



**Notice of Meeting**

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, September 17th, 2024 / 10:30 AM

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://semcog-org.zoom.us/j/81567778255>

**Call In Phone Number:** Dial by your location ([Find your local number here](#))

**Meeting ID:** 815 6777 8255

*\*Action Item*

1. Call to Order	Jeff Franklin
2. Introductions	Jeff Franklin
3. Changes to the Agenda	Jeff Franklin
4. Approval of the Aug 2nd, 2024 Meeting Minutes*	Jeff Franklin
5. Treasurer's Report	Anton Schauerte
6. Education Committee	Jason Latham
7. FHWA / FTA Update	Andrew Sibold / Kathleen Russell
8. TAMC Update	Ryan Buck
9. Finance Committee	Laurel Joseph
10. Policy Committee	Steve Stepek
11. JobNet Tech	Luke Walters
12. MDOT	
SPS General Update	Don Mayle
General Federal Revenue Update	Matt Lyle
13. Other New Business	Jeff Franklin
Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 15th at Earle Center, Lansing	Jeff Franklin
14. Adjournment	Jeff Franklin



**MEETING MINUTES / AUGUST 2, 2024 / 8:15 AM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Joseph called the meeting to order at 8:16 AM.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

No participants introduced themselves.

**3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

A motion was made by Jeff Franklin, supported by Steve Stepek, to amend the agenda to include a new agenda item to discuss the month in which the next in-person MTPA meeting will be held. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 18th, 2024 MEETING MINUTES\***

A motion was made by Jeff Franklin, supported by Steve Stepek, to approve the June 18th, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. ELECTION OF MTPA OFFICERS\***

A motion was made by Jacob Maurer, supported by Steve Stepek, to appoint Jeff Franklin as Chair, Ally Racisz to Secretary/Communications Coordinator, and Anton Schauerte as Treasurer, each for 2-year terms. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. NEXT IN-PERSON MTPA MEETING\***

There was a discussion that the Earle Center will be closed for renovations this fall.

A motion was made by Steve Stepek, supported by Jeff Franklin, to allow the Chair to decide whether the September and October MTPA meetings will be held in-person or virtually. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. CONFIRMATION OF THE 2025 AND 2026 MTPA CONFERENCE LOCATIONS**

Chair Joseph indicated that the 2025 conference will be located in Holland. Chair Joseph also stated that the 2026 conference will be held in Port Huron, pending approval from SCCOTS.

**8. ELECTION OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR**

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*A voluntary association of public organizations and agencies responsible for the administration of transportation planning activities throughout the State of Michigan*



Michigan Transportation Planning Association

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Steve Stepek made a motion, supported by Joel Fitzpatrick, to appoint Jason Latham as the next Education Committee Chair.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Joseph adjourned the meeting at 10:31 AM.

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**Michigan Transportation Planning Association (MTPA)**

**Meeting Attendance - 8/2/2024**

AGENCY	NAME	AGENCY	NAME
BCATS	Andy Tilma		
BCATS	Jeff Franklin		
GCMPC	Cody Roblyer		
GCMPC	Dru Hajec		
GCMPC	Jacob Maurer		
GCMPC	Kristofor Garris		
GCMPC	McKenna Dutkiewicz		
GVMC	Andrea Faber		
GVMC	Clover Brown		
GVMC	Laurel Joseph		
GVMC	Mara Gericke		
GVMC	Peter Kimball		
GVMC	Robert Johnson		
KATS	Ali Townsend		
KATS	Steve Stepek		
MDOT	Don Mayle		
MDOT	Josh Grab		
MDOT	Katie Beck		
MDOT	Luke Walters		
MDOT	Richard Bayus		
MDOT	Sam Heatherington		
NNW	Barry Hicks		
NNW	Isha Pithwa		
SCCOTS	Peter Klomparens		
SEMCOG	Ian Thompson		
SEMCOG	Michele Fedorowicz		
SWMRPC	Kim Gallagher		
TCRPC	Jim Koenig		
WATS	Anton Schauerte		
WATS	Maggie Huntley		
WMSRDC	Brian Mulnix		
WMSRDC	Joel Fitzpatrick		

## Updates from FHWA to MTPA September 17, 2024

### General –

#### **USDOT Volpe Center launching 2024 Equity in the Transportation Planning Process Survey**

This survey will be administered by the USDOT Volpe Center to all State Departments of Transportation (State DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). Pre-identified contacts at State DOTs and MPOs will receive an invitation to participate in the survey the week of September 16, 2024 and closing on October 25, 2024.

Only one contact at each organization will receive the survey link, which will be a unique link for each agency. Although responses are optional, it is important that all agencies respond, regardless of their level of experience or engagement with equity analysis, so that the USDOT can obtain an accurate picture of the state of the practice. The Volpe Center will be sending several reminders to non-respondents, but FHWA and FTA will call upon field offices to assist with direct follow-ups for those that do not respond by the

### **Grants - Key NOFO List**

#### **U.S. DOT Proposes Accessibility Standards for Transit Stops in the Public Right-of-Way**

On August 22, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal Register [[89 FR 67922](#)] for adopting as regulatory accessibility standards the Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way (PROWAG) issued by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) on August 8, 2023 [[88 FR 53604](#)]. The U.S. DOT proposes to codify PROWAG by revising the regulations under title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, part 37 [[49 CFR 37](#)] for transportation services for individuals with disabilities. When adopted, the accessibility standards would apply only to new construction and alterations of transit stops in the public right-of-way. The public comment deadline is September 23, 2024.

#### **FHWA Announces \$521 Million in Awards for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure**

On August 27, 2024, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [announced](#) more than \$521 million in awards from the [Charging and Fueling Infrastructure \(CFI\) Grant Program](#). FHWA awarded 51 grants to applicants in 29 States and the District of Columbia to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging and alternative fueling infrastructure in the places people live and work. More information is available [here](#).

#### **FHWA Announces \$26.5 Million in Planning Grants for Bridge Investment Program**

On August 7, 2024, FHWA [announced](#) more than \$26.5 million in planning grant awards from the [Bridge Investment Program](#). FHWA awarded 28 planning grants to 18 States to help prepare critical bridge projects for restoration or replacement before they fall into a state of disrepair. More information is available [here](#).

## U.S. DOT Announces \$2.4 Million in Awards for Complete Streets Artificial Intelligence Initiative

On August 13, 2024, the U.S. DOT [announced](#) \$2.4 million in awards from the [Complete Streets Artificial Intelligence Initiative](#). The U.S. DOT awarded contracts to 12 small businesses for leveraging advancements in artificial intelligence to improve the siting, design, and deployment of Complete Streets.

## FHWA Announces \$800 Million in Available Funding for Low Carbon Transportation Materials Program

On August 27, 2024, FHWA announced the availability of \$800 million in funding through the [Low Carbon Transportation Materials \(LCTM\) Program](#). The LCTM Program will support the use of low-carbon materials and products used in transportation that reduce air pollution, specifically greenhouse gas emissions. The application deadline is November 25, 2024. More information is available [here](#).

## Application Deadlines Approaching for Other U.S. DOT Discretionary Grant Opportunities

Please be aware of the approaching application deadlines for the following discretionary grant opportunities from the U.S. DOT:

- [September 23 – Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage \(AOP\) Program](#).
- [September 23 – Railroad Crossing Elimination \(RCE\) Grant Program](#).
- [September 30 – Reconnecting Communities Pilot \(RCP\) Program](#).
- [September 30 – Restoration and Enhancement \(R&E\) Grant Program](#).
- [October 1 – Bridge Investment Program, Planning and Bridge Project Grants \(extended from March 19, 2024\)](#).
- [October 16 – Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects \(NSFLTP\) Program](#).

## New Resources and Publications from the U.S. DOT

The U.S. DOT recently published the following resources:

- [Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2024 Bridge Investment Program Large Bridge Projects](#).
- [Clarified Waiver of the Non-Federal Match for State Planning and Research and Metropolitan Planning Funds in Support of Complete Streets Planning Activities](#).
- [Federal Aviation Administration Roadmap for Artificial Intelligence Safety Assurance](#).
- [Funding to Address Legacy Highways](#).
- [How Do You Know You Have a Strong Road Safety Culture \(video\)](#).
- [Implementing an Effective Congestion Management Process \(presentation recordings\)](#).
- [Livability Case Studies in Arkansas, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, and Washington](#).
- [Model Inventory of Roadway Elements \(MIRE\) 2.1](#).
- [Rail Resiliency: Resiliency Planning](#).
- [Saving Lives with Connectivity: A Plan to Accelerate Vehicle-to-Everything \(V2X\) Deployment](#).

## New Research from the National Cooperative Highway Research Program

The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) recently published the following research:

- [Diagnostic Assessment and Countermeasure Selection: A Toolbox for Traffic Safety Practitioners](#).

- [Reliability and Quality of Service Evaluation Methods for Rural Highways.](#)

## **Upcoming Webinars and Workshops**

Here is the registration information for some upcoming webinars and workshops:

- [September 17 – Talking Freight: State Freight Advisory Committees.](#)
- [September 18 – Project Delivery Lessons Learned from Emergency Response Following an Infrastructure Catastrophe.](#)
- [September 23 – Meaningful Public Involvement in National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\) Training \(virtual\).](#)
- [October 8 – Best Practices to Get Big Infrastructure Projects off the Ground.](#)
- [October 22 – Project Acceleration for the Public Good.](#)

# September 2024 Updates from FTA to MTPA

## Notice of Funding Opportunity

### [Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program; Tribal Transit Competitive Program](#)

The competitive grants under FTA's TTP allow tribes to buy transit vehicles, upgrade bus facilities, and expand transit options.

Open: August 15, 2024

Closes: November 13, 2024

Funding Available: \$9,169,076

### [Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program](#)

The Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) has released an FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) program. This is a continuation of two previous rounds of RCP Funding in FY22 and FY23. The RCP Program focuses on improving access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, nature, and recreation, and foster equitable development and restoration, and provide technical assistance to further these goals.

Open: July 3, 2024

Closes: September 30, 2024

Funding Available: \$607 million

## Considerations for Transit Systems Providing Service During Major Events

In the coming years, the United States will host several of the world's largest, most exciting events, including the 2026 World Cup and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Huge crowds are expected, and public transportation will play a significant role in moving people in and around host cities.

See FTA's recent [Dear Colleague letter](#) that provides advice and considerations for transit systems preparing to provide service during these and other major events. Also, reference FTA's [Transportation Coordination](#), [Charter Bus Service Regulations](#), and [Title VI](#) guidance.



## Making Connections 2024 Conference - Registration is Open!

Looking for an opportunity to learn new skills, meet and network with others in the transit industry, and hear the latest innovations to help build a better transit workforce? FTA encourages transit agency representatives to join the Transit Workforce Center (TWC) for [Making Connections 2024 – The National Transit Workforce Conference](#) (MC24) November 11-13, 2024, in Baltimore, Maryland.

FTA supports the TWC help urban, suburban, tribal, and rural public transportation entities recruit, hire, train, and retain the diverse workforce needed now and in the future. MC24 will focus, in part, on FTA's [National Transit Workforce Development Strategic Plan](#) goals for recruiting and retaining the transit workforce.

TWC is partnering with the [International Transportation Learning Center](#) and the [National Transit Institute](#) to present a conference agenda featuring interactive sessions and a keynote address from FTA Acting Administrator Veronica Vanterpool. Expected attendees include representatives from transit agencies, unions, government, education, and workforce development organizations. This year, TWC will offer an optional pre-conference day on Monday, November 11, with intensive workshops on some of TWC's most popular topics.

[Register for MC24](#) and check out a [video recap](#) of Making Connections 2022 for a summary of what to expect. Join your colleagues and other industry stakeholders in this opportunity to discuss approaches for shaping the future of the transit workforce.

## Register for August 29 and October 3 Webinars: Overview of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Uniform Act Final Rule.

On May 3, 2024, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published final revisions to [U.S. DOT's implementing rule on the Uniform Act](#), which provides important protections and assistance for people affected by federally-funded projects government-wide. FTA will host webinars for federal grant recipients that provide an overview of these changes that became effective June 3, 2024. Please consider registering for one of the sessions listed below. Each session will be identical, so there is no need to register for both.

[Register](#) for the August 29, 2024, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (EDT) session.

[Register](#) for the October 3, 2024, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (EDT) session.

In June 2024, FHWA presented four in-depth webinars on changes to the Uniform Act rule, and those recordings may be accessed [HERE](#). We encourage you to review these recordings prior to FTA's webinar opportunities. FTA resources related to the Uniform Act and real property acquisition can be found [HERE](#).

## RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE: FTA PTASP and National Safety Plan Webinar

The [recording](#) and [presentation](#) from FTA's webinar on the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP) Regulation and National Public Transportation Safety Plan on August 13, 2024, is now available. The webinar highlighted key changes in the updated PTASP regulation, the National Safety Plan and included a question-and-answer session.

On April 11, 2024, FTA published the first major update to the [PTASP regulation](#), which incorporates Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requirements to make transit safer for both transit workers and passengers. Concurrently, FTA published updates to the [National Safety Plan](#), which is FTA's primary guidance document to improve transit safety performance for systems that receive FTA funding. The webinar provided an overview of key changes to the PTASP regulation and the National Safety Plan, explained how PTASP requirements and the National Safety plan correspond to each other and answered pre-submitted questions.

## NOW AVAILABLE: Independent Cost Estimates e-Learning Course

FTA's new [Independent Cost Estimates e-learning course](#) is now available! The course will help FTA recipients better understand the mandatory procurement requirements related to conducting an independent cost estimate. The lessons from this e-learning course can be helpful for FTA recipients in mitigating procurement findings during State Management and Triennial Reviews.

## Just in time for Back-to-School: USDOT, Department of Education Release Fact Sheet on Improving Daily School Attendance Through Transportation

The U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Education have released a new [fact sheet](#) highlighting strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism by increasing students' access to safe, accessible, reliable transportation to and from school.

The number of K-12 students missing 10 percent or more of the school year spiked across the nation during the pandemic. Research shows that access to safe, accessible, reliable transportation supports strong school attendance. As chronic absenteeism continues to impact rural, suburban, and urban school communities throughout the country, school districts, local and state governments, Tribal governments, and transit agencies are partnering to tackle this complex challenge by highlighting the importance of safe routes to school.

The fact sheet highlights specific strategies community leaders may want to adopt to help students and families get to and from school at low or no cost, such as:

- Offering free or reduced transit fares,
- Expanding safe routes to school, and

- Creating walking and biking “buses” in which parent-teacher organizations, neighborhood associations, and others design a route and timetable for walking or biking to school, then chaperone group trips to school.

The fact sheet also includes information about U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Department of Education funding that community leaders can leverage to support these efforts.

## RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE: FTA Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program Webinar

The [recording](#) and [presentation](#) from FTA's Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (PTSCTP) webinar on September 5, 2024, is now available. The webinar highlighted key changes in the updated PTSCTP regulation and included an overview of frequently asked questions.

On August 14, 2024, FTA [published](#) updates to the [PTSCTP Regulation](#) that refine the communication process, add administrative requirements and clarify voluntary participation and recertification training requirements. FTA incorporated feedback from a variety of stakeholders and has implemented updates to the final PTSCTP safety rule, including:

- Adding a recertification element defined by FTA.
- Requiring state safety oversight agencies (SSOAs) and rail transit agencies to establish a lead contact with FTA who must report semiannually about the status of their participation and their agency-defined recertification training requirements.
- Clarifying that voluntary participants are not required to complete recertification requirements to maintain their certification.
- Increasing flexibility in the training certification program.
- Updating definitions to clarify requirements and provide consistency with other FTA programs and regulations.
- Determining that mandatory participation will not extend to bus transit agencies and personnel.

The PTSCTP maintains the existing minimum training requirements for SSOA personnel and employees and contractors who are directly responsible for the safety oversight of a rail fixed guideway public transportation system.