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Greater Flagstaff MetroPlan recognized nationally for Excellence in MPO Coordination and Partnership

Greater Flagstaff MetroPlan has garnered a nationally recognized honorable mention award for Excellence in Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Coordination and Partnership. This distinction was presented to MetroPlan on October 6th at the 2021 Annual AMPO Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations ([AMPO](#)) honors outstanding efforts in coordination and partnership, recognizing strong collaborative projects and practices among MPOs, transit agencies, and state DOTs.

In a matter of 3 years, MetroPlan went through the process of restructuring, establishing the organization as a non-profit and developing a new mission and vision. The agency's new vision, "To Create the Finest Transportation System in the Country," is a reflection of its new business model and ambitious approach to planning and fund-raising.

"While moving forward as an independent entity, MetroPlan has continued to consider the impact its projects have on the community and the country as a whole," said AMPO Executive Director Bill Keyrouz. "Every MPO has a similar goal, to create a more robust transportation system for the communities they serve. MetroPlan hasn't just set the standard for aggressively pursuing funding, they've provided MPOs everywhere with the tools they need to take tangible steps to improve their regions in a similar way."

By coordinating with partner agencies, elected officials, and community leaders, MetroPlan was able to overcome the challenges of seeking independent, non-profit status and embrace collaborative techniques that lead to an influx of grant money into the region. For example, a \$5.5 Million bicycle and pedestrian grant in 2020 was the result of a partnership between Mountain Line, the City of Flagstaff and MetroPlan.

Jim McCarthy, Flagstaff City Councilmember who serves as the Board Chair of MetroPlan, said, "This national recognition is the result of many years of work. Staff and the Board both deserve credit, and it is humbling and gratifying to receive this prestigious honor."