

**VOLUME II, SECTION II.  
PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

(Parenthetical indicates where the subject matter is discussed in this report.)

On May 20<sup>th</sup> 1998, CDOT entered into an agreement with the University of Denver to complete a project with the following description:

- A. Conduct an examination of the operation of the MPO in the Denver Transportation Management (TMA) region. Focus areas include:
  - 1. The institutional and process structure of the MPO. (Volume II, Sections VI & VIII and Volume III, Sections V & VII.)
  - 2. The CDOT and MPO resource allocation process. ( Volume III, Sections III, IV, V & VI.)
  - 3. Federal statutory requirements and/or regulations to facilitate implementation of recommendations in the region. (Volume II, Sections III, IV, V, & VII and Volume III, Section IX.)
  
- B. Provide background and historical context of MPO's. Define the statutory and regulatory requirements on MPO's as they relate to structure, geography, air quality status and product. Identify some comparable examples of how other MPO's developed. (Volume II, Sections III, IV, V, VI & VII.)
  
- C. Are federal, state, and local statutory and regulatory requirements being met? How was the MPO process developed and how has it evolved over time to current practices?
  - 1. Review MPO structure, geography, conformity process and work products. (Structure – Volume II, Sections VI & VIII; geography – Volume II, Sections III, IV, VI & VII; conformity process – Volume II, Sections IV & VI and Volume III, Sections IV & V; work products – Volume II, Section VI.)
  - 2. Review federal certification documentation. (Volume II, Section V.)
  - 3. Evaluate MPO structure, geography, conformity process and products in light of statutory and regulatory requirements. (Structure – Volume II, Sections VI & VIII; geography – Volume II, Sections III, IV, VI, VII and Volume III, Sections V, VI, & IX; conformity process – Volume II, Sections IV & VI and Volume III, Sections IV & V; work products – Volume II, Section VI.)
  - 4. Compare and contrast performance with comparable MPO's. (Volume II, Sections VI & VIII and Volume III, Sections V, VI, VII, & VIII.)
  - 5. Evaluate role of local government in meeting those requirements. (Volume II, Section VI and Volume III, Sections V, VII & VIII.)

D. Does the MPO process meet the transportation resource needs of the metropolitan area?

1. Evaluate MPO Memorandum of Agreement and current policies. (Volume II, Section VI.)
  - a) Are defined interagency relationships adequate? (Volume III, Sections VII & VIII.)
  - b) Are local governments adequately represented in MPO process? (Volume III, Sections VII & VIII.)
  - c) Is policy of distributing STP funds throughout TMA appropriate? (Volume III, Section V.)
2. Evaluate relationship of state fund allocation process to MPO.
  - a) Evaluate distribution of funds relative to state needs and equity. (Volume III, Section VI.)
  - b) Engineering district/commission district issues. (Volume III, Section VI.)
3. Evaluate Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) allocation process.
  - a) Examine past TIP criteria and resulting TIP's. (Volume III, Sections IV & V.)
  - b) Evaluate the process of development of TIP criteria. (Volume III, Section IV.)
  - c) Evaluate distribution of funds relative to metropolitan needs and equity. (Volume III, Section V.)
  - d) In light of requirements on the planning process, identify pros and cons of
    - i. past practice. (Volume III, Section V.)

E. How is the current MPO structure and process working? Are member needs being met in the process?

1. Interview past and present TC members (local government, CDOT and RTD). (Volume III, Sections VII & VIII.)
2. Interview sample of past and present DRCOG Board members, CDOT commissioners, RTD Board members and FHWA/FTA representatives. (Volume III, Sections VII & VIII.)
3. Analyze the current status of the MPO and determine how its institutional and process structure is working. (Organizational Capacity: resources, size, efficiency) (Volume II, Sections VI & VIII, and Volume III, Sections VII & VIII.)
4. Identify and evaluate participation responsibilities of member governments. (Volume II, Section VI and Volume III, Section VIII.)
5. Identify and evaluate how Committees work and interact with each other (including: voting and resolution procedures). (Volume II, Section VI and Volume III, Sections V & VIII.)
6. Evaluate adequacy of MPO geography to address current needs. (Volume III, Sections VI & IX.)

7. Identify the pros and cons of the current MPO institutional and process structure. (Volume II, Section VI and Volume III, Sections VII & VIII.)
- F. What are the implications of establishing multiple MPO's in a single urbanized area or in the region?
1. Evaluate the current legal ability to establish multiple MPO's in a single urbanized area as well as in the region. (Volume II, Sections IV, VI & VII.)
  2. Compare the costs and benefits of retaining a single MPO for the region or single urbanized area with the costs and benefits of multiple MPO's. (Volume III, Section IX.)
  3. Assess the likely impact of multiple MPO's on ability to address federal requirements and regional issues that affect all MPO's, e.g. air quality, Major Investment Studies, large highway and transit projects, etc. (Volume III, Section IX.)
  4. Evaluate potential acceptance of multiple MPO's by DRCOG member governments. (Volume III, Sections VII, VIII and IX.)
- G. Based on the facts and information gathered in this study, make appropriate recommendations, and suggest course of action to address recommendations. (Volume I.)
- H. Expected deliverables:
1. Documentation, Analysis, and Recommendations Detailed Report. (All three Volumes.)
  2. Executive Summary. (Volume I, Section I.)

This study attempts to respond to those issues.