



TRANSIT OPERATORS IN MPO TRANSPORTATION DECISION-MAKING

Regional and megaregional transport systems enable the economic and social interactions that make metro regions significant engines of growth and innovation. One persistent research challenge is the lack of readily available data about the organizations responsible for regional transportation governance. Federal transportation law requires that urban areas have a state-designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) to coordinate transport planning and spending for the region. The MPO is usually governed by an appointed board, most members of which hold local elected offices in the region.

This research sets the stage for a series of explorations into the influence of regional (and megaregional) transportation governance and capacity on transportation investments and outcomes. The project develops a database capturing key MPO governance variables. For instance, it asks whether transit agencies and airport interests are represented on the board, what MPO committees exist for non-auto modes, and what its travel model capabilities are. The database includes information that indicates transit agency and airport representation in comparison to total board composition; whether or not MPOs have standing committees or advisory groups for active transportation, airport or transit; and the type of travel demand models currently used by MPOs. Other information includes if board representation in MPO areas is weighted and modes currently modeled by travel demand models used.

Initial stages of this research project include determining the most informative and objective variables accessible through MPO websites and travel demand model documentation. After establishing variables, the database can be used to investigate indicators of board composition, transit representation, airport representation, and advancement of travel demand modelling.

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Transit Operators in Metropolitan Transportation Decision Making (#CM2-27)

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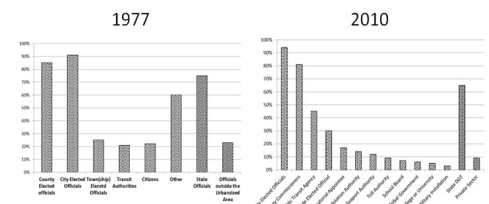
Project Information Form:
<http://sites.utexas.edu/cm2/files/2018/03/Year-1-Gian-Claudia-Sciara-Transit-Operators-in-Metropolitan.pdf>



1973 Highway Act
Requires MPOs that include elected officials



Broadening of Board Membership



MPOs (%) with Board Seat for this Participant

Based on 41 MPOs (~10%), 3-5 from each 10th percentile		
Average Voting Members:	15.6	Ranges from 3 to 112
Weighted Avg Voting Members:	24.5	
	MPOs	%
Has Voting Transit Representation	13	32%
Airport Committees	0	0%
Pedestrian or Bicycle Committees	9	22%
Transit Committees	2	5%

MPO Board Membership History & Data