

GOVERNANCE ISSUE

At the last meeting of the Regional Planning Board various governance options were presented and discussed. It became apparent that Option A, which would change the designation of the MPO to the RPB, is not a workable alternative. Option B, however, may provide the basis for a more workable arrangement.

To provide more clarity, staff has put together a skeleton governance structure chart for Option B, indicating the working relationships between the various entities involved in regional planning in the future.

Conversations with various interested parties have brought up the following issues related to this structure.

- What is the flow of the decision making process? Do recommendations regarding transportation issues go to the Policy Committee and then the Regional Planning Board or vice-versa? This decision would have an impact upon the rest of the governance structure.
- Should the Council of Mayors, particularly the Executive Committee of the Council of Mayors have an expanded role going beyond transportation and become directly involved with the Regional Planning Board and non-transportation issues?
- Should there be a committee or committees responsible for guiding the work of the staff, particularly the development of the Unified Work Program, in much the same way that the current Work Program Committee does? Specifically, should the NIPC Commission or similar committee and the Work Program Committee continue to exist separately, making recommendations to the Regional Planning Board and/or the Policy Committee? This defines where the integration of land use and transportation planning takes place. Should integration take place at the RPB level, or where plans and programs are developed?
- If a single committee is preferred, what should be the composition be in terms of membership and should it have either a technical or policy orientation?
- Should there be a committee empowered to act for the MPO in some instances as the Work Program Committee currently does?

Keep in mind that any arrangement will be responsible for all facets of planning, not just transportation planning, with the RPB providing the vision and policy framework, as set forth in its enabling legislation. Regardless of the final structure, it is recommended that our current committee and task force structure be reevaluated in light of the merger.

Please review the attached chart as a starting point in these discussions at the June Policy Committee meeting.