

FAST Planning Literature Reviews, Program Overview



More Information can be found at: <https://fastplanning.us/litreviews/>

2025 Book List

1. When Driving is Not an Option, Anna Zivarts
 - a. <https://islandpress.org/books/when-driving-not-option#desc>
2. Inclusive Transportation, Veronica Davis
 - a. <https://islandpress.org/books/inclusive-transportation#desc>
3. NACTO Bikeways Design Guide V3
 - a. <https://islandpress.org/books/urban-bikeway-design-guide-third-edition#desc>
4. Roadways for People, Lynn Peterson
 - a. <https://islandpress.org/books/roadways-people#desc>
5. Confessions of a Recovering Engineer, Charles Marohn
 - a. <https://www.confessions.engineer/>

Purpose

Review and Conducting literature reviews for a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) technical committee is important for several reasons:

- **Informs Decision-Making with Evidence-Based Practices**
 - Literature reviews compile and synthesize existing research, policies, and case studies, providing committee members with a solid foundation of knowledge.
 - They highlight proven strategies, emerging trends, and lessons learned from other regions, ensuring informed and effective decision-making.
- **Identifies Gaps and Opportunities**
 - By reviewing existing literature, MPOs can identify gaps in current transportation systems, policies, or research.
 - It helps the committee focus on areas needing innovation, investment, or further study.
- **Supports Comprehensive Planning**
 - MPOs are responsible for long-term regional planning. Literature reviews help integrate data on issues like mobility, sustainability, equity, and public health into comprehensive transportation plans.
 - They ensure that plans align with broader policy goals, such as reducing emissions or enhancing accessibility.

- **Promotes Inclusivity and Equity**
 - Reviews can uncover research and case studies on how transportation systems affect marginalized groups, such as nondrivers, low-income individuals, or people with disabilities.
 - This knowledge allows the committee to design equitable and inclusive transportation policies.
- **Encourages Innovation**
 - Literature reviews expose committee members to emerging technologies, trends, and solutions, such as smart mobility, autonomous vehicles, or sustainable urban design.
 - They serve as a catalyst for adopting innovative practices within the MPO's planning framework.
- **Builds Stakeholder Confidence**
 - A thorough review of existing research demonstrates that the MPO bases its recommendations on credible, well-researched evidence.
 - This transparency can strengthen trust among stakeholders, including local governments, businesses, and the public.
- **Facilitates Compliance with Federal and State Requirements**
 - MPOs must align their planning processes with federal and state guidelines. Literature reviews ensure that the committee stays updated on relevant laws, policies, standards and research.
- **Encourages Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing**
 - Summarizing and sharing findings with other MPOs, stakeholders, and the public fosters collaboration and ensures consistent approaches to regional challenges.

In essence, literature reviews empower MPO technical committees to make informed, equitable, and forward-thinking decisions that benefit the region's transportation system and its people.