- County Transportation Plan (CTP) Program
- Freight Cluster Area Planning Program



Other State and Local Planning Initiatives

- UPWP must include all federally funded transportation planning activities (not PE, ROW or CST phases)
 - Previously funded, but work continuing into 2023
 - Programmed new activities for 2023
 - Other proposed initiatives for 2023
- UPWP may also include locally and state funded planning activities
 - Best practice, but not required

Next Steps

- Incorporate policymaker feedback into work program development
- Internal ARC activities underway on budget development
- Formal stakeholder engagement and feedback on draft work program from October 21 to November 11
- Final reviews and action on UPWP and budget on December 14
- Coordinate with GDOT on planning contracts in December

Thoughts? Work Program Suggestions?



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