

HR 1346 (Lipinski) /S 496 (Duckworth)

## **Legislation to repeal the rule issued by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration entitled “Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform”**

### **Background:**

This legislation would repeal an Obama Administration ruling that requires metropolitan planning organizations to significantly enhance the level of coordination. While in theory, regional coordination is desired and supported by ACT. The ruling requires MPOs to at a minimum, develop common long-range plans, Transportation Improvement Programs and performance targets. This would, in effect, create much larger planning and impacting local voices.

Unless action is taken, the finalized rule would radically alter the planning processes, practices and understandings that have been in effect for MPOs for decades. The proposed rule calls for merging of MPO processes, in effect, creating much larger planning areas; thus, watering down the voice of local elected officials in the regional planning process.

The rule would also create a situation where the very real and legitimate interests of many regions and its constituent subregions could be lost in the shuffle of a large "super-regional" planning entity. This proposed rule does nothing to discuss integrating new stakeholders like TMAs, employers, or other entities into the planning process and as mentioned before, makes the planning process so 'big' that these stakeholders who are often already overwhelmed by the process will be further obfuscated.

Further, the final rule does little to clear up transparency and governance issues. It simply will involve more public bodies who will fight for their share of the pie rather than develop strategic planning documents.

**ACT Position:** Support of HR 1346/S 496

### **Resources:**

[Op-Ed by Steve Heminger](#)

[ACT Comments to DOT Docket](#)

[ACT Letter of Support](#)

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