South Carolina Department of Transportation

Planning Procedure Agreement

Agreement Number: PL- 2017-03  Effective: December 31, 2017

Subject: Coordination of System and Truck Travel Time Reliability Performance Data and Target Setting for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Council of Governments (COGs) to address FAST Act compliance

Purpose: Define the Initial Coordination Process between the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and MPOs and COGs to Facilitate Initial System and Truck Travel Time Reliability Performance Target Setting for the three Prescribed FAST Act Performance Measures.

Primary Department: Planning

Roles, Responsibilities, and Deliverables:

The FAST Act and subsequent federal rulemaking established three performance measures related to System and Truck Travel Time Reliability. The measures are:

- Percent of reliable person-miles traveled on the Interstate;
- Percent of reliable person-miles traveled on the non-Interstate NHS; and
- Percent of Interstate system mileage providing for reliable truck travel time.

Federal regulations require state departments of transportations (DOTs) to establish and report quadrennial (4-year) targets related to each of these three performance measures by May 20, 2018. MPOs are required to either adopt and support their DOT’s statewide targets or set their own targets specific to their areas. SCDOT and MPOs will have the opportunity to adjust their four-year targets after two years. For the purposes of System and Truck Travel Time Reliability target setting, COGs will be treated the same as MPOs.

SCDOT will establish statewide targets for the three reliability performance measures by May 20, 2018. MPOs and COGs will have 180 days after SCDOT sets the three reliability performance targets, or by November 16, 2018, at the latest, to either adopt and support SCDOT’s statewide targets, by agreeing to plan and program projects that SCDOT has identified in their area, or set their own targets specific to their areas. MPOs and COGs need only set their own 4-year targets or adopt and support SCDOT’s 4-year targets.

In preparation for the initial reliability target setting effort with targets due by May 20, 2018, consultation between SCDOT, MPOs, and COGs occurred via the following training opportunities: quarterly webinars to review federal rulemaking requirements, a staff presentation to the MPO and COG Working Group chartered to assist with implementation of performance management, and SCDOT’s hosting of a National Highway Institute training course on target setting in September 2017.

For the initial 4-year target-setting period of calendar years 2018-2021, SCDOT recommends MPOs and COGs adopt and support SCDOT’s statewide targets.
In the future as part of the target setting process, SCDOT will:

- Inform MPOs and COGs of the three performance measure targets established for the State related to System and Truck Travel Time Reliability by May 20, 2018, and every four years thereafter.
- Inform MPOs and COGs of any amended targets for the three performance measures related to System and Truck Travel Time Reliability by May 20, 2020, and every four years thereafter if applicable.
- Provide the previous year’s Interstate and non-Interstate NHS system reliability data and NHS truck travel time reliability data within the respective MPO or COG boundaries to MPOs and COGs by April 30 of each year.
- If requested, provide target setting guidance to MPOs and COGs should they decide to establish their own targets for one or more of the three performance measures.

MPOs and COGs will:

- Within 180 days after SCDOT sets the System and Truck Travel Time Reliability targets, or no later than November 16, 2018, have their Policy Committees formally adopt the three reliability targets through Long Range Transportation Plan amendment.
- Within 180 days after SCDOT sets the System and Truck Travel Time Reliability targets, or no later than November 16, 2018, provide SCDOT a letter confirming action by their Policy Committee and the date of approval.
- By November 16, 2020, have their Policy Committees formally adopt any amended reliability targets through Long Range Transportation Plan amendment, if applicable.
- By November 16, 2020, provide SCDOT a letter confirming action by their Policy Committee and the date of approval if applicable.

At the request of an MPO or COG, SCDOT will:

- Provide System and Truck Travel Time Reliability target adoption language for the MPO or COG to incorporate into its Long Range Transportation Plan; and
- Provide staff support during the Policy Committee meeting to assist with presenting the adoption of System and Truck Travel Time Reliability targets.

Submitted by:                      Mark Pleasant, AICP
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MPO/COG Concurrence:

MPO/COG Director