

Appendix B
Metropolitan Transportation Planning Self-Certification
For the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (RCAMPO)
Fiscal Year 2024-2027

The following is to demonstrate and resolve that the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's transportation planning process meets all applicable requirements of Self Certification Process (23 CFR 450.334).

1. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) (*Ref: 23 USC 134(b) and 23 CFR 450.306*)

Describe the Entity Designated as the MPO

The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is an association of local and state governments made up the City of Rapid City, the City of Box Elder, Pennington County and Meade County. The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT), Ellsworth Air Force Base, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the local school districts also participate. The hosting agency that provides staff and all administrative support to the Metropolitan Planning Organization is the City of Rapid City.

2. Geographic Scope (*Ref: 23 USC 134(c) and 23 CFR 450.308*)

Describe the Physical Boundaries/Provide a Map

The Rapid City Urbanized Area includes the lands within the City of Rapid City urban growth boundary and the densely populated adjoining areas of Pennington and Meade Counties. The area is shown in the attached map.

3. Agreements (*Ref: 23 USC 134(d) and 23 CFR 450.310*)

A. Agreements in force among the participating agencies relative to the transportation planning process include:

1. Intergovernmental Agreement for the Purpose of Establishing the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and Specifying MPO Cooperation with the State Department of Transportation signed in December 2007 by the South Dakota Department of Transportation and the parties in the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization;
2. Operations Plan was adopted in December 2016. The Operations Plan outlines the procedures and requirements for adopting transportation products and plans for the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

B. Agreements between the State and the MPO include:

1. Annual FHWA and FTA planning funds agreement between SDDOT and City of Rapid City acting as the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization;

C. Agreements between the MPO and other entities include:

1. Intergovernmental/Interagency Agreement between the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the City of Box Elder.
2. Intergovernmental/Interagency Agreement between the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and Meade County.

4. Responsibilities, Cooperation and Coordination (Ref: 23 CFR 450.312)

A. Cooperative Metropolitan Planning Process

The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization member entities, including SDDOT, collaborate in carrying out the requirements of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process. The Rapid Transit system is owned by the City of Rapid City, a member of the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. This cooperative process includes city and state participation in the decision-making processes of the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Executive Policy Board, Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), and the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). Rapid Transit is represented on the TCC. SDDOT, FHWA and FTA designate staff to serve on the TCC.

The metropolitan transportation planning process includes:

1. Development and maintenance of a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (RapidTRIP 2045 adopted in August 2020)
2. Development and maintenance of a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
3. Review of specific transportation and development proposals for consistency with RapidTRIP 2045
4. Coordination of transportation decisions among local jurisdictions and state agencies
5. Development of an annual work program

B. Agreed Responsibilities for Development of UPWP, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and Transportation Improvement Program

1. Rapid City staff currently provides Travel Demand Modeling Services for all Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization related work.
2. The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization leads development and maintenance of the Unified Planning Work Program, RapidTRIP2045, and Transportation Improvement Program. This work is coordinated with all of the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization agencies.

5. Metropolitan Transportation Planning Products

A. Unified Planning Work Program (Ref: 23 CFR 450.314)

The purpose of the Unified Planning Work Program is to describe the annual activities, planning studies, and products to be developed by the Metropolitan Planning Organization over a year time. The Unified Planning Work Program identifies who will be involved with the work tasks and the anticipated product or outcome. The Unified Planning Work Program also identifies funding for these tasks which includes total programmed expenditures for each one. The Metropolitan Planning Organization and its coordinating agencies work together to define work activities which will be performed over the year. The City of Rapid City oversees this work program in accordance with the agreements among the City of Rapid City, the City of Box Elder, Pennington County and Meade County. The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT), Ellsworth Air Force Base, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the local school districts also participate in the development of the Unified Planning Work Program as members of the Technical Coordinating Committee.

The tasks in the FY2023 UPWP for the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization were developed with input from local entities to ensure all transportation issues within the Rapid City Metropolitan Planning Organization's boundaries were considered.

B. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Ref: 23 USC 134(g) and 23 CFR 450.322)

The federally compliant RapidTRIP 2045 Metropolitan Transportation was adopted in August 2020.

C. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Ref: 23 USC 134(h) and 23CFR 450.23 & 26)

The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization develops the Transportation Improvement Program in cooperation and coordination with all of the members of the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will coordinate its prioritization process and its list of transportation project priorities with SDDOT.

6. Planning Emphasis Areas

The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization planning process addresses the FHWA/FTA planning emphasis areas in all projects and policies. The following is a description of these considerations, and a brief explanation of how the factors will be addressed.

A. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency

It is among the goals of the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's transportation planning activities to support the economic vitality of the Rapid City Urbanized Area and beyond. The Rapid City Urbanized Area is the economic hub of the Black Hills region. Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's transportation planning activities are to facilitate the movement of people and goods which is the key in promoting economic activities.

B. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users in support of a complete streets approach

The safety of the transportation system was among the criteria used by the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization in prioritizing transportation projects for funding. The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization prepares an annual Pedestrian/Bicycle Crash Report to identify high crash areas for pedestrians and bicyclist. The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization also developed an Arterial Street Safety Study, which included a review of street segment crash statistics, identification of street segments exceeding the statistical critical rate, and recommendations to reduce crashes based on analysis of crash types. Some of the recommendations have been implemented since the completion of the study.

C. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users

The security of the transportation system was among the criteria used by the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization in prioritizing transportation projects for funding.

D. Increase the accessibility and mobility options available to people and for freight to support equity and justice

It is among the goals of the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's transportation planning activities to increase the accessibility and mobility options of people and freight in the Rapid City Urbanized Area. The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will continue working with local mobility advocacy groups, the cities, and counties to identify opportunities for increasing the accessibility and mobility options of all people in the Rapid City Urbanized Area. Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization staff has in the Coordinated Human Services Public Transportation Plans.

E. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and improve quality of life through planning and environmental linkages

The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization transportation planning activities include full consideration of environmental issues.

F. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes for people and freight to support equity and justice and a complete streets approach

The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization transportation planning process is comprehensive and includes all modes of transportation and the mobility needs of all people. Multi-modal and intermodal transportation planning will help provide connectivity across all modes and for all users of the system.

G. Promote efficient system management and operations to support the use of data in transportation planning

The Rapid City Metropolitan Planning Organization approved the ITS Master Plan for Integration Strategies in November 2003. The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will continue to use ITS measures as a means of enhancing the efficiency of existing transportation system and operations.

The Metropolitan Plan promotes a multi-modal transportation system. This approach will help to maximize transportation efficiency by providing multiple travel options. The ultimate goal will be to reduce the demand on the highway system, which will increase roadway capacity and reduce maintenance costs.

H. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system

Preservation of the existing transportation system is a priority in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Preservation of the existing system was a key consideration while identify future revenues. The estimated costs of preservation were taken "off the top" of the overall funding forecasts. The remaining funds were then allocated to capacity improvements and other non-preservation projects. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan devotes a large portion of available funds to the maintenance and preservation of existing transportation system.

I. Coordinate with State DOT consultation efforts with non-metropolitan local officials

The adopted Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Unified Planning Work Program contains tasks to coordinate transportation issues and activities with SDDOT.

J. Enhance the technical capability of the transportation planning processes

The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization programs funds in the Unified Planning Work Program and Transportation Improvement Program to upgrade the travel

demand model, update the underlying travel data by participating in joint surveys, and provide training opportunities for staff.

K. *Linking the NEPA and planning processes*

The adopted RapidTRIP 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan includes environmental considerations that identify known historical, cultural, archeological, and natural resources. This amendment also identifies potential mitigation activities. The data in this amendment will help improve the project development process and hopefully speed project delivery.

L. *Coordination and provision of Human Service and Transportation Disadvantaged Services (ADA, Elderly, and Disabled)*

Metropolitan Planning Organization staff and local transit service providers began working in 2007 to develop a coordinated human services transportation plan. A plan was completed in October 2007, updated in 2013, and was recently updated in 2019. The goal of this project was to develop and implement a public transportation plan for the Rapid City Urbanized Area with a particular focus on providing access to critical services for lower income residents, seniors, and other special needs populations. The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization has been involved in that effort to ensure the continued availability of federal transportation funds.

M. *Strategic Highway Network and U.S. Department of Defense Coordination*

The MPO's Technical Coordinating Committee is represented by staff and participating agencies responsible for or affected by the implementation of transportation plans, products, or improvements. Membership includes Ellsworth Air Force Base to support Strategic Highway Network/U.S. Department of Defense coordination.

7. *Public Involvement (Ref: 23 CFR 450.316(b))*

Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Public Participation Plan

The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization adopted a FAST Act compliant public participation plan in February 2020. This plan serves as the statement of transportation public participation policies adopted by the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. Participation of the public in transportation planning activities is vitally important to the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. The emphasis of the adopted policies in this report is on regional system planning products regularly produced in the transportation planning process. Various techniques will selectively be used to provide information and solicit public comment. Some examples of public participation activities are briefly described below.

- A. Newspaper Advertisements
- B. Web Site
- C. Articles
- D. Press Releases
- E. Flyers
- F. TV/Radio
- G. Public Service Announcements
- H. Interviews
- I. Community Forums
- J. Public Meetings
- K. Public Hearings
- L. Group Presentations
- M. Advisory Committee

8. *Title VI (Ref: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21)*

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that "no person in the United States shall, on

the grounds of race, color or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance” [42 USC 2000d]. Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations, was signed by President Clinton on Feb. 11, 1994 and published in the Feb. 16, 1994 Federal Register, Vol. 59, No. 32. The Executive Order and accompanying memorandum reinforced the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that focus federal attention on the environmental and human health condition in minority and low-income communities. Together these two laws promote non-discrimination in federal programs affecting human health and the environment, and provide minority and low income communities access to public information and an opportunity to participate in matters relating to transportation and the environment.

Through the regional planning process, the Metropolitan Planning Organization and partner agencies will thoroughly analyze the three fundamental environmental justice principles. The principles are:

- To avoid, minimize or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects, including social and economic effects of programs, policies and activities on minority populations and low-income populations;
- To ensure full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process; and
- To prevent the denial of, reduction of, or significant delay in the receipt of transportation benefits by minority and low-income populations.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization staff developed a Title VI Policy that was adopted in 2012 to ensure compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and to provide the public with procedures to request assistance in addressing any issues that may surface. Additionally, the Metropolitan Planning Organization’s public participation plan addresses the full and fair participation of all populations.

9. Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) (*Ref: Section 1101(b) of Pub. L. 109-59, 49 CFR part 26*)

The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization shows a good faith effort to solicit Disadvantage Business Enterprises (DBEs) when procuring assistance from private contractors. The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization awards an additional five points out of 100 points to private contractors who are DBEs or have a DBE subcontractor. It is the policy of Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to ensure no discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in any employment or business opportunity.

10. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (*Ref: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-366, 104 Stat. 327, as amended, and 49 CFR 27, 37, and 38*)

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires involving persons with disabilities in the development and improvement of transportation services. Planners, engineers, and builders must provide access for the disabled at sidewalks and ramps, street crossings, and in parking or transit access facilities. Persons with disabilities must also be able to access the sites where public participation activities occur as well as the information presented. The Metropolitan Planning Organization’s public participation plan addresses the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization public meetings are held in places accessible to people with disabilities. The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization office is located in an accessible building.

- 11. Air Quality** (Ref: 40 CFR 51; OAR 340-2-710 through 340-20-1080)
- A. Regional Air Quality Status of the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Area**
The Rapid City Urbanized Area is not in violation of EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The area, therefore, is not designated nonattainment for any of the Air Quality Criteria Pollutants.
- B. Describe Conformity Status of the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Plan and TIP**
According to the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) of 1990, the Rapid City Urbanized Area is not required to demonstrate Air Quality Conformity of its transportation plans, programs and projects to the State Implementation Plan.
- 12. Lobbying Prohibition** (Ref. 49 CFR 20)
The funding agreement and all contracts with the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization include language regarding breach of any federal statutes, rules, program requirements and grant provisions applicable to the federal funds. Through approval of that agreement, the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization agrees to follow all applicable rules.
- 13. Employment & Business Opportunity Discrimination** (Ref. 49 USC 5332)
The federal code states: A person may not be excluded from participating in, denied a benefit of, or discriminated against under, a project, program, or activity receiving financial assistance under this chapter because of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age.
- It is the policy of Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to ensure no discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in any employment or business opportunity.
- 14. Equal Employment Opportunity - Federal Aid Construction Projects** (Ref. 23 CFR part 230)
This requirement is not applicable to the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is a planning organization and does not construct projects.
- 15. Older Americans Act** (Ref. 42 USC 6101)
The federal code states: It is the purpose of this chapter to prohibit discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance.
- It is the policy of Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to ensure no discrimination on the basis of age. The Metropolitan Planning Organization's public participation plan addresses the full and fair participation of all populations.
- 16. Gender Discrimination** (Ref. Section 324 of title 23 USC)
The federal code states: No person shall on the ground of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal assistance under this title or carried on under this title.
- It is the policy of Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to ensure no discrimination on the basis of sex. The Metropolitan Planning Organization's public participation plan addresses the full and fair participation of all populations.

17. Discrimination Against Individuals with Disabilities *(Ref. 29 USC 794 and 49 CFR part 27)*

The federal code states: No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States, as defined in section 705 (20) of this title, shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance or under any program or activity conducted by any Executive agency or by the United States Postal Service.

It is the policy of Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to ensure no discrimination occurs on the basis of disability. The Metropolitan Planning Organization's public participation plan addresses the full and fair participation of all populations.