

- Performance Management: Preparing for MAP-21 (*Erik Cempel, Jocelyn Hoffman - Cambridge Systematics*)

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) creates a performance-based Federal program with the intent of increasing accountability and transparency and improving transportation investment decision-making. Performance management revolves around a data-driven framework consisting of goals and objectives; performance measures; targets; allocation of resources; and monitoring and reporting. MAP-21 designates a core set of national goals, with associated performance measures to be determined by USDOT, along with a variety of planning and programming requirements. While instituting a performance-based Federal program has implications at the state, regional, and even local levels, this research focuses on implications for metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and transit agencies. Key elements include regional plans that use a performance-based approach to decision-making in support of national goals; MPO-established targets for national measures; performance reports comparing actual performance to target values; consideration of measures and targets when developing policies, programs and investment priorities, which link to Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects; and coordination with the DOT and transit operators on measures and targets. Some MPOs are moving forward with developing a performance-based approach to planning that aligns with MAP-21, with the understanding that updates may be necessary. Information is drawn from work completed for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); examples of how MPOs can approach these requirements are drawn from best practices around the country.

