



Developing and Reaching Agreement on Operations Objectives: Background and Resources

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Expanding our roads and rails takes time and significant funding.



How can we make a difference in the way people and goods move in the region now?

Motivation for Advancing Management & Operations in the Planning Process

- Limited funding for large-scale capacity projects
- Long-time to plan, assess, and build new infrastructure
- Potential adverse impacts on communities, land use, air quality, etc.
- Need to Think Beyond Traditional Capacity Projects

There is a more immediate need to address traveler concerns through better planning for transportation system management and operations

Management & Operations Strategies Include...

- Traffic incident management
- Traffic signal coordination
- Transit signal priority
- Freight management
- Work zone management
- Special event management
- Road weather management
 - Congestion pricing
 - Managed lanes
- Ridesharing programs
- Parking management
- Electronic toll collection
- Traveler information

Rationale For Working to Outcomes

- Operations Objectives in the Transportation Plan Can Drive Better Investments in Management and Operations,
- Increases Accountability and Measurement of System Performance,
- Engages the Operations Community in a Substantive Manner.

“What Gets Measured Gets Managed”

The Philosophy Behind Planning for Operations

- Focus on specific outcomes and regional objectives
- Planning and investment decisions based on performance measures and data
- High levels of multi-modal collaboration between agencies and jurisdictions

**Moving Beyond Just a List of M & O Projects
in the Transportation Plan**

The Approach

An Objectives-Driven, Performance-Based Approach to Planning for Operations



Advantages

- Prioritizes investments for improved performance
 - Leads to investments in M&O strategies that are relatively low-cost and “make sense” to constituents
- Measurable results
 - Helps identify strategies that deliver measurable improvements
- Focused on outcomes
 - Aligns resources and regional activities with operations objectives for greater impact
- Increases accountability
- Advances regional consensus and collaboration

Operations Objectives

- Objectives are specific, measurable statements of outcomes relating to attainment of goals
- They should be “SMART”:

Specific. Sufficient to guide approaches

Measurable. Quantitative Measurement

Agreed. Consensus among partners

Realistic. Can be accomplished

Time-bound. Identified time-frame for accomplishment

Developing Operations Objectives

Operations objectives included in an MPO plan are developed through ***collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders*** to reflect regional values.

- May involve
 - Convening operators and planners in a region
 - Collecting and analyzing data on the current and planned transportation system to determine operational problems (e.g., congestion issues)
 - Revisiting needs brought out during the regional ITS architecture development

Investments Focus on System Performance Outcomes



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Federal Transit Administration



“By focusing on specific performance improvements, we have made progress on things that our constituents care about like improved safety, accessibility, and mobility and reduced congestion.”

- Barbara Wysocki, Champaign County Board Chair, Illinois

Gaining Regional Consensus



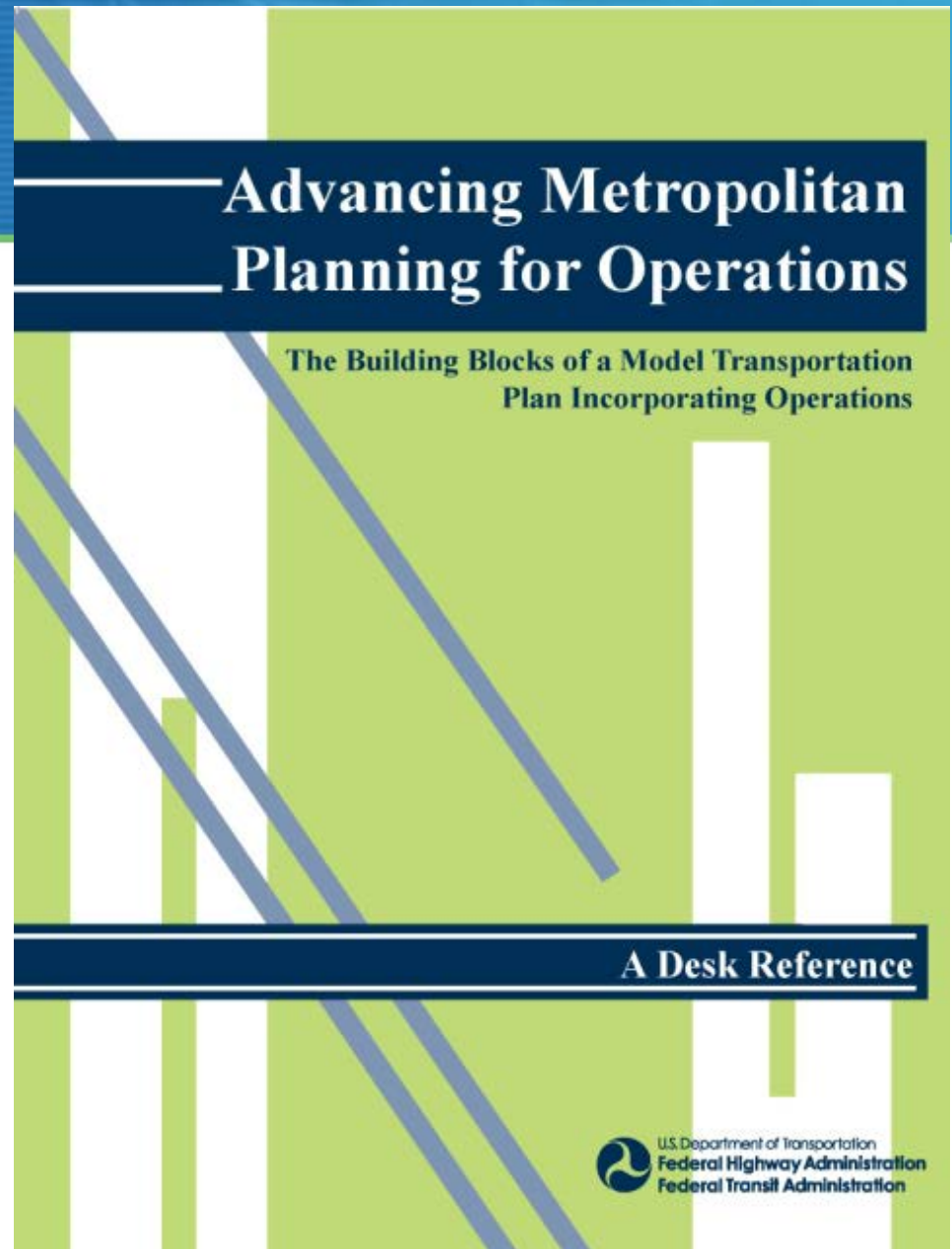
“...one of the best ways to get everyone thinking and working from the same page is to set measurable goals and work together to reach them.”

- Sam Olens, former Chairman of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners and former Atlanta Regional Commission Chair

Sample Operations Objectives

- By 2015, at least 90 percent of transit buses will arrive within no more than 5 minutes of scheduled time.
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled per capita by 5 percent by 2020.
- By 2020, reduce the clearance time of traffic incidents on freeways in the region from a current average of X minutes to Y minutes.

**A Resource
from
FHWA/FTA to
Assist
Regions in
Developing
Operations
Objectives**



Desk Reference

- Provides regions with large menu of sample operations objectives and performance measures
- Offers an example plan resulting from use of approach
- Links potential M&O strategies and safety impacts to objectives

Menu of Operations Objectives

System Outcomes:

Efficiency Reliability System Options

Operations Focus Areas:

Arterial Management	Emergency / Incident Management
Freeway Management	Special Event Management
Freight Management	Transit Operations & Management
Traveler Information	Travel Demand Management
Work Zone Management	Travel Weather Management

Transportation Plan and TIP Resulting from Approach

Transportation Plan includes:

- Goals and measurable objectives that advance operational performance outcomes of the transportation system
- Performance measures used to track progress toward objectives
- M&O strategies to meet the measurable objectives

M&O strategies are programmed and implemented in collaboration with local agencies

Results of the Objectives-Driven, Performance-Based Approach

Stage of Planning Process	Examples	
Operations Goal(s)	Improve transportation system reliability / reduce unexpected traveler delay	
Operations Objectives	Reduce incident-based delay so that by 2010, travelers experience...	Improve transit system reliability so that by 2020, at least 95% of buses operate on-schedule...
Performance Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average incident duration (mean minutes per incident) • Vehicle hours of non-recurring delay due to incidents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of buses more than 5 minutes off schedule • Number of bus breakdowns/ major delays
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic cameras and detection systems to identify incidents more quickly • Roving incident response teams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPS systems to track transit buses • Improved traveler information on transit services
Projects/ Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install traffic cameras on Route X (2009) • Install variable message signs on Route X (2010) • Implement Incident Clearance Teams on Route X (2010) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install GPS locator system for bus system (2010) • Install “Next Bus” electronic signs along major commuter corridors (2011)

For More Information

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