



## UTC Project Information – Cooperative Mobility for Competitive Megaregions (CM<sup>2</sup>)

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| <b>Project Title</b>  | Identifying Organizational Changes to Facilitate MPO Megaregion Planning  |
| <b>University</b>   | University of Texas at Austin   |
| <b>Principal Investigator</b>   | Lisa Loftus-Otway and Robert Harrison   |
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| <b>Funding Source(s) and Amounts Provided</b><br>(by each agency or organization) | U.S. Department of Transportation:<br>\$107,795 (Year 1)<br>\$65,951 (Year 2)<br>UT Austin (reduced overhead): \$35,440<br>TxDOT: \$52,700  |
| <b>Total Project Cost</b>   | \$261,886   |
| <b>Agency ID or Contract Number</b>   | UTDOT Grant number: 69A3551747135   |
| <b>Start and End Dates</b>  | 1/6/2017 - 5/31/2019  |
| <b>Brief Description of Research Project</b>                                      | Beyond Traffic 2045 suggested that transportation funding be organized around emerging megaregions, while at the same time noting the importance of existing and future challenges of planning across jurisdictional boundaries. Developing recommendations for the roles, requirements and responsibilities for the various transportation agencies, and MPOs and planning agencies could be 'scaled-up' to form megaregional partnership with goals to align planning across the megaregions is needed. Currently, MPOs are only required to include projects and programs within their boundaries. To better support a framework for megaregion planning, MPOs could also incorporate the broader needs of corridors that run through, but are not contained within, their urbanized area. This project will develop recommendations for implementing a framework for megaregional planning that can be applied to the other megaregions, and can be used by the MPO/COGs notwithstanding current federal rules. The work will also integrated findings from a companion piece of work "Creating a framework to determine purpose and need for increased travel options in the megaregion for vulnerable (environmental justice) communities." |
| <b>Describe Implementation of Research Outcomes</b><br>(or why not implemented)   | Researcher Loftus-Otway led a webinar in November 2018 on the Evolving Challenges in Regional and Megaregional Planning with WTS. Paulina Urbanowicz, a CM2 GRA to researcher Loftus-Otway was the 2018 Eno Fellow for the Transportation Leadership Development Conference program. Researcher Loftus, Otway also  |

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| <b>Impacts/Benefits of Implementation</b><br>(actual, not anticipated) | The goal of this collaborative team project is to create a framework for megaregional planning that can be applied as a template to the megaregions (MR) that our team comprise: Texas Triangle, Gulf Coast and the North East. The goal will be to develop products that can be utilized by the MPOs/COGs, and so has an extremely practical application along with an academic element. |
| <b>Web Links</b><br>(to reports, project website, etc.)                |   |

