



Advocacy Advance

Tools to Increase
Biking and Walking



January 10, 2013

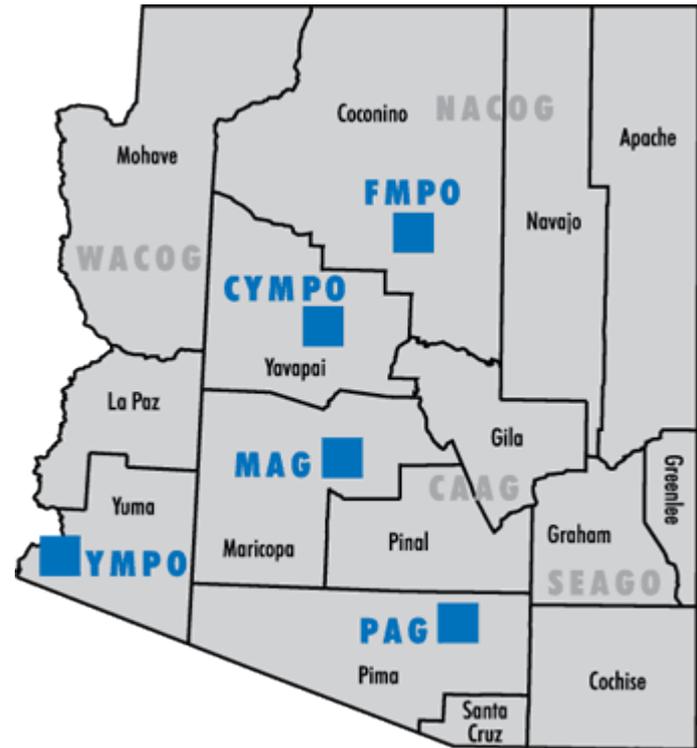
Metropolitan Planning Organizations & Safe Routes To School

Bike/Ped Friendly MPO Working Group

- Mitch Barloga
Northwestern Indiana
Regional Planning Commission
- Aaron Bartlett
Mid-America Regional Council
- Ann Chanecka
Pima Association of
Governments (now city)
- Sandy Fry
Capitol Region Council of
Governments (now transit)
- David Henderson
Miami-Dade Metropolitan
Planning Organization
- Dan Jatres
New Orleans Regional
Planning Commission
- Leslie Meehan
Nashville Area Metropolitan
Planning Organization
- Tom Murtha
Chicago Metropolitan Agency
for Planning
- Byron Rushing
Atlanta Regional Commission

What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?

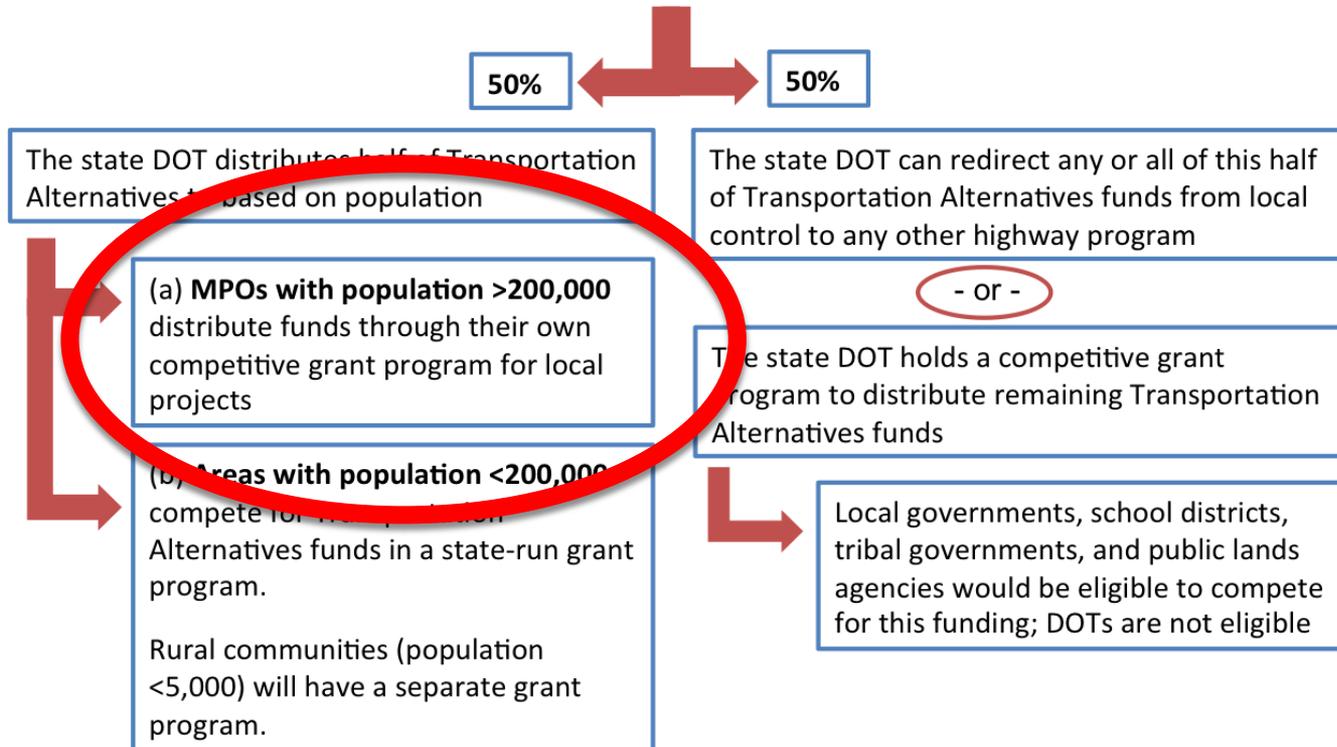
- Regional transportation planning bodies
- Representatives from local governments
- Channel federal funds
- Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive (“3-C”) planning process
- Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTP)
- Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP)



Distribution of TA Funds

Biking & walking programs — Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to School, and Recreational Trails — are consolidated with other uses into a new program called Transportation Alternatives with a 33% reduction in funding from fiscal year 2011

The Recreational Trails program is funded at 2009 levels unless the Governor chooses to opt out



Note: in case of emergency, a state can transfer all funds from Transportation Alternatives to rebuilding any damaged transportation infrastructure.

Challenges for Safe Routes

- New for many MPOs
- SRTS “in competition” with others programs
- Projects selected under old TE process won’t include SRTS
- Match required



Photo: WSDOT

Opportunities for Safe Routes

- Non-infrastructure projects eligible for K-8 SRTS
- Creativity – Projects can achieve multiple goals
- Criteria – projects two miles of a school?
- MPO model process guidelines...in Jan?

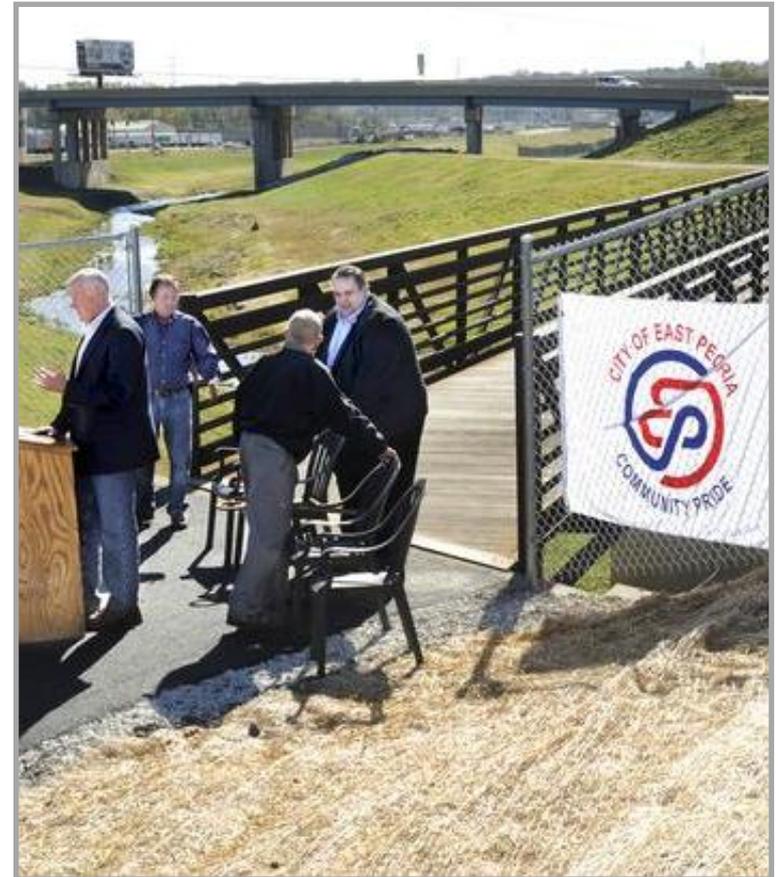


Photo: saferoutesinfo.org

Best Practices: Conditions for Success

- Political leadership
- Capable staff
(supportive is even better)
- Regular funding stream

Advocacy tip: Treat MPO campaigns just like any other advocacy campaign



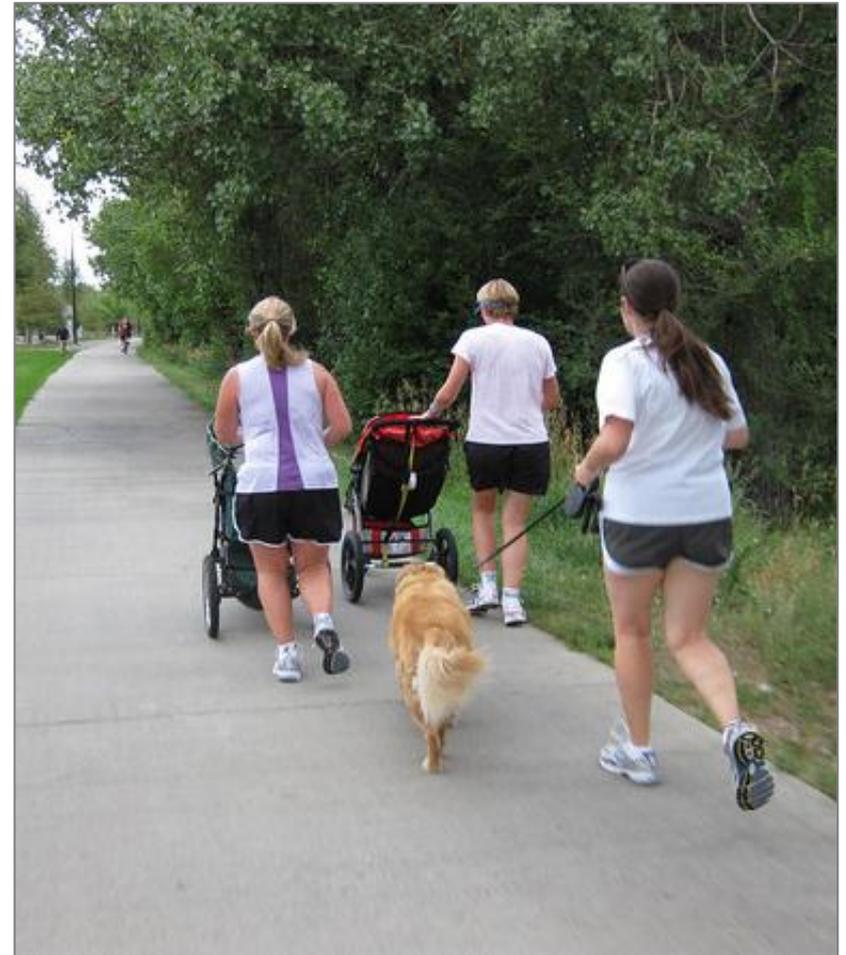
Best Practices: Planning

- ❑ Be engaged in the planning process
- ❑ Collect and share data on walking/biking to school rates
- ❑ Integrate SRTS projects into planning documents
- ❑ Database of SRTS projects



Best Practices: TA Competitive Process

- ❑ SRTS reps to help:
 - ❑ set applications
 - ❑ selection criteria
 - ❑ project decisions
- ❑ Project selection criteria should:
 - ❑ Ask about proximity to schools
 - ❑ Ask about health benefits



Best Practices: TA Competitive Process

- ❑ Work with communities & school districts to develop strong applications
- ❑ Award projects promptly
- ❑ Improve process over time



Photo: Dan Burden

Best Practices: Selection Committee

- ❑ Safe Routes to School advocates or schools reps
- ❑ Bicycle & pedestrian advocates
- ❑ BPAC members
- ❑ Transit reps
- ❑ Park reps
- ❑ Accessibility reps
- ❑ Public works
- ❑ Local community reps



Follow up

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