



Transit Provider Representation on the MPO Board: Continued Discussion and Next Steps

April 11, 2019

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

Goals for Today's Discussion

- Review status of MPO discussion about transit provider representation on the MPO board
- Discuss MPO staff recommendations for a transit committee
 - Express support; or
 - Identify alternative options
- Decide on next steps to move ahead (including MOU updates)

Federal Recommendation (2015)

Work with the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) and the Cape Ann Transportation Authority (CATA) to ensure that these providers of public transportation are represented on the MPO board in a way that

- Is satisfactory to all parties**
- Meets MAP-21 requirements**



November 2018 MPO Decision

- **Modify the MPO's memorandum of understanding (MOU) to add a voting member to the MPO that would represent a transit committee.**
- **MWRTA would represent this committee on the MPO board for three years once the updated MOU is executed.**

Recent Activities

- **January 17, 2019:** MPO continued discussing transit provider representation and aspects of creating a transit committee.
 - The MPO directed staff to create a more detailed committee proposal for MPO member review.
- **February and March, 2019:** MPO staff surveyed MPO members about aspects of creating a transit committee.

Considerations

1. Federal recommendations and guidance
2. Past MPO discussions and MPO member survey
3. CATA and MWRTA feedback

Committee Recommendations: Staff Approach

- The committee would have one voting seat on the MPO board.
- Keep the committee framework flexible at the beginning
- **Proposed next step:** Outreach event
 - Discuss MPO committee framework with potential participants

Recommended Committee Mission

- Represent public transportation providers serving the Boston region on the MPO board
- Advise the MPO on matters pertaining to public transit to inform MPO transportation planning and decision making
- Provide a forum for the region's public transportation providers to discuss topics of mutual interest and concern



Membership and Participation

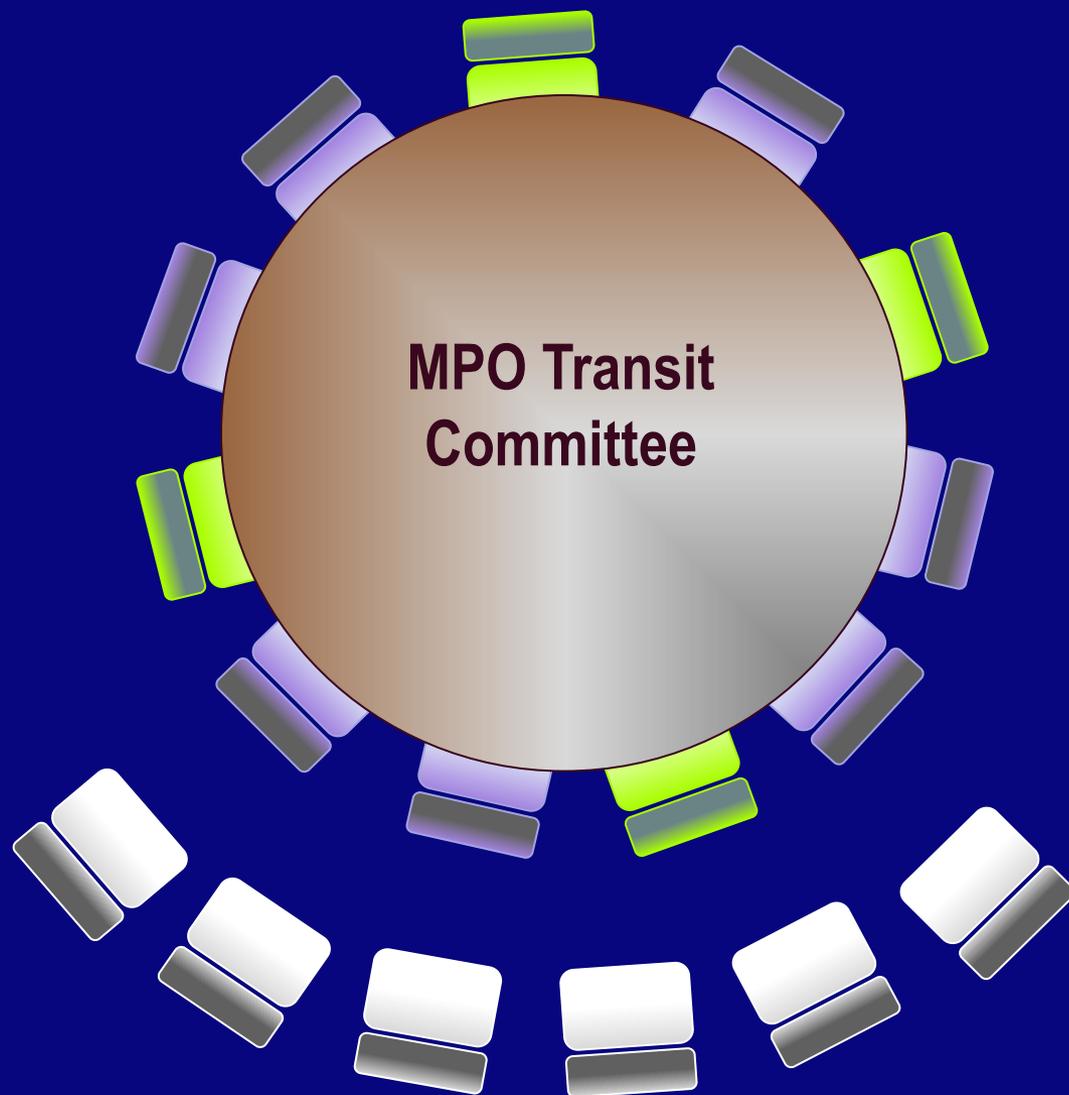
Designated Members

(MWRTA, CATA, MBTA,
MassDOT Rail and Transit)

Fixed Term Seats

- Other RTAs (up to 2)
- TMAs (up to 3)
- Municipalities with public transit service (up to 2)

Open to the public



Committee Representation

- **Only MWRTA or CATA would be eligible to represent the committee on the MPO board**
 - **They regularly receive FTA dollars that must be programmed in LRTP and TIP**
 - **This approach aligns with federal guidance on selecting transit provider representatives for MPOs**
 - **This directly addresses the agencies included in the federal certification recommendation about RTA representation**

Relationship to Advisory Council

- **Staff defers to Advisory Council on whether transit committee members could also vote on the Advisory Council**
 - **Advisory Council position: An entity should not vote in both groups**
- **Staff recommends identifying a liaison to support communication between the two groups**

Proposed Next Steps for a Committee

- **First:** Host a transit-committee-related outreach event
 - Gauge potential participant interest
 - Collect feedback on committee framework
- **Next:** Develop updated language for the MOU

Questions and Discussion

