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of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

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REGION 10 BULLETIN NO: 2016-26

Subject: Statewide and Non-metropolitan Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning; Final Rule

Date: May 31, 2016

On Friday, May 27, 2016, the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) jointly published the Final Rule on Statewide and Non-metropolitan Transportation Planning and Metropolitan Transportation Planning in the Federal Register to implement the changes to the planning process established by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act). The Federal Register Notice (FRN) may be found at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-05-27/pdf/2016-11964.pdf>. This becomes effective June 27, 2016.

The FHWA and FTA have been working in partnership with the transportation community and other key stakeholders for many years to prepare for this new rule. The FHWA and FTA will issue supplemental guidance to support implementation of the rule and provide assistance and technical support to State departments of transportation (States), metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and providers of public transportation as these new requirements are implemented. Additional information on the transportation planning process is available on the FHWA/FTA transportation planning capacity building website at <http://planning.dot.gov>.

MAP-21 continues many provisions related to transportation planning from prior laws. It also introduces transformational changes and adds some new provisions. The FAST Act makes minor edits to existing provisions. The changes make the regulations consistent with current statutory requirements and implement the following:

- A new mandate for States and MPOs to take a performance-based approach to planning and programming;
- A new emphasis on the nonmetropolitan transportation planning process, by requiring States to have a higher level of involvement with nonmetropolitan local officials and providing a process for the creation of regional transportation planning organizations (RTPO);
- A structural change to the membership of the larger MPOs to require representation of public transit agencies;
- A new framework for voluntary scenario planning; and
- New authority for the integration of the planning and environmental review processes; and a process for programmatic mitigation plans.

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The final rule is the sixth in a series of rules that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and FTA are issuing to establish the performance management framework introduced by MAP-21 and continued by the FAST Act.

To learn more, register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/planning-final-rule-webinar-june-14-2016-tickets-25604872864> to attend an FHWA/FTA-hosted webinar on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 from 10:00-11:30 p.m. Pacific Time.

For further information about this final rule, please contact Sherry Riklin, Office of Planning and Environment, at 202-366-5407; Dwayne Weeks, Office of Planning and Environment, at 202-493-0316; or Christopher Hall, Office of Chief Counsel, at 202-366-5218.

For general information, please contact Region 10's Ned Conroy at 206-220-4318 or email ned.conroy@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A Feldman
Acting Regional Administrator

