

# Federal Requirements

## What Our Plan Needs to Include

Federal regulations require that a transportation plan include the following items:

### [23 CFR § 450.324 - Development and content of the metropolitan transportation plan](#)

1. The current and projected transportation demand of persons and goods in the metropolitan planning area over the period of the transportation plan;
2. Existing and proposed transportation facilities (including major roadways, public transportation facilities, intercity bus facilities, multimodal and intermodal facilities, nonmotorized transportation facilities (e.g., pedestrian walkways and bicycle facilities), and intermodal connectors) that should function as an integrated metropolitan transportation system, giving emphasis to those facilities that serve important national and regional transportation functions over the period of the transportation plan.
3. A description of the performance measures and performance targets used in assessing the performance of the transportation system in accordance with [§ 450.306\(d\)](#).
4. A system performance report and subsequent updates evaluating the condition and performance of the transportation system with respect to the performance targets described in [§ 450.306\(d\)](#).
5. Operational and management strategies to improve the performance of existing transportation facilities to relieve vehicular congestion and maximize the safety and mobility of people and goods;
6. Consideration of the results of the congestion management process in TMAs that meet the requirements of this subpart, including the identification of SOV projects that result from a congestion management process in TMAs that are nonattainment for ozone or carbon monoxide.
7. Assessment of capital investment and other strategies to preserve the existing and projected future metropolitan transportation infrastructure, provide for multimodal capacity increases based on regional priorities and needs, and reduce the vulnerability of the existing transportation infrastructure to natural disasters. The metropolitan transportation plan may consider projects and strategies that address areas or corridors where current or projected congestion threatens the efficient functioning of key elements of the metropolitan area's transportation system.

8. Transportation and transit enhancement activities, including consideration of the role that intercity buses may play in reducing congestion, pollution, and energy consumption in a cost-effective manner and strategies and investments that preserve and enhance intercity bus systems, including systems that are privately owned and operated, and including transportation alternatives, as defined in [23 U.S.C. 101\(a\)](#), and associated transit improvements, as described in [49 U.S.C. 5302\(a\)](#), as appropriate;
9. Design concept and design scope descriptions of all existing and proposed transportation facilities in sufficient detail, regardless of funding source, in nonattainment and maintenance areas for conformity determinations under the EPA's transportation conformity regulations ([40 CFR part 93, subpart A](#)). In all areas (regardless of air quality designation), all proposed improvements shall be described in sufficient detail to develop cost estimates;
10. A discussion of types of potential environmental mitigation activities and potential areas to carry out these activities, including activities that may have the greatest potential to restore and maintain the environmental functions affected by the metropolitan transportation plan. The discussion may focus on policies, programs, or strategies, rather than at the project level. The MPO shall develop the discussion in consultation with applicable Federal, State, and Tribal land management, wildlife, and regulatory agencies. The MPO may establish reasonable timeframes for performing this consultation;
11. A financial plan that demonstrates how the adopted transportation plan can be implemented.
12. Pedestrian walkway and bicycle transportation facilities in accordance with [23 U.S.C. 217\(g\)](#).