

**Resolution of the
Southern Association of
State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO¹)
MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform**

WHEREAS, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) was signed into law on July 6, 2012 and established national performance goals for Safety, Infrastructure Condition, Congestion Reduction, System Reliability, Freight Movement and Economic Vitality, Environmental Sustainability, and Reduced Project Delivery Delays; and

WHEREAS, MAP-21 called for USDOT to establish performance measures for seven areas within 18 months of enactment, and prohibited USDOT from establishing additional performance measures; and

WHEREAS, federal rulemaking to establish National Performance Management Measures has now been underway for more than four years; and

WHEREAS, several Notices of Performance Rulemaking (NPRMs) have been issued to date to establish performance measures, target setting requirements, planning requirements and reporting schedules for implementing the federal performance requirements; and

WHEREAS, a related Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform was issued in the Federal Register on June 27, 2016 containing further changes to the Final Rule on Statewide and Metropolitan Planning issued on May 27, 2016; and

WHEREAS, this most recent NPRM represents a significant change in planning requirements for many Metropolitan Planning Organizations that is likely to disrupt federal-state-local partnerships that have developed over recent decades; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has submitted detailed comments on the NPRM including four principal comments as follows:

- 1) Cooperative practices already exist
- 2) Reduced flexibility and increased legal and administrative requirements are burdensome and unnecessary
- 3) A one size fits all approach does not allow States and MPOs to efficiently carry out regional transportation planning
- 4) The full breadth of unintended consequences has not been explored

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that SASHTO fully supports the AASHTO comments and recommends that they be given careful consideration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SASHTO Board of Directors hereby directs the SASHTO Secretary to submit this Resolution to the rulemaking Docket.

Approved by the SASHTO Board of Directors
on August 25, 2016

¹ SASHTO is the Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. The departments of transportation from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia are the member states of SASHTO. The Association was organized to encourage a balanced transportation system across the southern United States.