

Roundtable Discussion on 2023 Unified Planning Work Program and 5303 Grant Application



TCC
September 23, 2022



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 IJA

- 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 IJA (resiliency, climate, remote work, electrification, transit-oriented development - including corridors)
- Regional Planning Emphasis Areas in 2023 (examples):
 - Regional Transportation Plan (equity, climate)
 - Climate/Resiliency
 - Equity/Justice 40

Potential Studies and Initiatives Requiring Consultant Assistance

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

Thoughts?

Work Program Suggestions?



John Orr

jorr@atlantaregional.org

770-317-3539