

Wasatch Back RPO

September 20, 2022

Bob Allen AICP
Senior Planner

What is a Rural Planning Organization (RPO)?

US Title 23, 450.210

A Governor may establish and designate RTPOs to enhance the planning, coordination, and implementation of the long-range statewide transportation plan and STIP, with an emphasis on addressing the needs of nonmetropolitan areas of the State. In order to be treated as an RTPO for purposes of this Part, any existing regional planning organization must be established and designated as an RTPO under this section.

Where established, an **RTPO shall be a multijurisdictional organization of nonmetropolitan local officials** or their designees who volunteer for such organization and representatives of local transportation systems who volunteer for such organization. An RTPO shall establish, at a minimum:

- § **A policy committee**, the majority of which shall consist of nonmetropolitan local officials, or their designees, and, as appropriate, additional representatives from the State, private business, transportation service providers, economic development practitioners, and the public in the region; and
- § **A fiscal and administrative agent**, such as an existing regional planning and development organization, to provide professional planning, management, and administrative support.

What is a Rural Planning Organization (RPO)?

- In 2016 Congress elevated the role of local officials in statewide planning so that states must “cooperate” rather than “consult” with LG’s*
- Establishing an RPO elevates the local governments priorities within a DOT and satisfies the DOT’s requirement for local government consultation*

Utah

Quick Facts

Number of Rural Planning Organizations: 4
 Total annual funding: \$10,000 - \$20,000 (including local match); regions receive \$45,000 for mobility management activities
 Date established: 2004 - 2008

In general, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) conducts the state’s transportation planning process in rural areas under 50,000 people that are not served by an MPO. Rural transportation needs and opportunities are incorporated into the statewide long-range transportation plan, a project plan which is updated every four years.¹⁸⁵ Rapid growth in certain parts of rural Utah have led to the state working with regional development organizations (known locally as associations of governments or AOGs) to assist in addressing rural transportation issues. AOGs staff rural planning organizations (RPOs) to provide transportation planning support and assistance to certain rural areas

Utah Associations of Governments

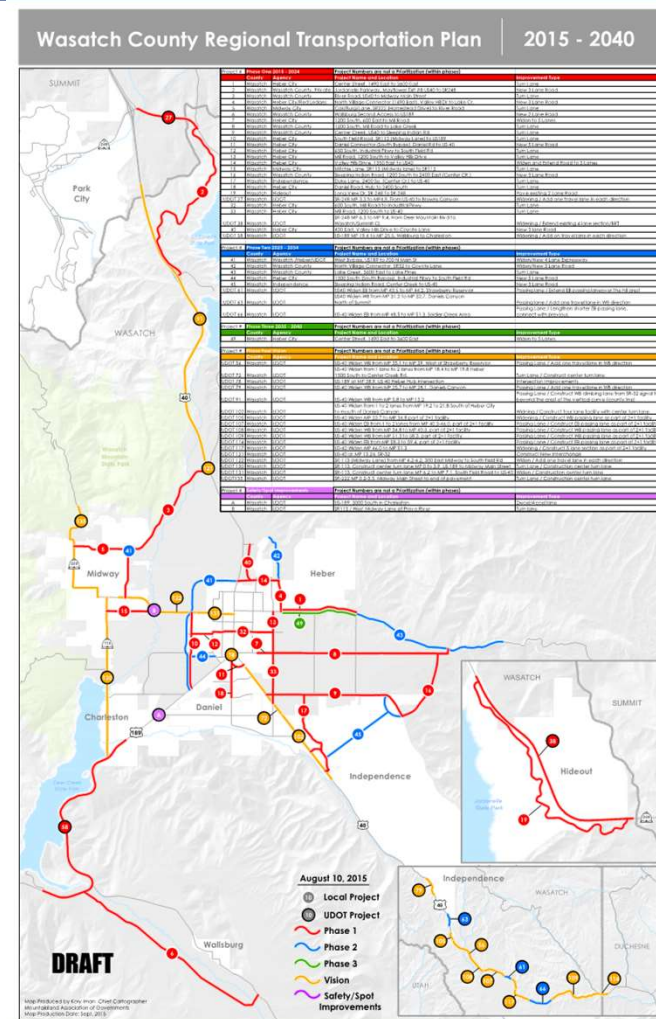


Courtesy Utah's Associations of Governments

officials in the state transportation planning process. Some AOGs house both an MPO and an RPO and benefit from joint collaboration within the AOG structure. These organizations can leverage the

What does an RPO do?

- Develop and maintain, in cooperation with the State, **regional long-range multimodal transportation plans**;
- Develop and prioritize transportation projects the RPO believes **should be considered for funding in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan ("STIP") process**, and in local transportation improvement programs;
- Foster the **coordination of local planning, land use, and economic development plans with State, regional, and local transportation plans and programs**;
- Provide **technical assistance** to local officials;



What does an RPO do?

- Participate in **national, multistate, and State policy and planning development processes** to ensure the regional and local input of nonmetropolitan areas; •
- Provide a forum for **public participation** in the statewide and regional transportation planning processes;
- **Consider and share plans and programs with neighboring RTPOs, MPOs**, and, where appropriate, Indian Tribal Governments; and
- Conducting other duties, as necessary, to support and enhance the statewide planning process under § 450.206.



Questions

Membership

- Each county, city, town, UDOT.
- One vote per member

Technical Advisory Committee

- Planners, Engineers, Staff from each member
- Act as "Planning Commission"



Questions

Project Competition

- Our plan is needs-based
- Projects are listed in the phase needed

Meetings

- Quarterly
 - 2 Separate Policy and Technical Committee meetings
 - 2 Combined Policy and Technical Committee meetings



Thank you.

Bob Allen

801-229-3813

rallen@mountainland.org