

INTRODUCTION TO THE REGIONAL CONCEPT FOR TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS (RCTO)

NTOC Planning for Operations Webinar

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RCTO Webinar

- Introduce the regional concept for transportation operations (RCTO)
- Share practitioners' knowledge of developing and implementing an RCTO
- Announce the new FHWA publication on the RCTO

What is a Regional Concept for Transportation Operations?

- A management tool to assist in planning and implementing management and operations strategies in a collaborative and sustained manner
- Guides agencies in thinking through what they would like to achieve within 3 to 5 years and how they want to get there

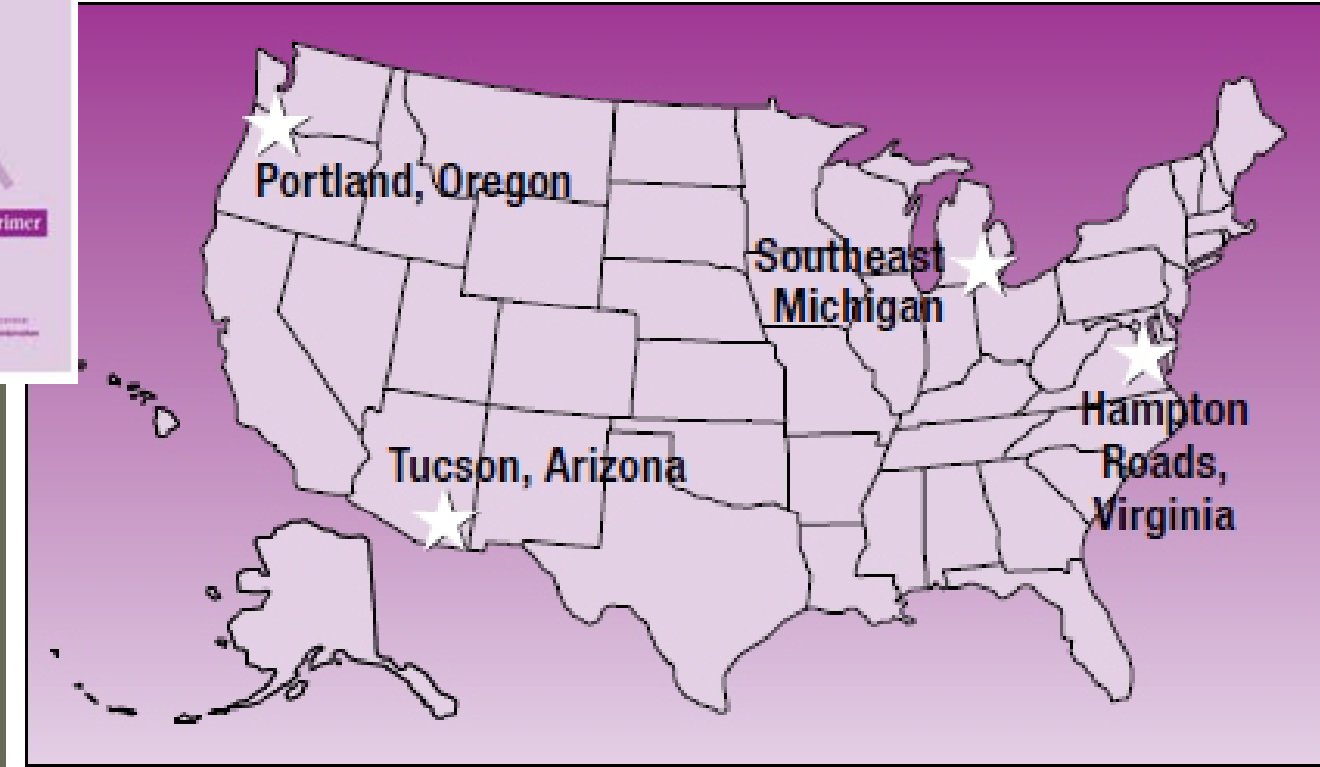
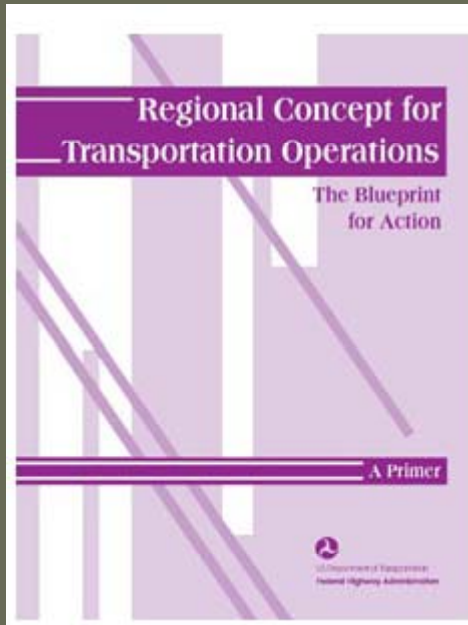
Purpose of an RCTO

- Promotes effective and efficient action towards improving transportation system performance by getting everyone “on the same page”
- Facilitates coordinating priorities, leveraging resources, and alleviating duplicative efforts
- Provides opportunity to link transportation planning and operations

RCTO History

- Idea emerged from FHWA-FTA Linking Planning and Operations Working Group 2000-2001
- Supported in 2003 by special policy committee of TRB
- Maricopa Association of Governments and MTC (Bay Area, CA) developed early RCTOs that informed current vision of RCTO described by FHWA
- FHWA developed RCTO white paper and primer

FHWA RCTO Demonstration Initiative



Why Use an RCTO?

Need for
Improved
Operations

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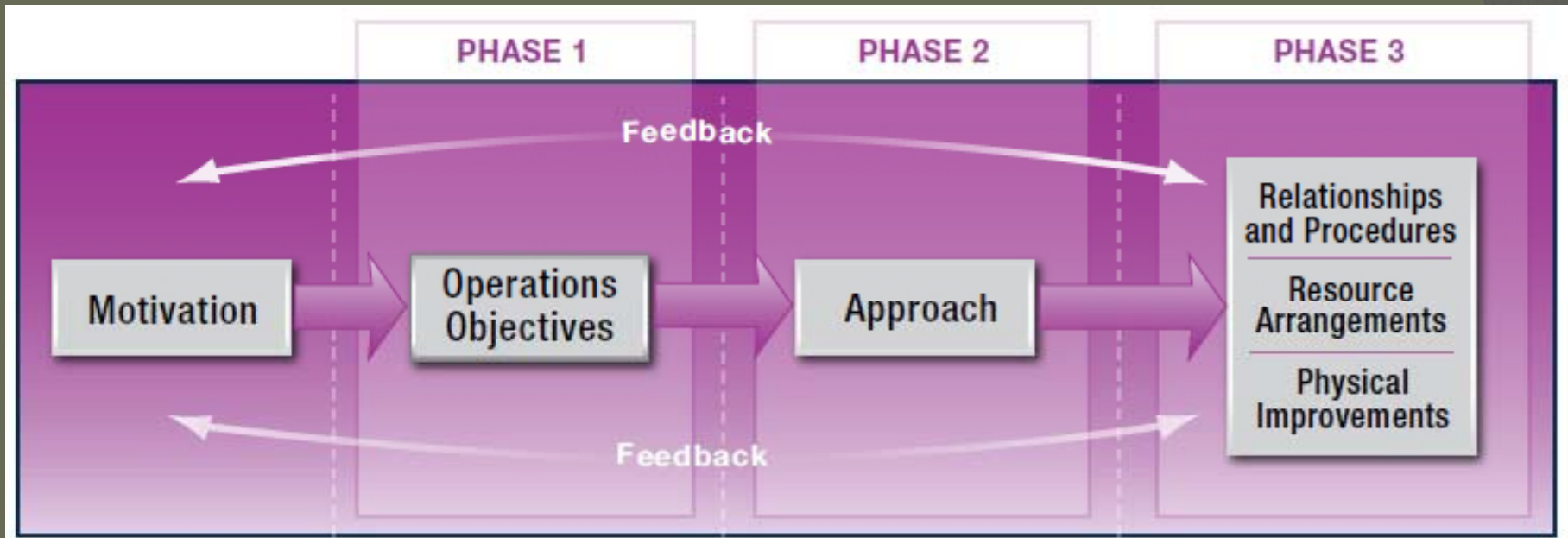
Need for
Collaboration

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Need for a
Strategic,
Formal
Approach

= Motivation for RCTO

RCTO Development



RCTO Elements

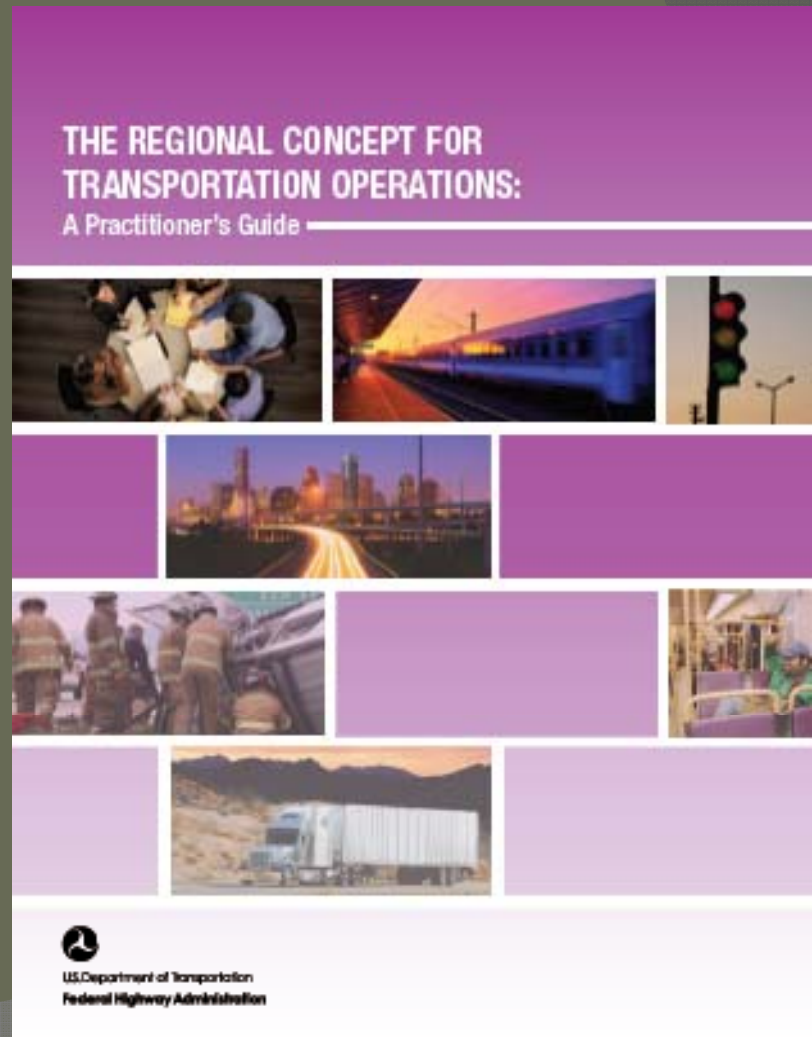
- ① **Motivation (“Why”)**: Reasons for developing an RCTO based on regional needs, goals, or operational concerns.
- ② **Operations Objective (“What”)**: Desired near-term outcome(s) in terms of transportation system performance and related performance measures.
- ③ **Approach (“How”)**: Overall description of how the operations objective will be achieved.

RCTO Elements (Cont'd)

- **Relationships and Procedures:** Institutional arrangements, memoranda of understanding (MOUs), protocols, information sharing, etc.
- **Physical Improvements:** Facilities, equipment, systems, etc.
- **Resource Arrangements:** Sources and use of funding, staff, equipment, etc.

Upcoming RCTO Practitioner's Guide from FHWA

Available soon at:
<http://www.plan4operations.dot.gov/>



Summary

- An RCTO can make collaboration more productive and beneficial for participating agencies
- An RCTO helps maintain the collaborative effort even as individuals move on
- RCTO can elevate operations concerns in the planning process