

**In this guide, you will find details on the workings of the Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). It describes the transportation planning process for the Bloomington urbanized area and how the citizens can participate in that process.**



**What is an MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization), and what does it do?**

A Metropolitan Planning Organization coordinates transportation planning activities in a designated area. In order to receive federal highway or transit funds, federal law requires the establishment of an MPO in an area with a population greater than 50,000. The Bloomington/Monroe County MPO was created in 1982. It covers 57.1 square miles and includes the City of Bloomington, the Town of Ellettsville, and portions of Monroe County. The MPO is responsible for creating short- and long-term transportation plans for the area and for budgeting the available federal funds.



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***If you are interested in  
Local Transportation Issues...***



***...then get involved with the  
Bloomington/Monroe County MPO!***



## What is the Transportation Planning Process?

A transportation problem (for example, traffic congestion in a particular area) or a new idea (for example, a new bike trail) is raised by one of the MPO committees, elected officials, or a citizens' group. The MPO studies the proposal, then consults with affected community members (stakeholders) and the public. If the Policy Committee determines that there is a need for the project and there is agreement on the source of funding, it will include the project and prioritize it in the **Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**.

The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a 25-year plan for transportation infrastructure improvements within the MPO's Metropolitan Planning Area. The Plan is updated every five years to ensure that it continues the required 25-year time outlook. This is an important tool for the community to prioritize long-term transportation investments.

Once a project is included in the LRTP it is eligible for inclusion and prioritization in the **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**. The TIP is a short-term capital improvement plan which identifies projects to be implemented within four years. The TIP is updated annually and must be approved by state and federal transportation agencies. Eligible projects are typically funded with 80% state and federal funds and 20% local funds.

While the TIP and the LRTP address physical improvements, the **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** addresses planning activities of the MPO. The UPWP lists the responsibilities of the MPO staff and any studies or educational efforts to be undertaken during the fiscal year. A federal grant funds 80% of the annual UPWP budget.

## How Can I Get Involved?

The City of Bloomington Planning Department provides the administrative staff support for the MPO, which consists of three committees: the Policy Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee, and the Citizens Advisory Committee.

### When and Where are the Meetings?

All committee meetings are open to the public and are held in the McCloskey Conference Room in Bloomington's City Hall. The Policy Committee meets on the second Friday of every other month, at 1:30 p.m.; the Technical Advisory Committee on the fourth Friday of each month, at 1:30 p.m.; and the Citizens Advisory Committee on the fourth Wednesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting times may occasionally change, so check the schedule with the Bloomington Planning Department at 812-349-3423 or check the MPO website: [www.bloomington.in.gov/mpo](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/mpo)

The **Policy Committee** approves all projects, plans, and policies of the MPO. It consists of a number of elected and appointed local officials, including the Mayor of Bloomington, the President of the County Commissioners, the President of the Ellettsville Town Council, and the Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

The **Technical Advisory Committee** provides technical review and advice to the MPO staff and the Policy Committee on all projects, plans, and policies of the MPO. It consists of a variety of key planning, transportation, and engineering staff from member jurisdictions and agencies, as well as the Vice-Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

The **Citizens Advisory Committee** provides citizen input and recommendations to the MPO staff and the Policy Committee on all projects, plans, and policies of the MPO. It consists of interested citizens from throughout the area, including representatives from neighborhood associations, local service organizations, and members of boards and commissions such as environmental, bike/ped, and traffic.

Transportation documents, meeting minutes, agendas, and schedules of the three MPO Committees, and other transportation resources are available online. For further information about the MPO or how you can get involved with MPO committees, visit the MPO website at:

[www.bloomington.in.gov/mpo](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/mpo)

Or, contact MPO staff at the information provided on the back of this brochure.

### Did you Know...

According to the U.S. Census, about two-thirds of Bloomington commuters reported driving alone as their primary mode of transportation for commuting to work in 2000.

