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October 7, 2013

FTA and FHWA Seek Comments on MPO Representation

In the September 30, 2013, *Federal Register*, the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration jointly published proposed policy guidance and a request for comments on the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) requirement that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in large, urbanized areas must include transit representation on their policy boards. APTA members can [review the proposal and submit comments here](#). Comments are due no later than October 30, 2013.

Lee Gibson, vice chair, APTA Policy and Planning Committee, and its Metropolitan Planning Subcommittee, will be initiating the development of APTA draft comments for review by all of APTA membership. If you are interested in participating on a conference call next week as part of the comment development, please contact Rich Weaver, Director - Planning, Policy & Sustainability, APTA Policy Department, by email: rweaver@apta.com to let him know.

FTA Seeks Comments on Ways to Strengthen, Coordinate Transit Safety and Asset Management

Last week, APTA announced that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is seeking public comments on the most significant regulatory step taken under FTA's new transit safety authority. The FTA published the [Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking \(ANPRM\) on Safety and Transit Asset Management](#) in the October 3, 2013 issue of the *Federal Register*.

This safety and transit asset management rulemaking is required by the MAP-21.

FTA seeks public comment on its initial interpretations, proposals under consideration, and numerous listed questions regarding: (1) the requirements of the National Safety Program; (2) the requirements of the National Transit Asset Management System, including four proposed options for defining and measuring state of good repair; and (3) the relationship between safety, transit asset management and state of good repair. FTA is also seeking comment on its intent to use a Safety Management System (SMS) approach to guide the development and implementation of the National Safety Program.

Comments are due to FTA by January 2, 2014.

FTA Publishes Proposed Formula Grants for Rural Areas Circular, Solicits Comments

The FTA recently published a Notice Of Availability Of Proposed Circular And Request For Comments on Formula Grants for Rural Areas. The purpose of the proposed circular is to provide recipients of FTA financial assistance with updated instructions and guidance on program administration and the grant application process. The revisions come as a result of changes made in MAP-21.

The Notice, summary of circular changes and comment submission instructions are found [here](#), on the *Federal Register* website.

The proposed circular, 9040 IG, can be found [here](#) on the FTA's website.

Comments are due to the FTA by November 25, 2013.

