

Transportation Reauthorization

Provide a strong and focused role in shaping the nation's Surface Transportation Program

Goal:

- Preserve MPO structure & maintain current population threshold
- Support long term funding sources for all modes of transportation
- Consider impacts of Buy America requirement to avoid unintended consequences
- Support inclusion & funding for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program (CMAQ)

Description:

- MPO Population Threshold – MAP-21 retained population thresholds for new MPOs at 50,000. The next federal transportation reauthorization bill should continue this policy to ensure San Joaquin Valley transportation agencies have the federal funds they need to implement federal and state planning goals related to multi-modal planning and air quality conformity. An increase in the population threshold would remove the MPO designation from three of the eight San Joaquin Valley counties –including Merced.
- Support passage of a long-term bill to provide greater certainty of the resources available.
- Provide consistency and clarification of the requirements for Buy America through guidance and rulemaking, including the waiver process. Clear procedures for obtaining waivers are necessary due to insufficient quantity, quality or timely availability of particular products. We also ask that Buy America requirements be consistent throughout each US DOT modal administration such as FTA & FHWA since federal law permits each modal administration to implement Buy America requirements through their own regulations and guidance.
- Support inclusion of CMAQ funding to provide the Merced Region financial resources to develop programs or projects that contribute to attainment and/or maintenance of national air quality standards.



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