

# MPO Transportation Planning Process

Transportation Advisory Committee  
Orientation



ROCKINGHAM P L A N N I N G C O M M I S S I O N

# OVERVIEW

- MPO Core Functions
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Basics
- NH Transportation Planning Process & TAC Role
  - MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
  - State Ten Year Plan (TYP)
  - MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- TIP Revision Process
- Opportunities to enhance the role of the TAC
- Wrap-up

# MPO CORE FUNCTIONS

- Establish a **Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive**(3Cs) transportation planning process
- **Identify and evaluate** transportation improvement options
- Provide a regional setting for **effective decision-making** to evaluate transportation improvement priorities
- Prepare a **Long Range Transportation Plan** (20+ Year horizon)
- Develop a short-range **Transportation Improvement Program** (TIP)
- Identify **Performance targets** and monitor progress
- **Involve the public** in all of the above

# TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Technical guidance to staff and MPO Policy Committee
- Review and advise on major transportation issues in the region
- Communication between region and communities
- One vote per community/agency
- Identify local transportation needs and priorities
- **Members provide feedback to local boards and officials**

# TAC VOTING MEMBERSHIP

Atkinson	Hampton	North Hampton	Stratham
Brentwood	Hampton Falls	Plaistow	COAST
East Kingston	Kensington	Portsmouth	CART
Epping	Kingston	Rye	NHDOT Planning Bureau
Exeter	New Castle	Salem	NHDOT District VI
Fremont	Newfields	Sandown	NHDES Air Resources Division
Greenland	Newington	Seabrook	Pease Development Authority
Hampstead	Newton	South Hampton	Rockingham Planning Commission
University of New Hampshire Wildcat Transit			

# TAC NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP

## Non-member Municipalities

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Federal Aviation Administration

Federal Railroad Administration

NHDOT – Aeronautics Division

NHDOT – Bureau of Rail and Transit

Strafford Regional Planning Commission

Nashua Regional Planning Commission

Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

Intercity Bus Operator – I-95 Corridor

Intercity Bus Operator – I-93 Corridor

Pan Am Railways

Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

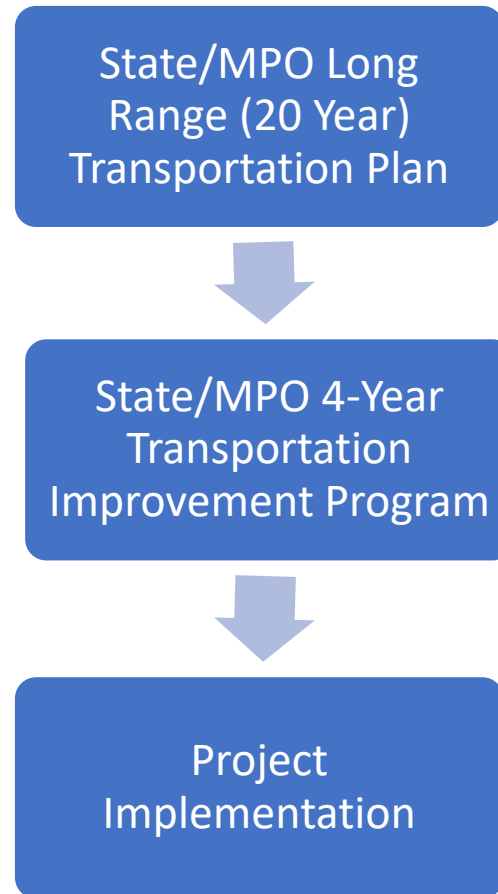
Maine Department of Transportation

Massachusetts Department of Transportation

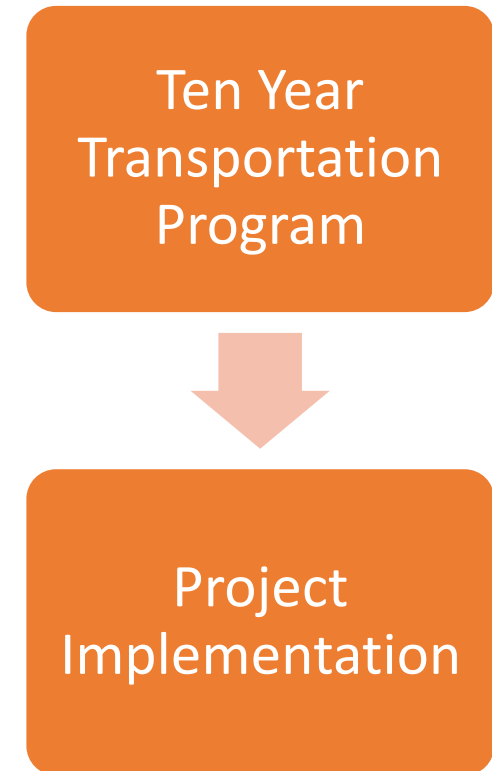
New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning

# STATE & FEDERAL PLANNING PROCESSES

## Federal Planning Process



## State Planning Process



# PLANNING PROCESS IN NH

## MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

20+ Year Horizon

- Long & Short Term Actions
- Regional Policies and Goals
- Regionally Significant Projects
- Fiscally Constrained
- Projects priorities for 10 Year Plan
- Major updates every 4-5 years

## State Ten Year Plan

10 Year Queue of Identified Needs

- Fiscally Constrained
- Statewide Project list
- State commitment to a project
- Regional funding "targets"
- Projects advance to TIP when ready
- Updated every 2 years

## MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

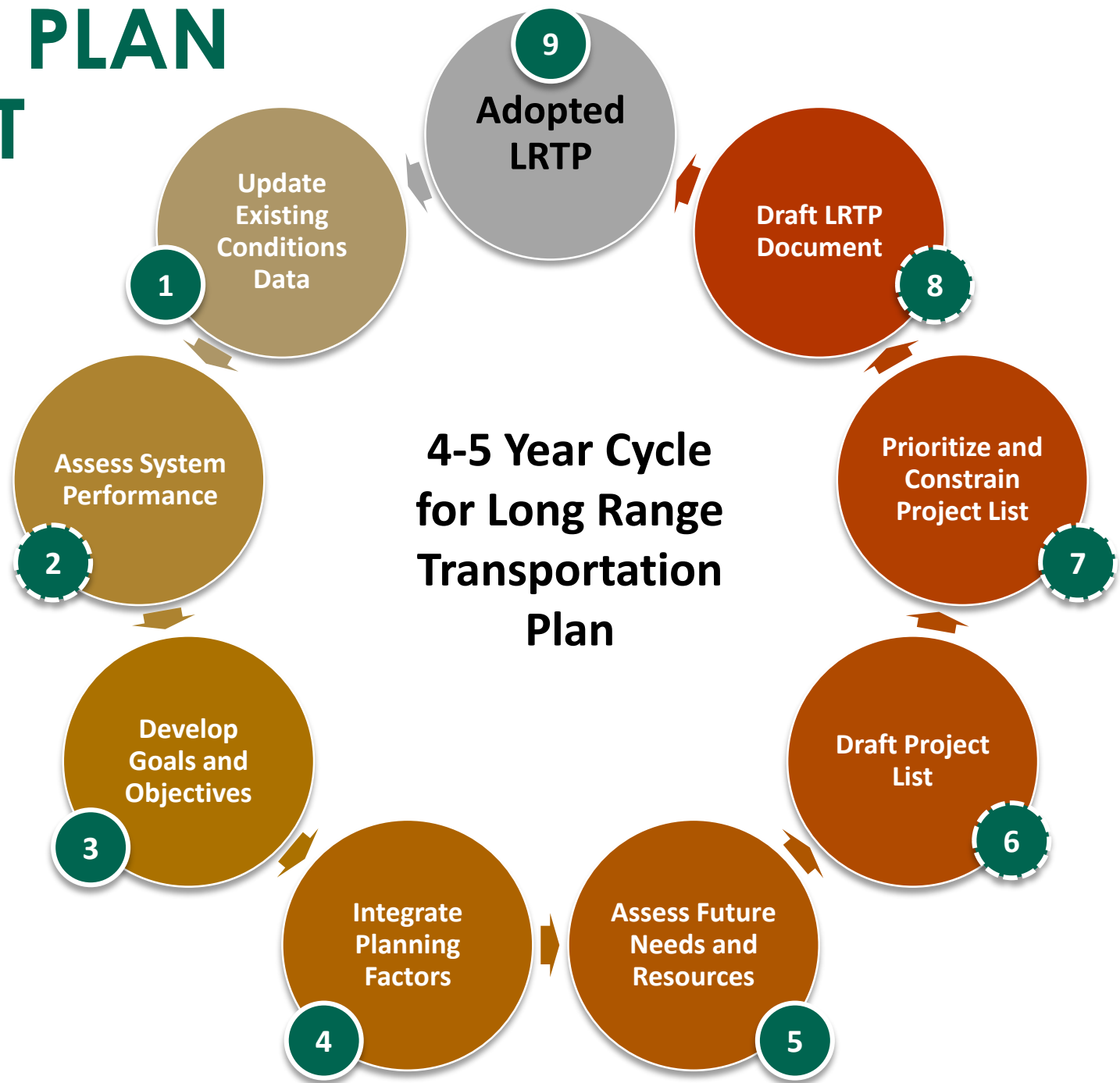
4 Year short-range project list

- Near-term implementation
- Federally Funded or Regionally Significant
- Dedicated Funding for listed projects
- Fiscally Constrained
- Regional TIPs together create State TIP
- Updated every 2 years

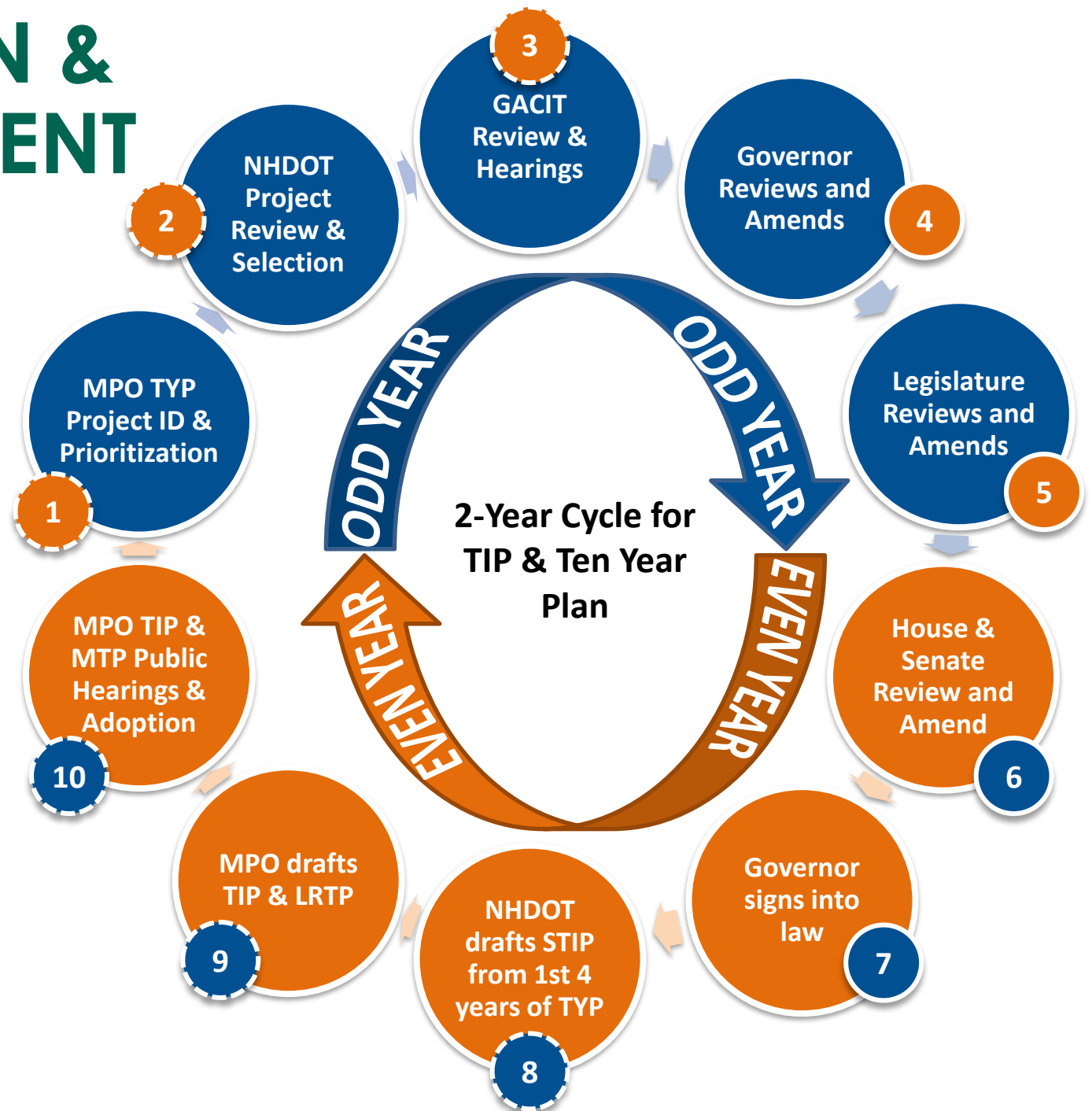


# LONG RANGE PLAN DEVELOPMENT CYCLE

# updated every 2  
years as part of Ten  
Year Plan and TIP  
process

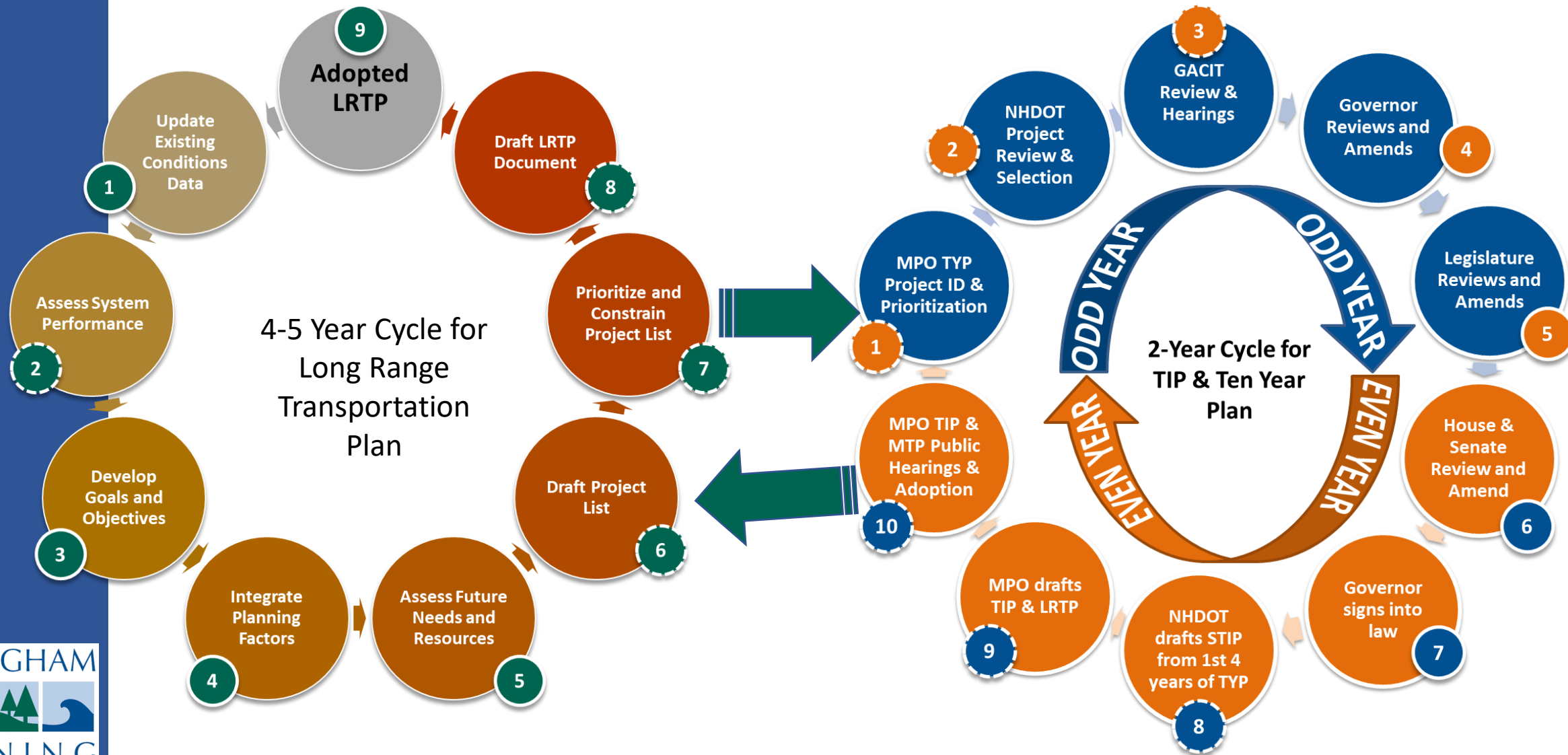


# TEN YEAR PLAN & TIP DEVELOPMENT CYCLE



# MPO Primary involvement

# LRTP AND TYP INTERACTION



# MPO ROLE IN THE STATE TEN YEAR PLAN

- To communicate identified transportation improvement needs to NHDOT for the State Ten Year Plan

- RSA 228:99

*“Each Metropolitan Planning Organization and rural regional planning commission shall provide a regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the Department of Transportation no later than April 1 of each odd-numbered year.”*

- RSA 240:3

*“The GACIT shall provide the first statewide review of the plan as drafted by the Department of Transportation with input from the regional planning commissions”*

Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT)

Composed of 5 Executive Councilors and the NHDOT Commissioner

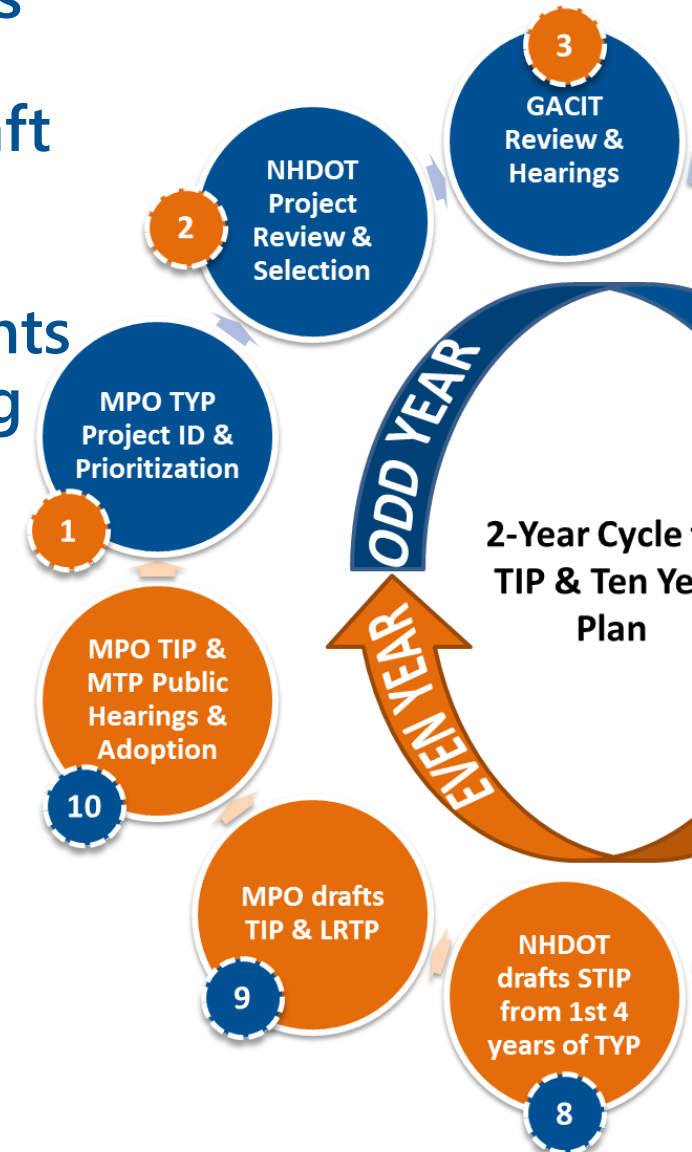
# MPO ROLE IN THE STATE TEN YEAR PLAN

- 1 Identify regional transportation project priorities
- 2 MPO provides feedback to NHDOT on initial draft of Ten Year Plan
- 3 Provide Input to GACIT (District 3) on the contents of the draft Ten Year Plan. Present MPO Planning Process and Priorities at public hearings.

8 Review draft STIP and provide feedback to NHDOT regarding projects included (or not)

9 Draft Regional TIP and update Long Range Plan project listing based on approved TYP contents

10 Approve new 4-year TIP and updated LRTP



# NHDOT STIP & MPO TIP/LRTP

- NHDOT drafts State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) from **first 4 years of the approved Ten Year Plan**.
- MPO drafts regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) based on projects in the STIP.
- MPO updates Long Range Transportation Plan project list based on approved Ten Year Plan and draft TIP.
- MPO holds **30 day public comment period** and **public hearings** to review and adopt the new four year TIP and the updated project list for the Long Range Transportation Plan

# TAC ROLES COMMON TO LRTP & TYP

- Identify local transportation needs and priorities
- Provide input and recommendations on project selection criteria
- Establish relative weights of each criterion
- Communicate regional priorities to community/agency
- Provide feedback to MPO staff
- Recommend prioritized & constrained project list to the MPO Policy Committee

# TAC ROLE IN LRTP DEVELOPMENT

- Review existing conditions data updated by staff
- Discuss and establish goals and objectives
- Help identify trends and areas of concern
- Identify local long-term transportation needs and priorities
- Review recommended actions and policies
- Provide feedback to MPO staff
- Review performance targets



# TAC ROLE IN TEN YEAR PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- Identify mid-term transportation improvement needs
- TAC aids in review of projects and members act as liaison between communities and region
- TAC establishes relative priority (weights) of project selection criteria
- TAC assists in scoring projects and establishing a draft prioritized list for review by the MPO Policy Committee
- Advocate for local/regional priorities at GACIT Hearings
- Communicate Ten Year Plan process and project status back to community/agency

# TIP REVISION PROCESS

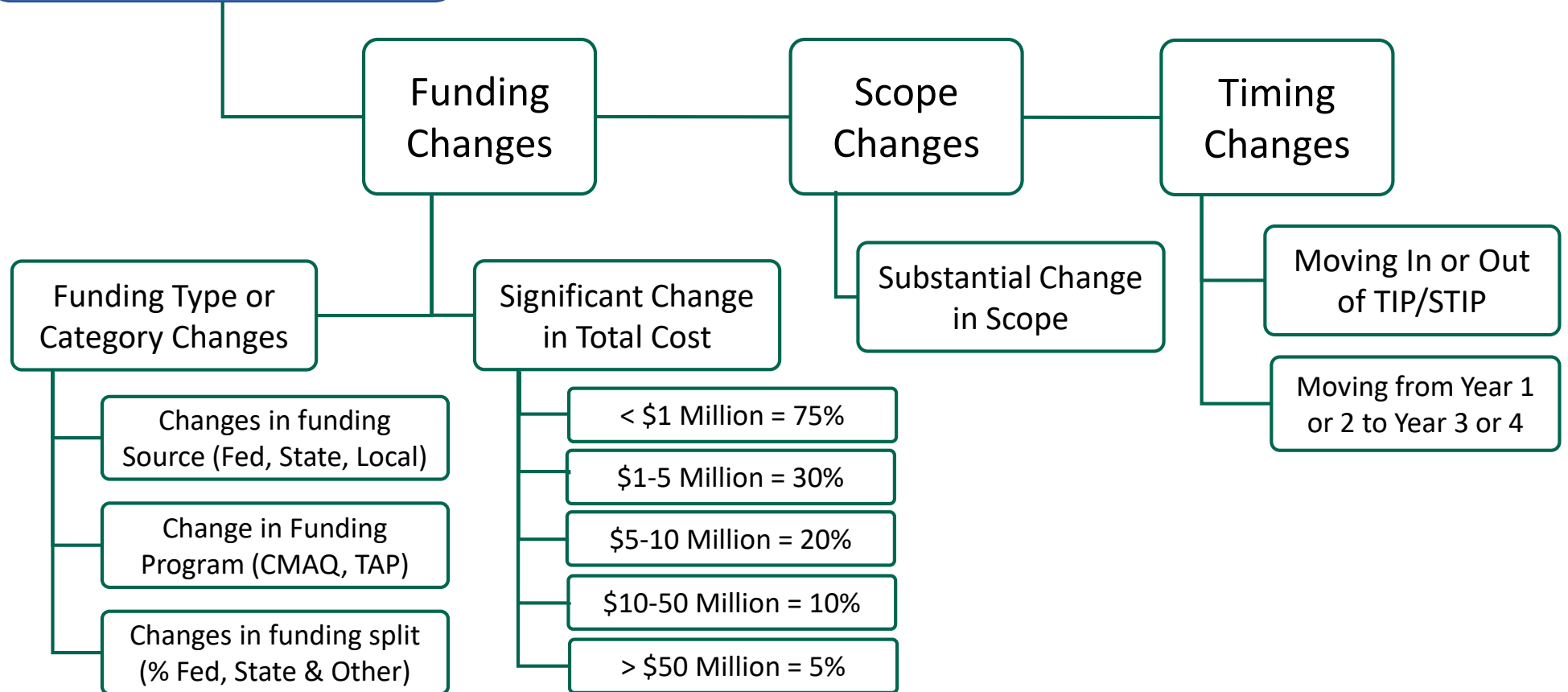
- Two types of TIP Revisions
  - Amendments
  - Administrative Modifications or Minor Revisions



- Different timeframe and level of public involvement
- Thresholds for amendments established statewide for consistency
  - Project changes that meet a threshold = Amendment
  - MPO can consider any administrative modification as a full amendment at our discretion.

# TIP AMENDMENT THRESHOLDS

If “Yes” to any of the following, the project change is an Amendment



# ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENT PROCESS

- Occur Monthly
  - Address “minor” changes in projects
1. Processed by staff into MPO TIP Database
  2. Requested changes are detailed and emailed to TAC and Policy Committee members
  3. Usually 2-3 days to review
  4. Substantial concerns can mean a project change is pulled from consideration and handled during the next full amendment.
  5. Executive Director given authority to approve for the MPO

# AMENDMENT PROCESS

- Occur approximately quarterly
  - Address “substantial” changes in projects
1. Processed by staff into MPO TIP Database
  2. Requested changes are detailed and handled by TAC and Policy as part of meetings
  3. Required 10-30 days public comment period
  4. TAC reviews changes and makes a recommendation to the MPO Policy Committee
  5. MPO Policy Committee approves the amendment after a public hearing

# IDEAS FOR ENHANCING TAC ROLE

- More direct involvement in project scoring/prioritization
- Members identify topics for visiting speakers (from UNH, USDOT Volpe Center, NHDOT, NHDES, BWANH, etc.)
- Two or three community reps each month describe current transportation challenges in their town
- Identify ways to improve translation of TAC/MPO activities and concerns back to community officials
- Meet with MPO staff and town officials regarding local project needs
- Others?

# WRAP UP – SUMMARIZING THE TAC ROLE

- Help identify and prioritize local transportation needs and issues
- Provide local perspective on regional process and contents of plans
- Monitor projects of interest in the TIP & Ten Year Plan and relay local concerns to MPO for addressing TIP Amendments and Administrative Adjustments