

**Remember:**

**Transportation Planning  
We cannot do it . . . Without You!**

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**Our Partners in Progress:**



United States of America  
Department of Transportation



Arkansas State Highway and  
Transportation Department



of

**M P O**

**ABC's of the Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Prepared by  
**J** JONESBORO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (JATS)  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

## Policy Committee

## Technical Advisory Committee

### Voting Members

**Council Member John Street**  
Chairperson  
City of Jonesboro

**Mr. Robert Wood**  
Chairperson  
Craighead County

**Mayor Kenneth D. Jones**  
Vice Chairperson  
City of Brookland

**Mr. Duane Harvey**  
Vice Chairperson  
City of Brookland

**Mayor Harold Perrin**  
City of Jonesboro

**Mr. Erick Woodruff**  
City of Jonesboro

**Judge Dale Haas**  
Craighead County

**Mr. Rick Rorex**  
City of Jonesboro

**Mayor Darrell Kirby**  
City of Bay

**Dr. Gail Hudson**  
City of Jonesboro

**Vacant**  
City of Bono

**Mr. David Moore**  
Craighead County

**Vacant**  
Craighead County

**Vacant**  
City of Bono

**Council Member Ann Williams**  
City of Jonesboro

**Mr. Larry Hall**  
City of Bay

**Ms. Kathy Cole**  
Community Transportation  
Advisory Board

**Mr. Everett Fair**  
Community Transportation  
Advisory Board

**Mr. Alan Meadors**  
AHTD

**Ms. Julia Hart**  
AHTD

**Mr. Joe Barnett**  
AHTD

**Mr. Steven Alexander**  
AHTD  
**Mr. Walter McMillan**  
AHTD

### Non-Voting Members

**Mr. Gary DalPorto, Federal Highway Administration**  
**Ms. Lynn Hayes, Federal Transit Administration**

## WHAT OTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE?

This booklet has given you a brief introduction to the MPO. If you would like to learn more about the issues the MPO deals with and the services it provides, you may wish to visit the MPO office.

### JATS Literature

#### Documents:

MPO Bylaws  
Transportation Improvement Program  
Unified Planning Work Program  
Metropolitan Transportation Plan  
Public Participation Plan  
Coordinated Public Transit – Human  
Services Transportation Plan  
TIP Procedures Document  
Travel Time and Delay Study  
MPO Profile  
MPO Handbook  
MPO Primer

#### GIS Maps:

MPO Study Area  
AHTD Urban Boundary  
Census Defined Urbanized Area  
City Limits  
MPO Functional Classification Streets Map  
MPO Greenway Map  
JETS Routes  
ZIP Code Map

#### PowerPoint Presentations:

Get to Know Your MPO  
Why this Community Needs a Long Range Transportation Plan  
Goals of the Long Range Transportation Plan  
10 Principals of Access Management

The MPO also maintains a library that contains several publications on transportation and related subjects. Visitors may read any of the library's publications while at the office and may make copies at cost. However, most publications cannot be removed from the office. The MPO staff is also available to make presentations or to speak to organizations or groups of citizens on any subject of mutual interest.

## HOW DO I CONTACT THE MPO?

If you have any questions or comments, you may visit, write, fax, or call the MPO office to contact the MPO staff.

Muhammad Amin Ulkarim, Transportation Study Director

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## FUNDING FOR THE MPO:



The United States Department of Transportation (DOT), through the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, provides 80% of funding for tasks in a UPWP and capital improvement projects in a TIP.

Transit operation is funded at 50% level. Matching funds come from the local agencies sponsoring a

project.

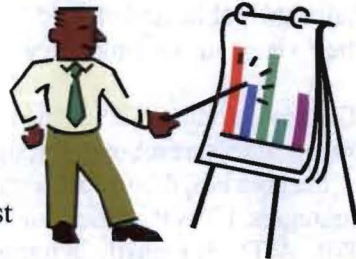
## ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF THE MPO TO THE COMMUNITY:

The MPO's role is to gather planning data, provide accurate information, and coordinate an open and cooperative planning process that promotes good decisions for our region's future. The MPO has the ambition of becoming a data bank for demographic, employment data, traffic count, and accident location data for the entire county area. The MPO is developing various GIS maps. This data is useful for other public and private entities for the planning and forecasting of their operations and future development.

## MEETINGS OF THE MPO:

**Policy Committee:** Third Tuesday in February, May, August and November, unless cancelled.

**Technical Advisory Committee:** First Tuesday in January, April, July, and October unless cancelled.



The committees meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Transportation Conference Room, City of Jonesboro, 519 W. Washington Avenue, Jonesboro, Arkansas. As always, our citizens are welcome to all meetings.

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

1. Read MPO Literature.
2. Invite MPO to address your group or organization.
3. Join the MPO E-Mail List.
4. Log on to the MPO Web Site.
5. Attend MPO Meetings.
6. Share your Concerns and Views.
7. Contact your Elected Representatives.

## WELCOME TO THE MPO:

The purpose of this handbook is to explain "the basics" of the Jonesboro Area Transportation Study (JATS) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Hereinafter called the MPO.



- What is the MPO?
- What is the Mission of the MPO?
- What does the MPO do?
- How the MPO does Transportation Planning?
- Funding for the MPO.
- Additional Benefits of the MPO to the Community.
- Meetings of the MPO.
- How can I get Involved?
- What other information is available?
- How do I contact the MPO?

## WHAT IS THE MPO?

A MPO is a transportation policy-making organization made up of representatives from local governments and transportation authorities. A Federal legislation requires the formation of an MPO for any urbanized area with a population greater than 50,000.

The Jonesboro MPO was formed in 2003 to develop a long-range transportation plan (Metropolitan Transportation Plan) for the Jonesboro area. The governor of Arkansas and local elected officials designated the Jonesboro Area Transportation Study (JATS) **Policy Committee** as the official MPO. The area served by the MPO includes Jonesboro, Brookland, Bay, Bono and a portion of Craighead County.

## WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE MPO?

The MPO's mission is to provide short and long-term solutions to transportation and transportation related concerns. The stated mission of the MPO is, "*To improve various modes of transportation and provide interconnections for these modes for optimal efficiency of the entire transportation system in the metropolitan region in cooperation with local government agencies and providers of different modes of transportation.*"



## WHAT DOES THE MPO DO?

The MPO is responsible for planning and developing a safe, efficient, and affordable transportation system for the region. The following are the major work activities:

1. A **Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)** is the guide for transportation investments in the MPO area for the next 20 years.
2. A **four-year program for highway and transit improvement** called the **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**: All federally funded projects listed for improvements must be part of a TIP. A TIP is updated every two years.
3. A **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** that lists studies and tasks to be performed by MPO and its member agencies with MPO funds. UPWP is prepared yearly.
4. A proactive and inclusive **Public Participation Plan (PPP)** lists the methods to keep the citizens involved in transportation planning process.
5. A **Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation (CTP – HSTP) Plan** to utilize transportation funds effectively in providing service to elderly, low-income, and disabled persons.
6. An **Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Plan**: A plan to employ electronics technologies to relieve congestion, improve safety and enhance productivity of transportation infrastructure.

## HOW THE MPO DOES TRANSPORTATION PLANNING?

The process of identifying transportation problems and looking for solutions to those problems is called transportation planning. The MPO was created to insure that existing and future expenditures for transportation projects and programs are based on **comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing (3-C) planning process**. Transportation planning must be cooperative, because no single agency has the responsibility for the construction, operation, or maintenance of the entire transportation system.

The MPO performs its responsibilities at three levels: the MPO Staff, the Technical Advisory Committee, and the Policy Committee.

The **MPO staff** insures "early and continuing" involvement of the public in the transportation planning process.



The citizens and officials of a region have a long-term vision for transportation in their region. The staff helps the public and elected officials transform their vision into a long range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

The next product, TIP, is the region's way of allocating its limited transportation resources among the various capital and operating needs of the area based on short-term transportation priorities. ITS plan strategies, UPWP studies, and citizens' participation help in shaping a TIP. A TIP is realistic in terms of available funding (fiscally constrained) and not just a "wish list" of projects.

The **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** appointed by the Policy Committee assists the Policy Committee in decision making process. TAC provides technical support in the preparation and review of MTP, TIP, UPWP, ITS, CTP-HSTP, and PPP. The Technical Advisory Committee, then, recommends adoption of these documents to the Policy Committee.

The governing body of the organization, the **Policy Committee**, is composed of the elected officials of local government entities and appointed officials of providers of transportation in the region. The **Policy Committee is the MPO**. This committee makes policy and approves each plan and project for the MPO.