



Association of
Metropolitan
Planning
Organizations

Reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Bill

RVARC

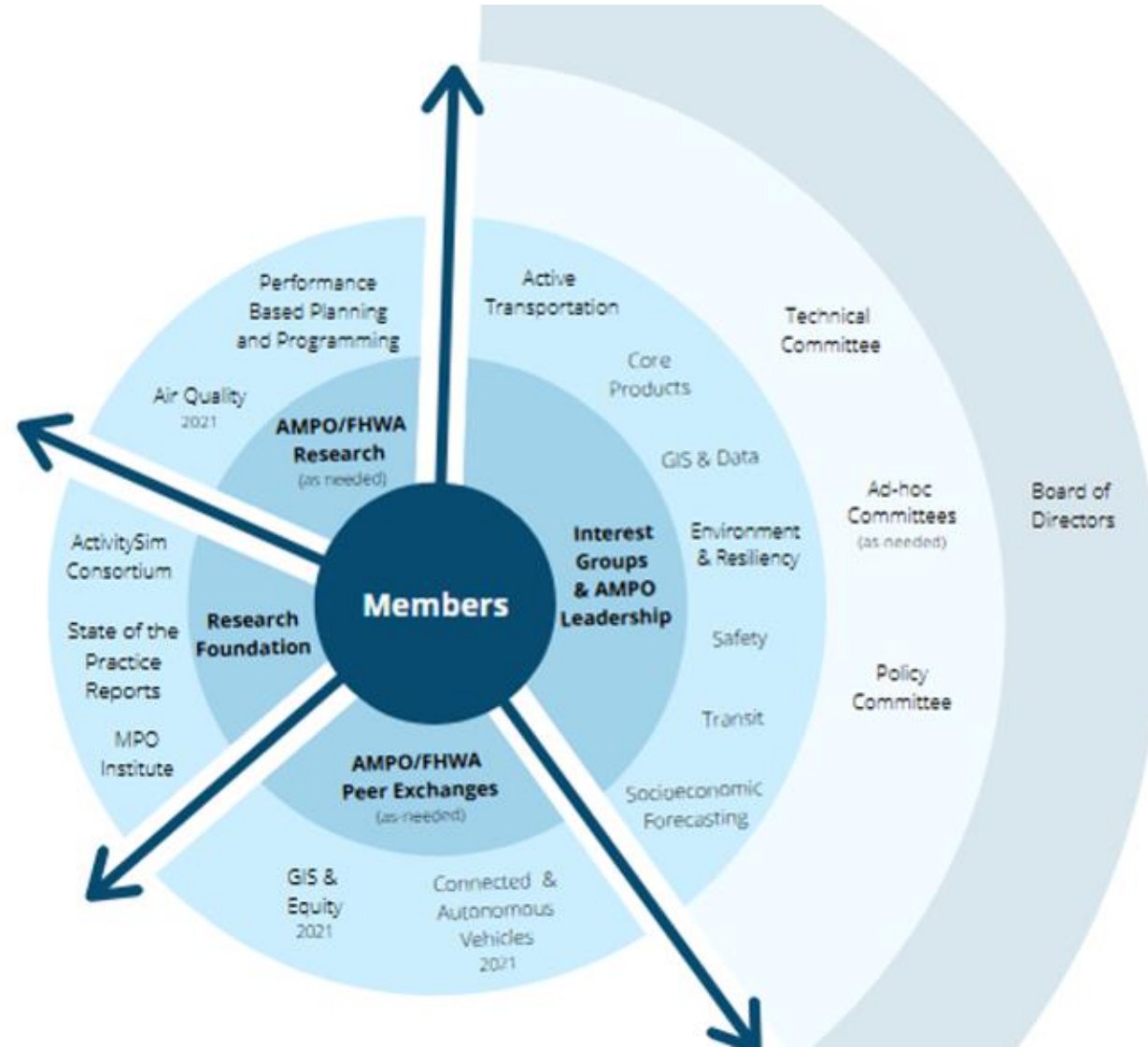
10/23/2025

AMPO

Member led, member driven

AMPO is the national resource for MPOs, providing peer-to-peer opportunities, advocacy, and research. AMPO is led by a Board of Directors, elected from membership and made up of MPO Executive Directors.

Over **100 MPO staff** volunteer in a leadership role within AMPO annually, ensuring all of our programs and services are guided by practitioners doing on-the-ground work.



Federal Transportation Funding 101

How funds flow from Congress → State DOTs → MPOs → Local projects

Transportation Funding 101

- Primarily funded by **Highway Trust Fund (HTF)**
 - Gas tax + transportation-related fees → HTF
- **Federal-aid highway program (FAHP) funds** provided **through statutory formulas to state DOTs**
- *Certain* FAHP funds are then **suballocated from state DOTs to MPOs**
- Majority of funds have **local match requirements** (typically **80% federal / 20% local split**)

View the
Highway Trust
Fund Primer



View the Board
Member MPO
Brief



Key Formula Programs for MPOs



Planning Formula Funds

**Planning Funds
(PL/5303):**

- These formula funds support MPO planning activities and are allocated to all MPOs based on population and other factors. They fund transportation studies, staff, and long-range planning efforts.



Capital Formula Funds

**Surface Transportation
Block Grant (STBG):**

- Funds support road, bridge, and multimodal projects. In areas with populations over 200,000 (i.e., Transportation Management Areas or TMAs), a portion is directly suballocated to MPOs. For smaller MPOs, the state determines the funding allocation.

**Congestion Mitigation
and Air Quality
Improvement (CMAQ):**

- This program funds projects aimed at reducing transportation-related emissions. CMAQ funds are suballocated to TMAs, while in smaller regions they are often administered by the state. Not all MPOs receive; based on Air Quality and/or agreement with State DOT.

**Transportation
Alternatives (TA) Set-
Aside:**

- Funds projects focused on improving non-motorized transportation options, such as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. TA funds are suballocated in TMAs, with administration varying in smaller regions.

**Carbon Reduction
Program (CRP):**

- Funds projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. Like other programs, CRP is suballocated to TMAs, and is often state-administered in smaller areas.

Discretionary Grants

Open 2	Forecasted 8	Closed 54
<div>Rural and Tribal Assistance Pi... Application Deadline 10/8/2025 4:59pm Estimated NOFO 9/8/2025 Issuer Build America Bureau Eligible Applicants Tribes Local Government MPO</div>	<div>Round 2: Strengthening Mob... Estimated NOFO Early October Issuer USDOT Eligible Applicants MPOs State Government Trans</div>	<div>Bridge Investment Program, ... Application Deadline 10/1/2025 11:59pm Issuer FHWA Eligible Applicants MPOs State Government Local</div>
<div>Federal-State Partnership for... Application Deadline 1/7/2026 11:59pm Issuer FRA Eligible Applicants State Government multi-jurisdictional</div>	<div>Tribal Transportation Progra... Application Deadline 1/15/2026 11:59pm Estimated NOFO Oct 1, 2025 Issuer FHWA Eligible Applicants Tribes multi-jurisdictional groups</div>	<div>Innovative Finance and Asset... Application Deadline 10/1/2025 11:59am Issuer USDOT Eligible Applicants MPOs State Government Local</div>
		<div>Port Infrastructure Develop... Application Deadline</div>

Reauthorization101

The process Congress uses to renew, fund, and update the programs that build and maintain the nation's roads, bridges, transit, and multimodal networks.

Transportation Reauthorization 101



Process by which transportation funding and policy are authorized



Occurs Every 5-6 years (current bill – IIJA – expires end of FY 26)



Federal Transportation funding is guaranteed through reauthorization (funding comes from the HTF)



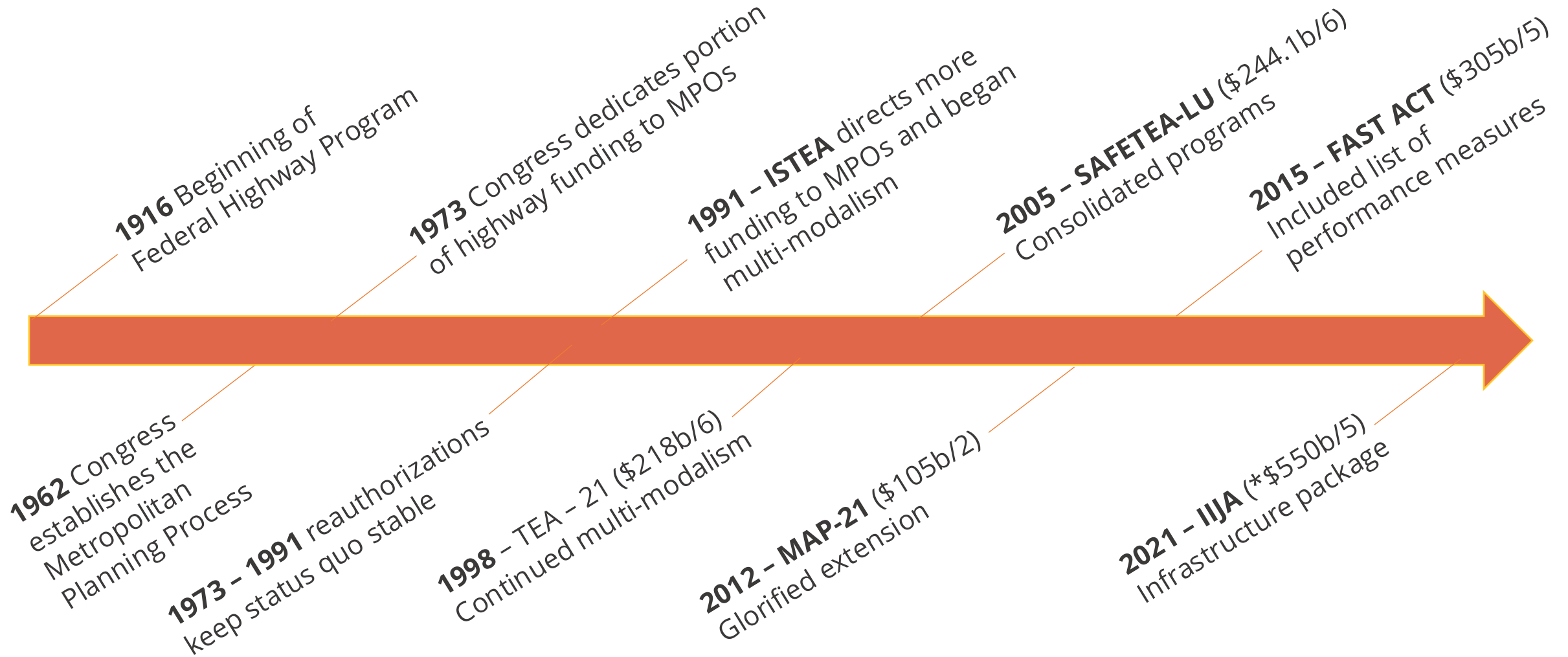
Committees:

House: T&I – Policy; Ways & Means – Funding; Science – Research**
Senate: EPW – Highway; Banking – Transit; Commerce – General*/Research*/Safety

View the
Reauthorization
101 Guide



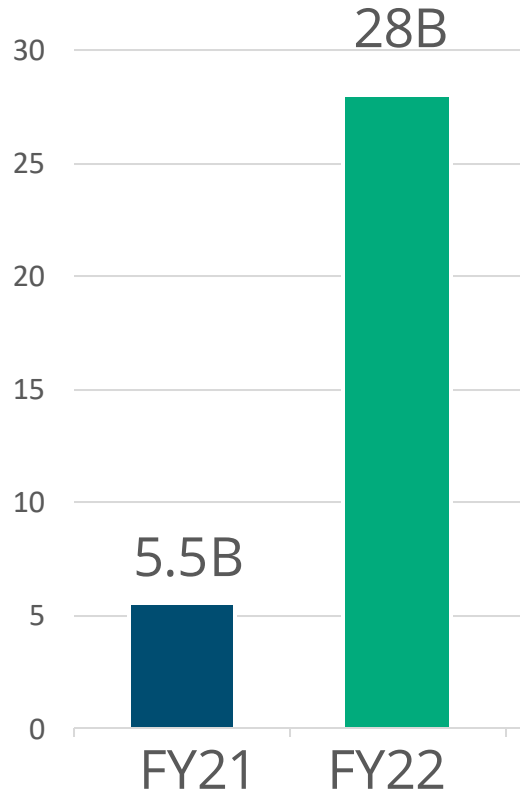
An Abridged Reauth History



IIJA Discretionary Funding

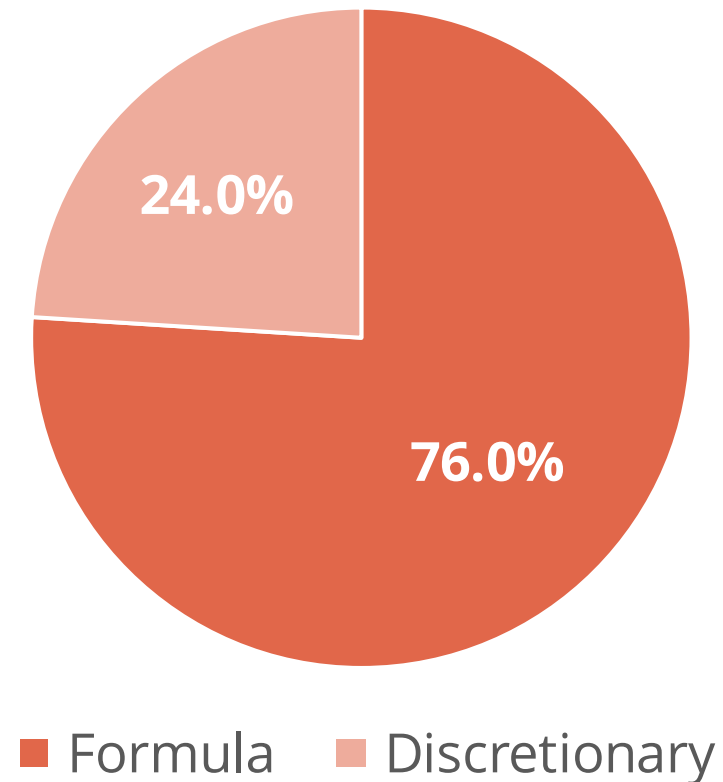
Discretionary Funding

FAST ACT >> IIJA/BIL



Total Funding Split

FY22 – FY26



Reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Bill

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Expires September 30, 2026



Budget

Continuing resolution through 9/30 largely retains funding but removes earmarks



Committees

Key committees have begun work on the reauthorization bill



Changes Coming

A bevy of anticipated changes are expected, including a decreased focus on transit and rail

Congress

Lead up to Reauthorization

The IIJA is set to expire toward the end of 2026, meaning Congress has already begun the ramp up for drafting the next bill. Anticipated changes include:

- Consolidated or reduced discretionary funds
- More authority/flexibility to the States
- Permitting reforms
- Focus on performance measures
- Focus on streamlining and technology

Reauthorization Timeline

2025 Early Fall: Bills released and Markups



2025/6 Winter: Potential floor time, more likely in the House

2026 September 30th: IIJA expires

2026 November: Midterm Elections

AMPO Legislative Priorities

Planning: The Blueprint for Success

- Increase Metropolitan Planning (PL) funding
- Allow MPOs to receive PL Funds directly, with an opt-out option
- Eliminate the local match requirement for PL funds
- Modernize eligible uses

Empower Regional Decision-Making

- Clarify & strengthen project selection roles
- Enhance coordination & transparency
- Pilot program for streamlined regional delivery

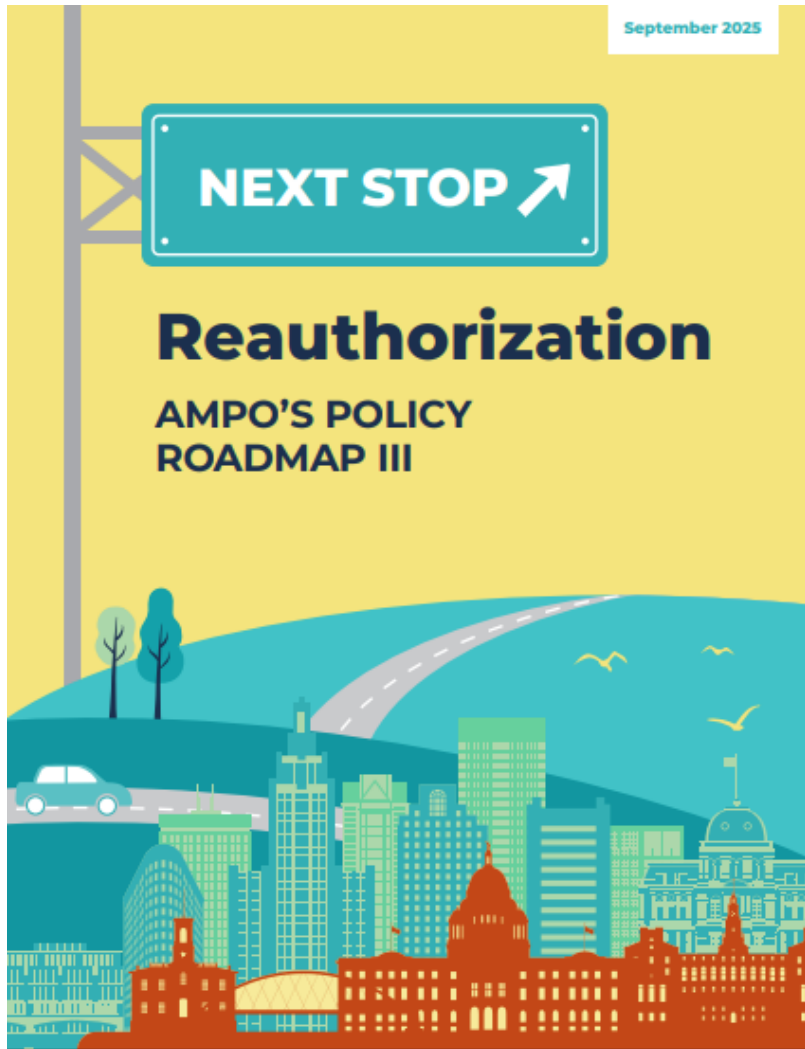
Right-size, Align, and Streamline

- Reduce local match requirements for suballocated capital programs
- Allow both planning & capital dollars to carry into future years
- Streamline reviews & permitting
- Strengthen predictable & accessible funding

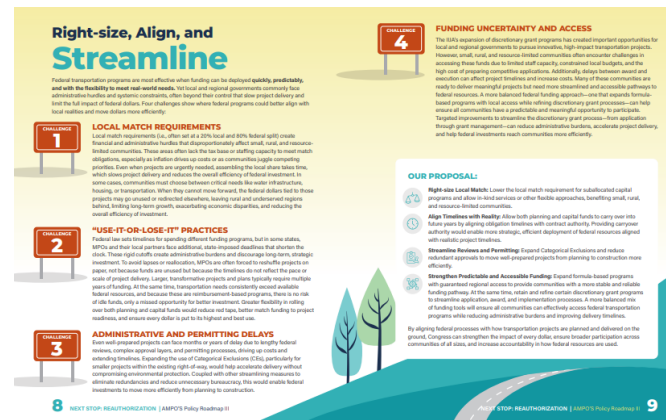
Drive Safety Improvements Through Regional Action

- Fold SS4A program into HSIP with guaranteed regional access
- Strengthen regional role in bridge programs

AMPO's Policy Roadmap III



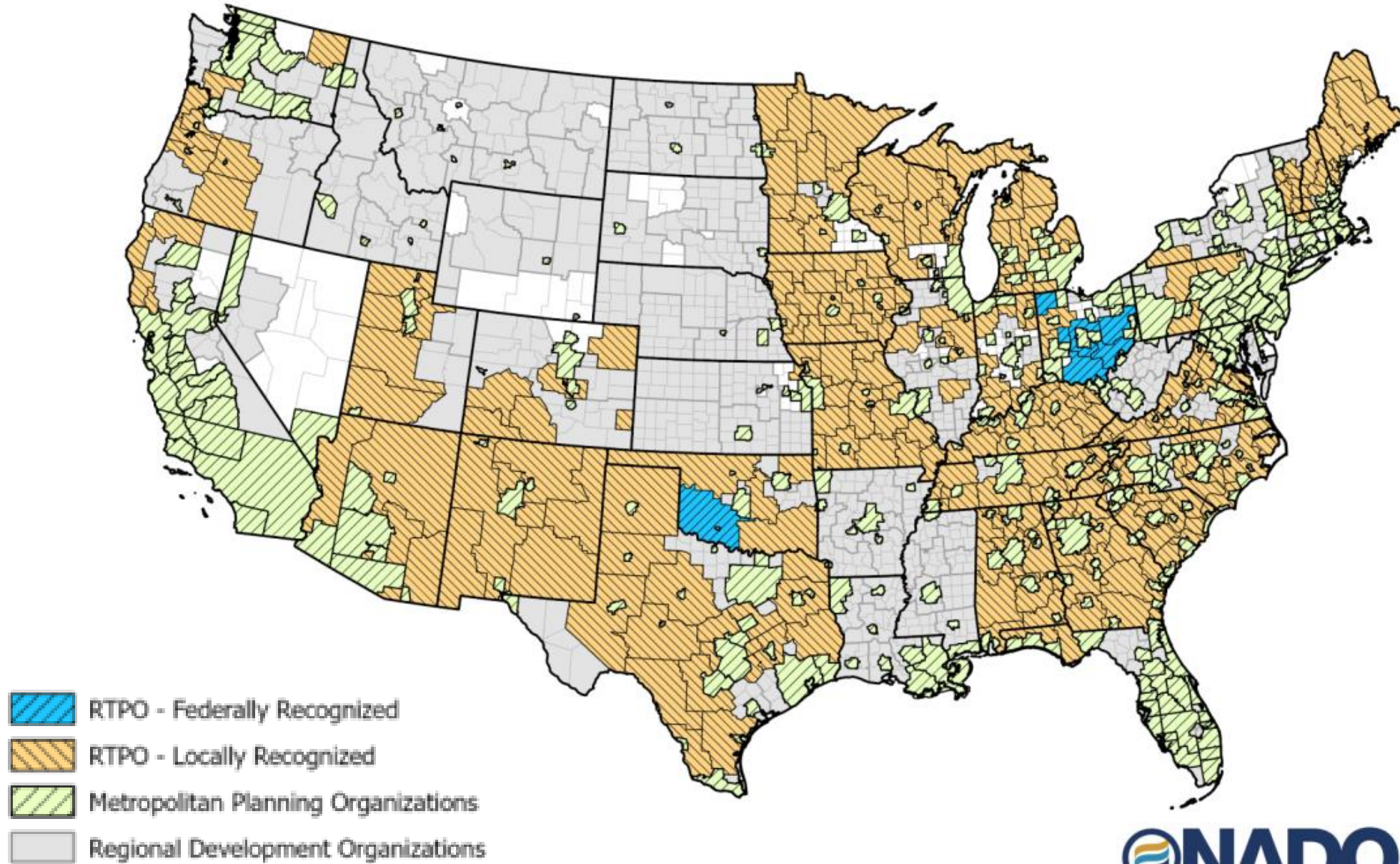
- Outlines **AMPO's Legislative Priorities** for reauthorization
 - Reflecting Member Input
- Includes a **Member Action Playbook** to support MPO engagement
 - MPO Engagement Toolkit



The Local Officials in Transportation (LOT) Coalition amplifies the voices of thousands of organizations and individuals across the nation with a vested interest in the long-term success of our transportation system. Together, our members own, maintain, plan for, and support millions of road miles and hundreds of thousands of bridges nationwide.



Transportation Planning Organizations



The System is Out of Balance

Mismatch between...



Ownership & Responsibility

Local and regional governments plan for, own, and maintain the majority of infrastructure



Access to Resources

These actors receive only ~14% of federal formula funding.



Scale of Local & Regional Needs

Local infrastructure challenges are growing: aging bridges, safety crises, inflation, & the evolving needs of the system.



Access to Funding

Funding levels have not kept pace with system demands & local needs.



Ownership & Responsibility

Local and regional governments plan for, own, and maintain the majority of infrastructure



Decision-Making Authority

States control obligation & often override local priorities for infrastructure decisions.

Priorities: Restore the Balance

1. Rebalance Funding & Decision-Making Authority

- Streamline regional access to federal formula dollars.
- Strengthen the project selection process, accountability, and transparency.
- Keep local & regional eligibility for competitive programs, reduce red tape.
- Modernize formulas for safety and innovation → suballocate to regions.

2. Strengthen Planning & Project Delivery

- Boost MPO resources, eliminate match, deliver planning funds directly to MPOs, allow for carryover of funding.

3. Support Rural Regions

- Provide dedicated formula funding for RTPOs and strengthen coordination.

4. Streamline Delivery

- Right-size permitting, expand categorical exclusions, accelerate projects.



Plug Into LOT Advocacy



Carry the Message

- Share LOT materials with your Congressional delegation.
- Use AMPO's Engagement Toolkit



Stay Involved

- Attend LOT briefings & events.
- Subscribe to AMPO's National Beat policy newsletter.



Share Your Story

- Show how LOT's proposals would make a difference on the ground.
- Connect national priorities to regional context.



Engage with AMPO/LOT

- Reach out to AMPO for support, materials, & coordination.
- Encourage local partners to connect with their national organizations



Connect Locally

- Coordinate with local and regional partners
- Present a unified voice for your region's needs.



Visit us in Washington, DC

AMPO Reauthorization Resources



Scan the QR Code to access AMPO & LOT Coalition's policy engagement resources.



Questions? Reach out to Katie Economou, Legislative Director, at keconomou@ampo.org

Questions

Katie Economou

Legislative Director

keconomou@ampo.org