

INTRODUCTION TO *PACTS*

Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System

PACTS

PACTS is a federal **Metropolitan Planning Organization** (MPO) that coordinates transportation planning and investment decisions with the state, municipalities and public transportation partners.

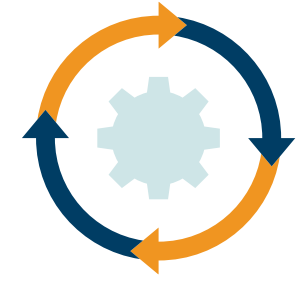
Main functions of PACTS



**Allocate
funding**



Plan future



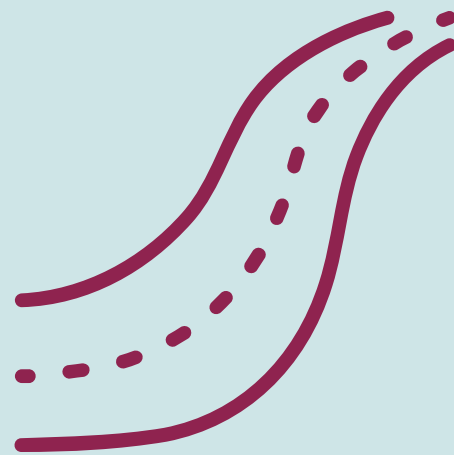
**Implement
plans**

Typical Annual Funding

Transit: \$18 — \$20 Million



**Roadways/ Multimodal:
~ \$6 Million**



Funded Projects (examples)



Mill Creek Transit Hub (South Portland)



Woodfords Corner Improvement Plan
(Portland)

HOW IS PACTS RELATED TO GPCOG?



The **Greater Portland Council of Governments** provides staff support for the **PACTS** governance committees and implements **PACTS** policies and projects.

In 2020, the PACTS Policy Committee and GPCOG General Assembly approved an agreement for **PACTS** to become part of **GPCOG** while still retaining its responsibilities as a Metropolitan Planning Organization.

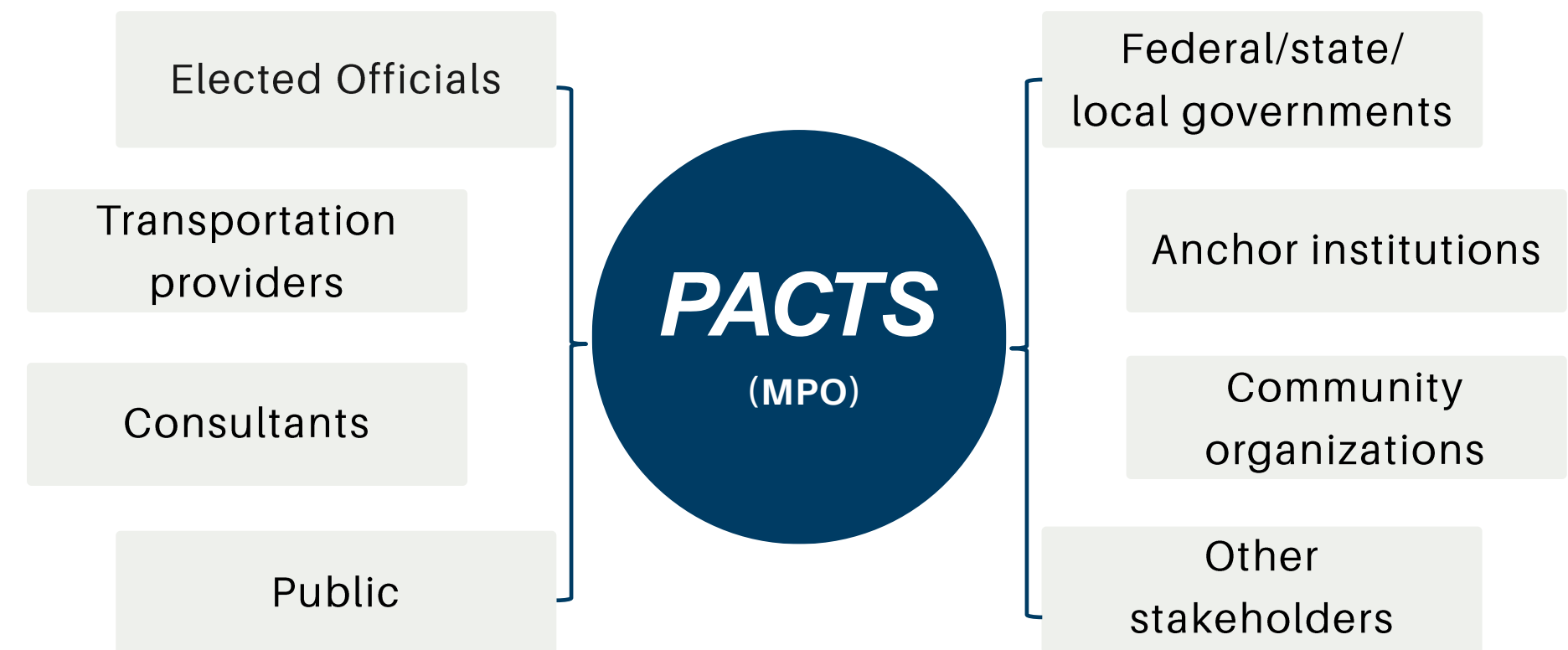
WHAT IS AN MPO?

A **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** is designated by federal law to provide ongoing regional coordination of transportation investment decisions while ensuring that the public have opportunities to participate in the decision-making process in their regions.

MPOs are responsible for:

- Maintaining a regional transportation vision.
- Conducting planning studies and analyses.
- Allocating federal funds.
- Engaging the public and other stakeholders in planning and decision-making.

PACTS sits at the crossroads of the regional transportation stakeholders to coordinate towards one cohesive regional transportation system.



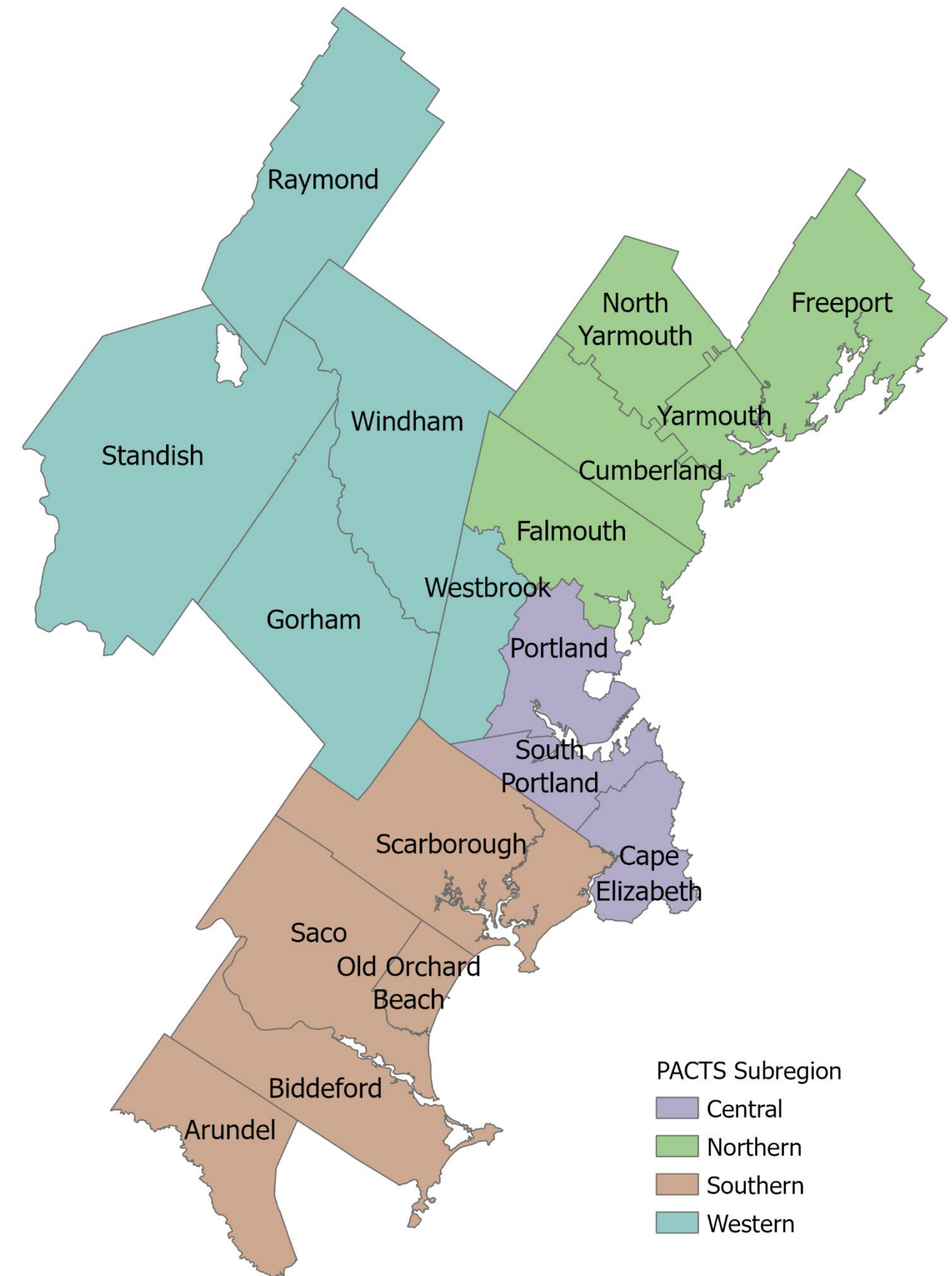
PACTS REGION

The PACTS region spans **18 municipalities** in Cumberland and York Counties with a total population of approximately 280,000 people.

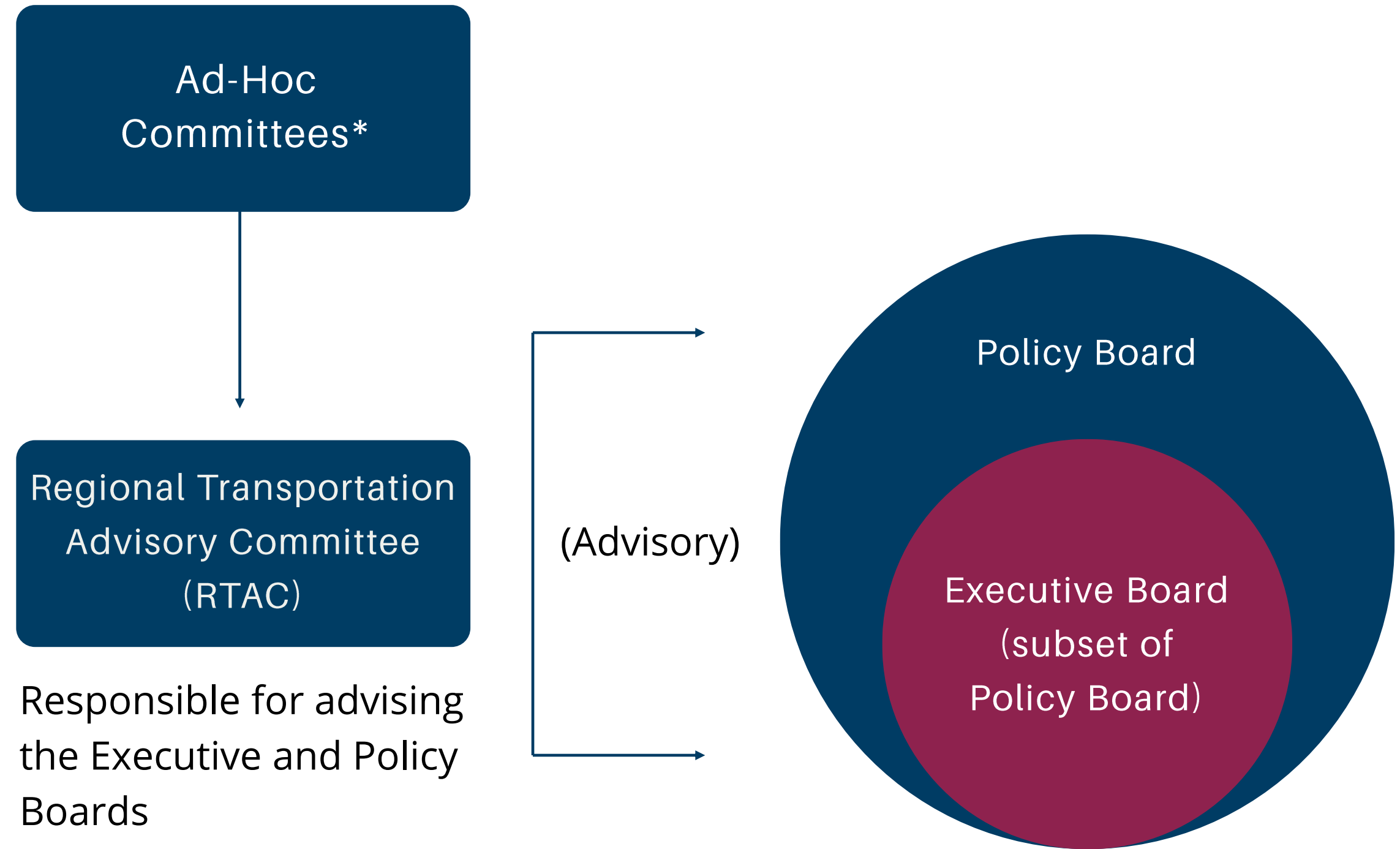
PACTS members also include the following agencies:

- Biddeford Saco Old Orchard Beach Transit (BSOOB)
- Casco Bay Island Transit District
- Greater Portland METRO
- Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA)
- Regional Transportation Program (RTP)
- South Portland Bus Service (SPBS)
- York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC)
- Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT)
- Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA)
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)*
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)*
- Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission* (SMPDC)

*Non-voting members



PACTS GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



*Ad-hoc committees to advise RTAC as needed

PACTS GOVERNANCE RULES AND GUIDELINES

Committee/Board Meeting Guidelines:

- Courtesy and respect for all
- Maintenance of order
- Consideration of one item at a time
- Ability for each member to provide input
- Majority rule
- Protection of the rights of all members
- "There's no such thing as a stupid question."

Key Terms

- **Motion** — Formal proposal, usually beginning with, "I'd like to move that..."
- **Second** — Statement by a member who agrees with the motion (e.g. "I second the motion.")
- **Amendment** — Change(s) to the motion before the vote ("I'd like to amend...")
- **Quorum** — Minimum number of members in order to conduct businesses
- **Chair** — Leads and facilitates meeting (Vice Chair if Chair is absent)

PACTS PLANS (EXAMPLES)



METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (DESTINATION 2040)

A Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is required of each MPO. Every five years PACTS is required to adopt a new or updated MTP looking forward at least 20 years. The MTP describes a long-term regional vision for transportation investments and identifies the policies, goals, and strategies needed to meet the region's demand for transportation services.

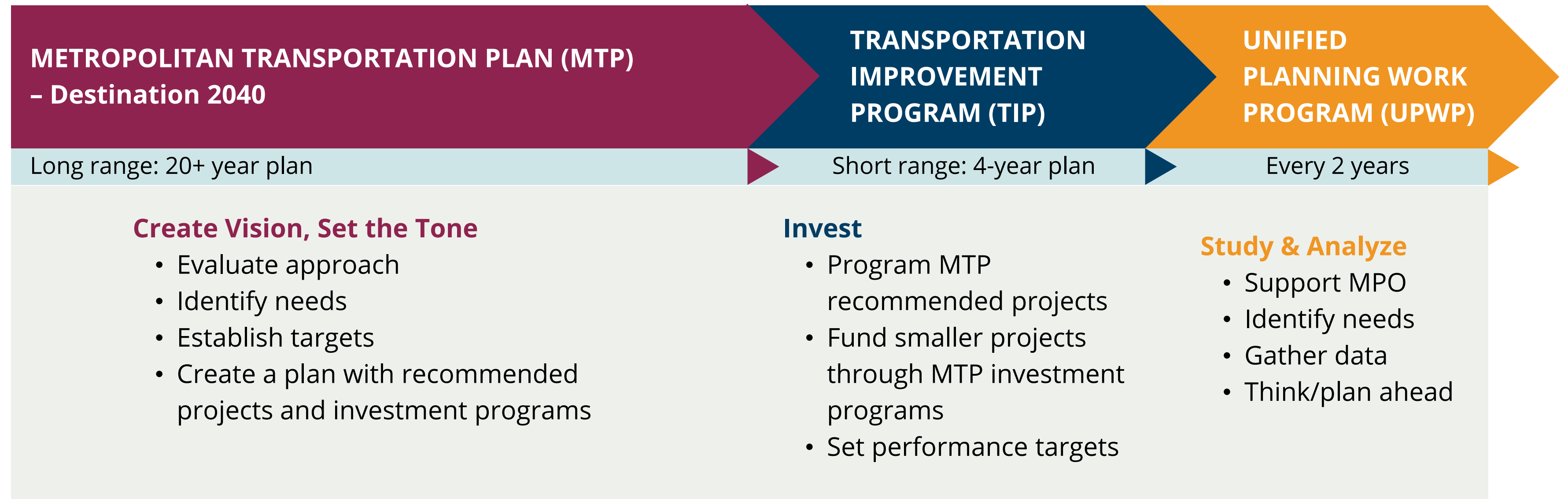
TRANSIT TOMORROW

The region's new long-range public transportation plan. This was adopted in March 2021. Transit Tomorrow is an ambitious 30-year strategic plan for enhancing public transportation in the Greater Portland region.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Getting There From Here: A Regional Active Transportation Plan for the PACTS Region was adopted in 2018. The plan envisions a complete network of accessible trails, paths, ways, and modes, serving all people and places, promoting a culture of healthy living, and a vibrant economy in the PACTS region.

PACTS PLANNING & PROGRAMMING



PACTS PLANNING & PROGRAMMING



TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

~\$25M per year

- The TIP is a four-year programming of FHWA and FTA funded investments that are scheduled within each MPO.
- The TIP lists all projects to be completed with available funds in the PACTS area, including those programmed by MaineDOT.
- The PACTS TIP is updated annually and is included in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

~\$1.3M per year

- The UPWP outlines the transportation studies and other planning tasks that PACTS intends to undertake in its region with federal, state and local funds.
- PACTS staff and committees updates the UPWP every two years.
- The current UPWP runs January 1, 2020 - Dec. 31, 2021.



Acronyms

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT)

PACTS PROJECT EXAMPLES



Cape Elizabeth Shore Road Path

FTA FUNDING

METRO BREEZ

Express bus service between Portland, Yarmouth, Freeport and Brunswick

CASCO BAY LINES ELECTRONIC TICKETING

From paper-based to digital ticketing

FHWA FUNDING

CAPE ELIZABETH SHORE ROAD PATHWAY

A 2.2-mile bike-pedestrian path from Fort Williams to the town center

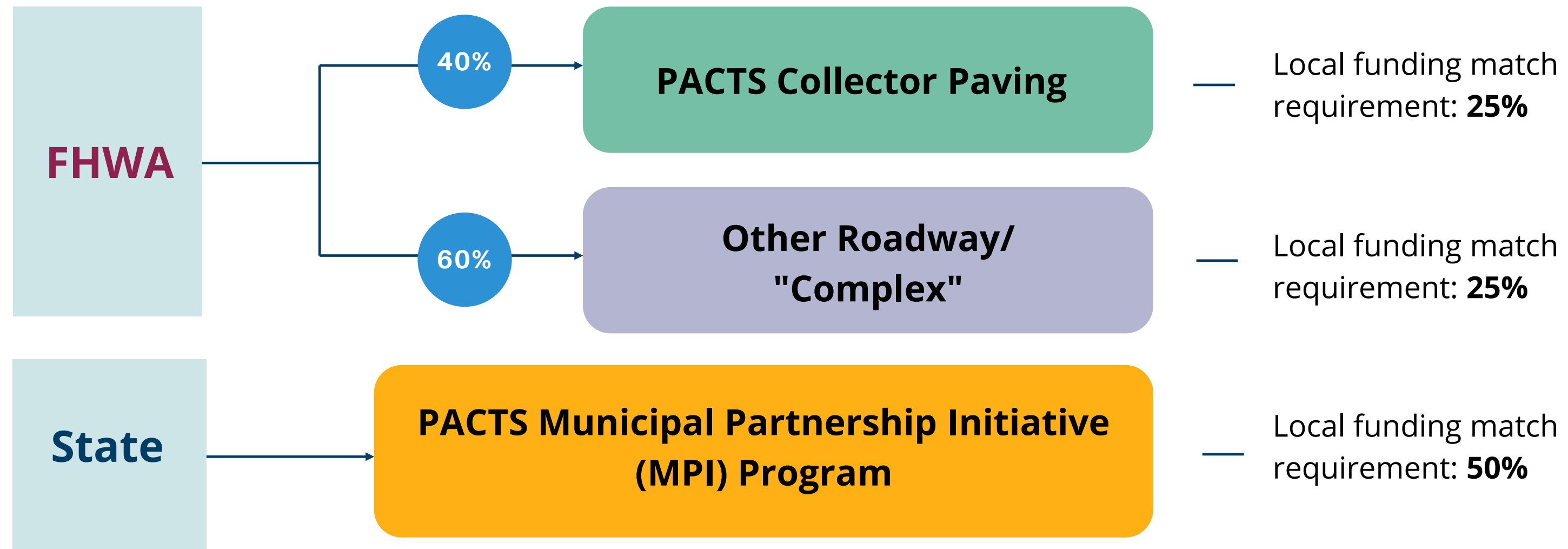
WOODFORD'S CORNER IMPROVEMENT

New railroad signals, drainage updates, and a new sidewalk

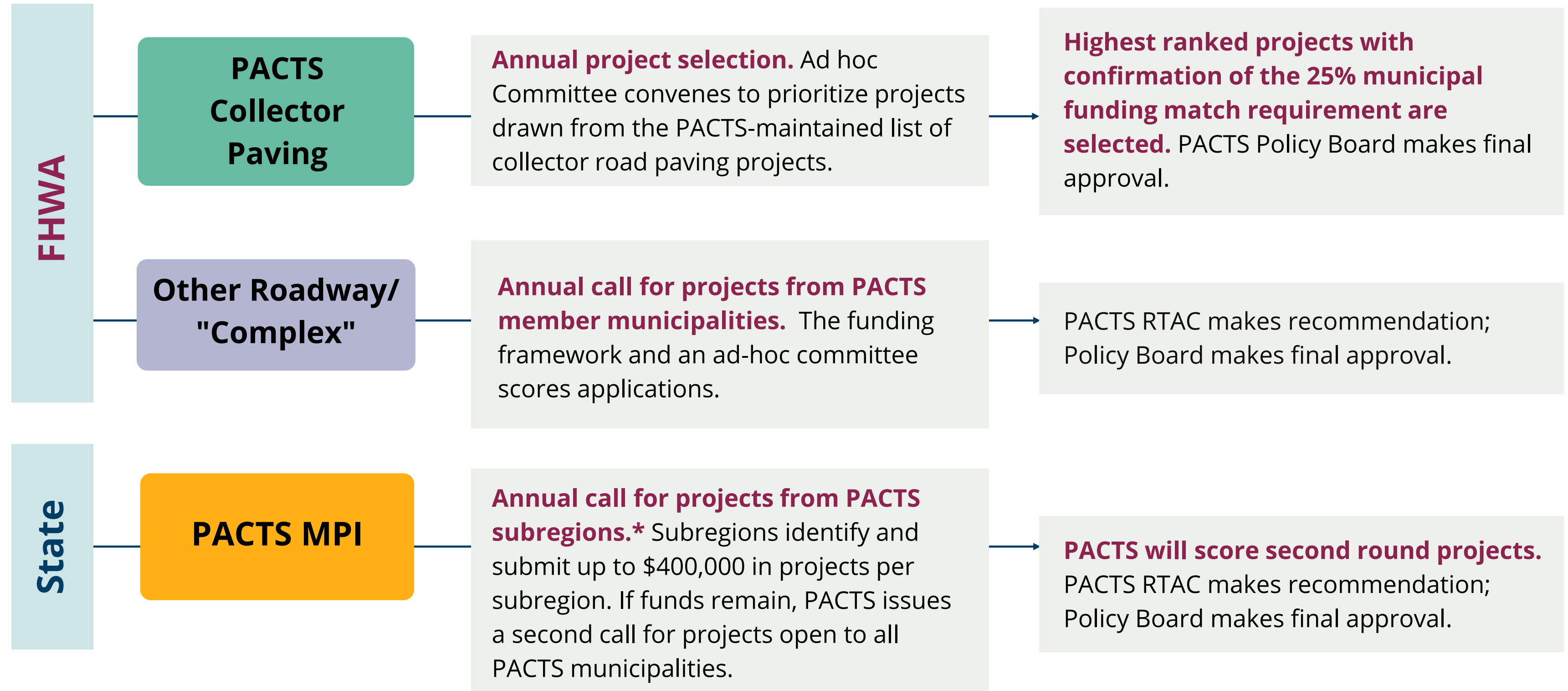
HOW ARE PACTS ROADWAY/MULTIMODAL PROJECTS FUNDED?

Multimodal/Roadway

Each year, PACTS receives **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** and state capital improvement funding from MaineDOT. This is referred to as the **MPO Allocation**. PACTS and the region's municipalities determine how to allocate funds.

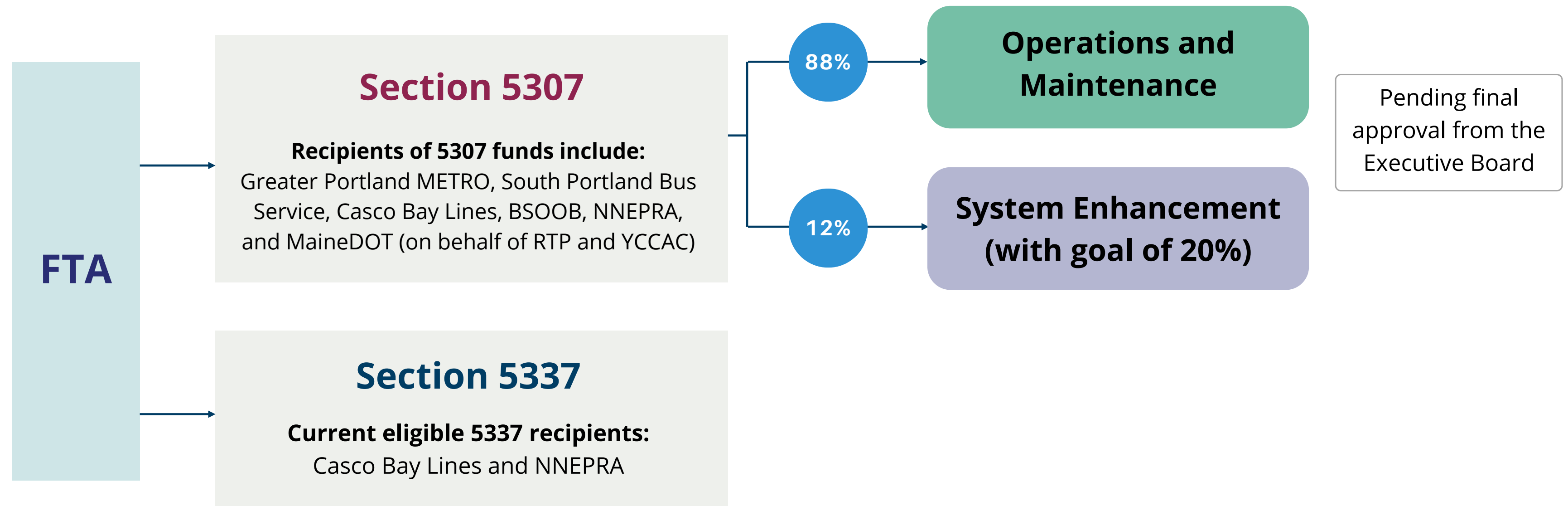


HOW ARE PACTS ROADWAY/MULTIMODAL PROJECTS SELECTED?

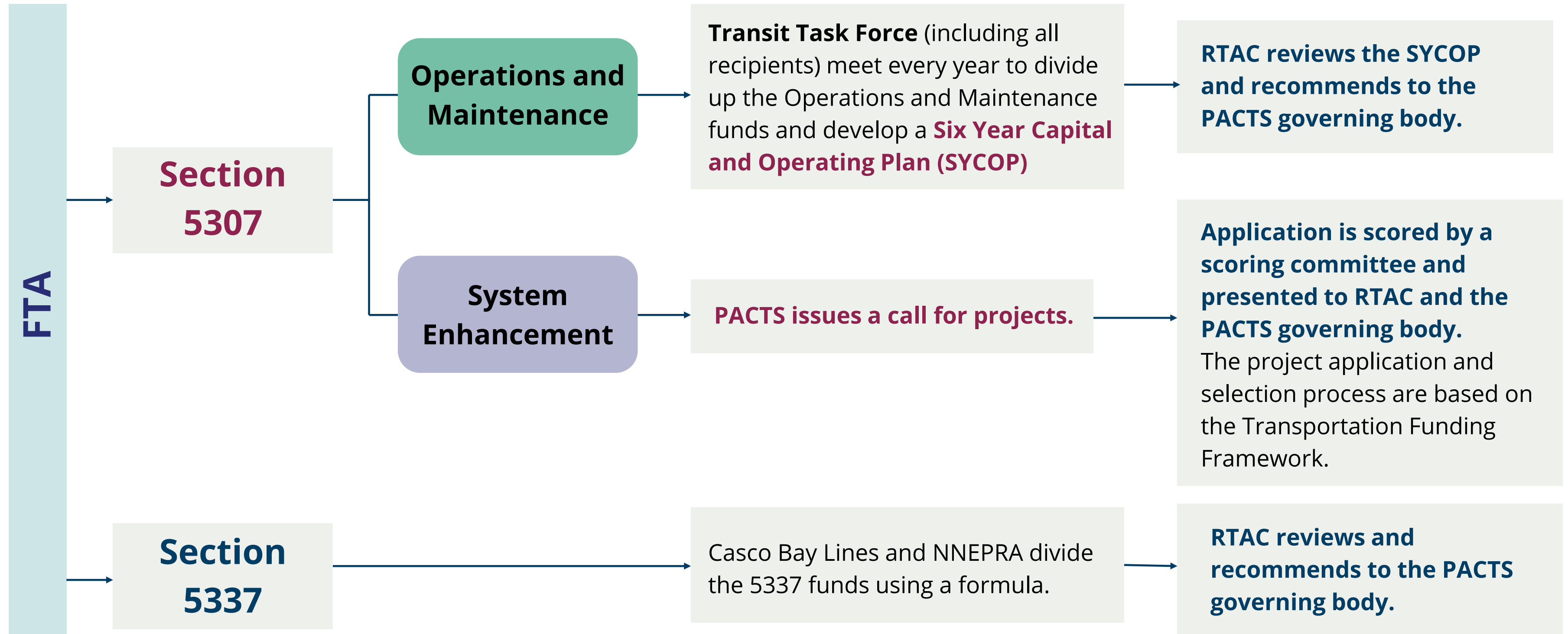


HOW ARE PACTS **TRANSIT** PROJECTS FUNDED?

Each year, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) apportions funding to the PACTS region: Section 5307 - Urbanized Area funds and Section 5337 - State of Good Repair funds. PACTS, the region's transit agencies, and MaineDOT determine how to allocate funds.



HOW ARE PACTS **TRANSIT** PROJECTS SELECTED?



HOW TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS ARE EVALUATED – PACTS FUNDING FRAMEWORK

The framework has four categories to help score and evaluate projects:

- 1 **Regional access**
- 2 **Safe & Reliable Mobility**
- 3 **Efficient Land Use**
- 4 **Environmental Sustainability**



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

PACTS believes that broad and robust public involvement will result in transportation investments that better address the transportation needs of all those using the system.

PACTS is required by the FTA and FHWA to have a Public Involvement Plan that is approved by the MaineDOT. The plan is designed to comply with federal and state regulations, which require MPOs to include a broad range stakeholders in all plans, studies, and projects.



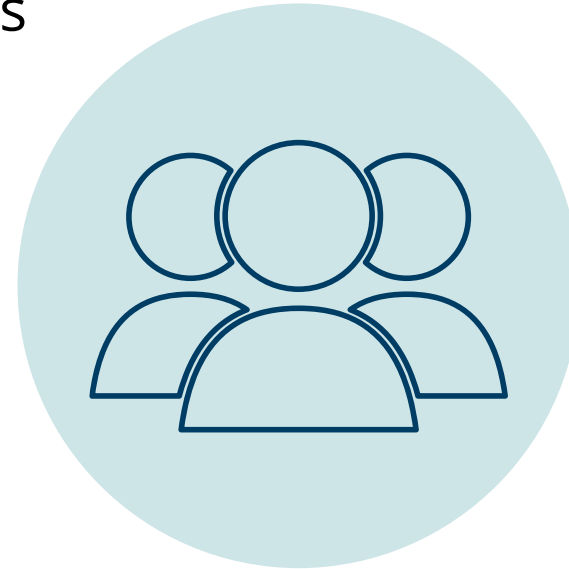
The **Public Involvement Plan** outlines PACTS' goals, strategies, and procedures for providing the public with complete information, timely public notice, and opportunities for early and continuing involvement in the transportation planning process.



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

GOALS & STRATEGIES

Increase
understanding of
PACTS' role and
priorities



Advance inclusion of
underrepresented communities



Build relationships
with key
stakeholders



Make involvement
more accessible
and engaging



Assess
effectiveness



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

POLICIES & PRACTICES



INCLUSIVE PLANNING

GPCOG has been engaging older adults, people with disabilities, and people of color to assist with improving the inclusiveness of regional transportation planning. The goal is to ensure that PACTS decision-making involves people who experience barriers to transportation.

Progress toward this goal includes:

- *Inclusive Transportation Planning Toolkit* – for use by staff, consultant, and member communities.
- Creation of Community Transportation Leaders Program.
- Seats designated on PACTS Committees for Equity Advocates and Community Transportation Leaders.



Inclusive Transportation Planning Toolkit



Community Transportation Leaders presenting their top transportation concerns to the PACTS Executive Committee

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METHOD	LIST NAME	DESCRIPTION
 	GPCOG Executive Committee	
 	GPCOG General Assembly	
 	GPCOG Metro Regional Coalition	
 	GPCOG Regional Voice Committee	
 	GPCOG Revolving Loan Fund Committee	
 	Moving Maine Steering Committee	
 	Moving Maine Steering Committee Meeting	
 	PACTS Executive Board	
 	PACTS Policy Board	
 	PACTS Regional Traffic Management System Subcommittee	

QUESTIONS?

EXTRA SLIDES

PACTS ROLE

PACTS provides a continuing, coordinated, and comprehensive planning process for the Greater Portland area, as well as a forum for collaborative decision-making among members.

Essential MPO functions:

- 1 Establish a fair setting for effective regional decision-making.
- 2 Identify and evaluate alternative transportation improvements.
- 3 Prepare and maintain a long-range transportation plan, also known as a Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- 4 Develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to guide investments for achieving the region's goals.
- 5 Engage the public in Functions 1-4.

