

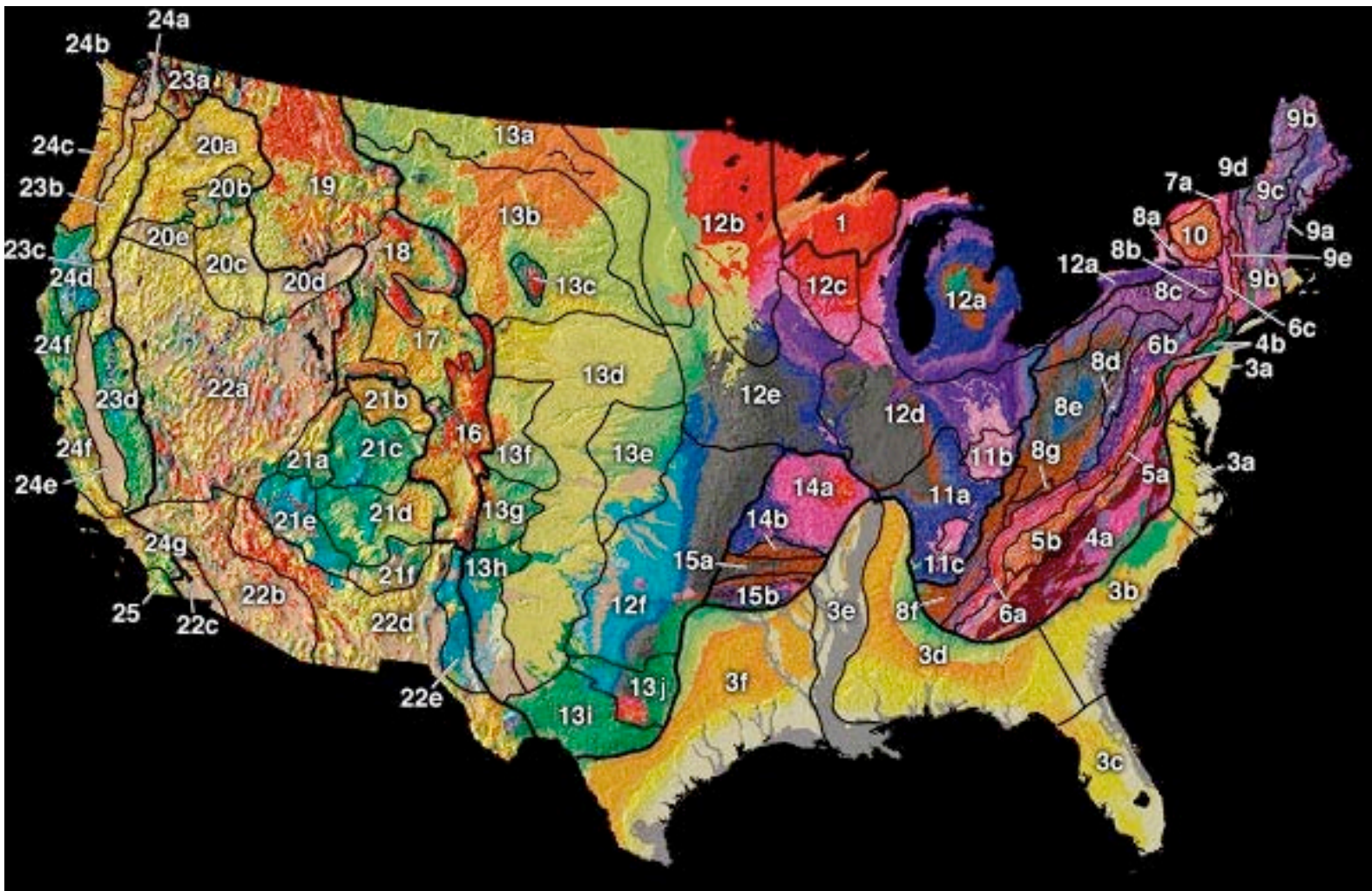
# Regions: What Do They Mean In America?

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September 20,2010

# Can We Define Regions?

What do you know about regions?



Geomorphic, or *physiographic*, regions are broad-scale subdivisions based on terrain texture, rock type, and geologic structure and history. Nevin Fenneman's (1946) three-tiered classification of the United States - by *division*, *province*, and *section* - Image courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey

# Culture

- Cultural Region is a portion of Earth's surface that has common cultural elements. Identifying and mapping culture regions are significant tasks because they show us where particular culture traits or cultural communities are located. Maps of culture regions provide answers to the most fundamental geographical question: Where?

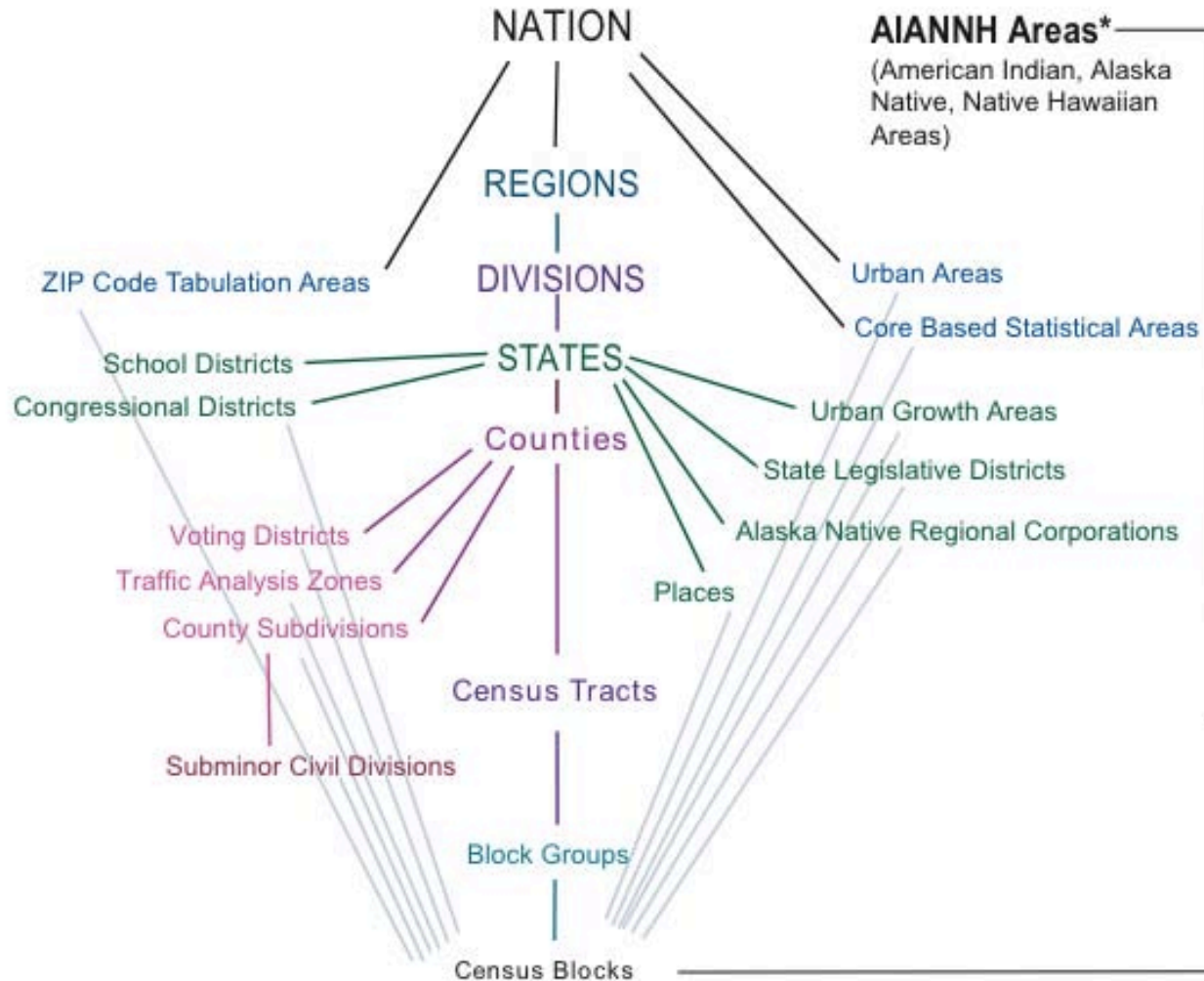
## Political Regions

Beyond Red and Blue:  
The 10 States of American Politics in 2008



Courtesy of Robert David Sullivan. Used with permission.

## Standard Hierarchy of Census Geographic Entities



## Statistical and Representational Regions

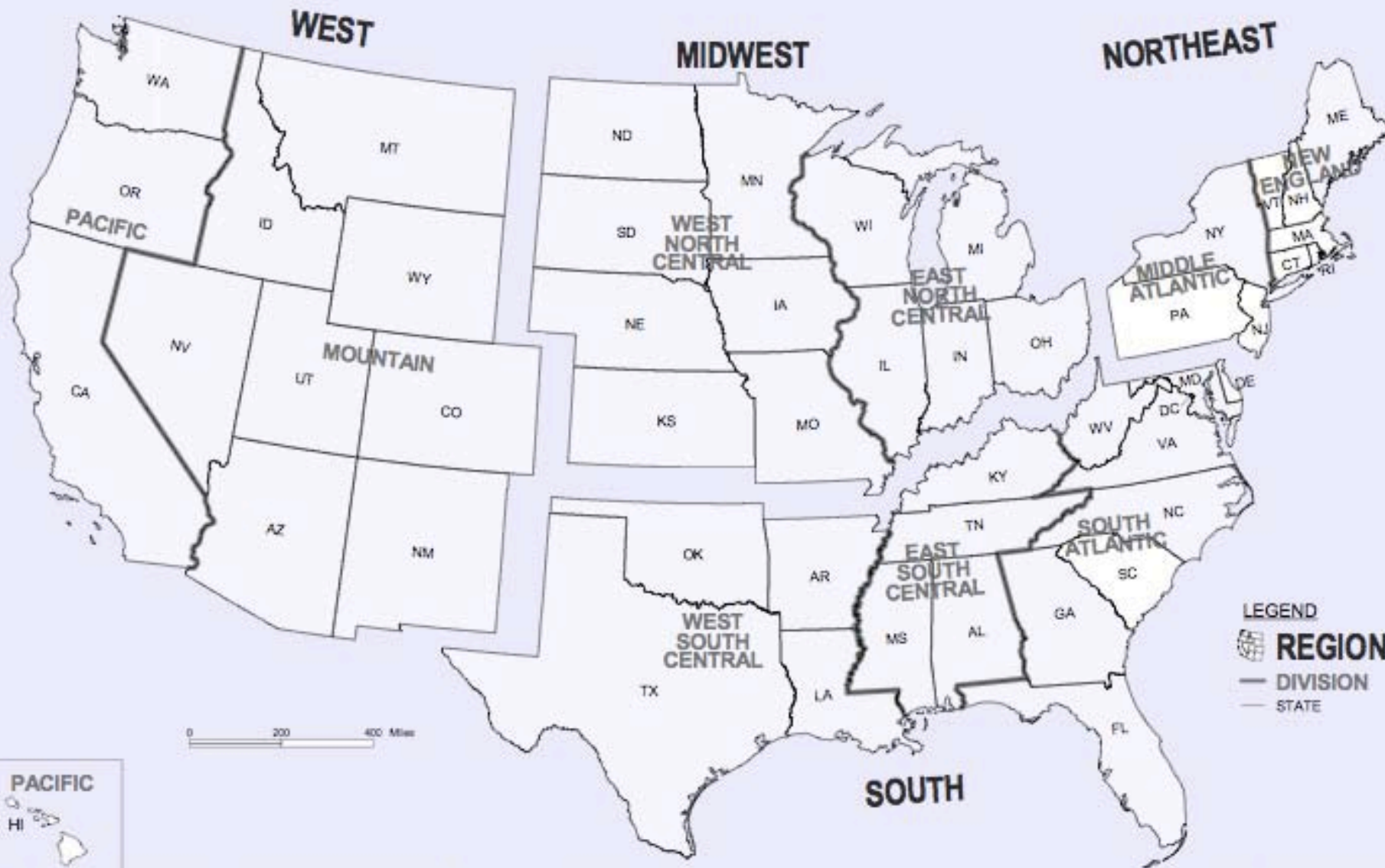
Image courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau.



PACIFIC

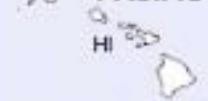


# Census Regions and Divisions of the United States



0 200 400 Miles

PACIFIC



**LEGEND**  
**REGION**  
**DIVISION**  
**STATE**

# The Evolution of Regionalism and Regional Practice in the US



# When and Why Are Policies Formed?

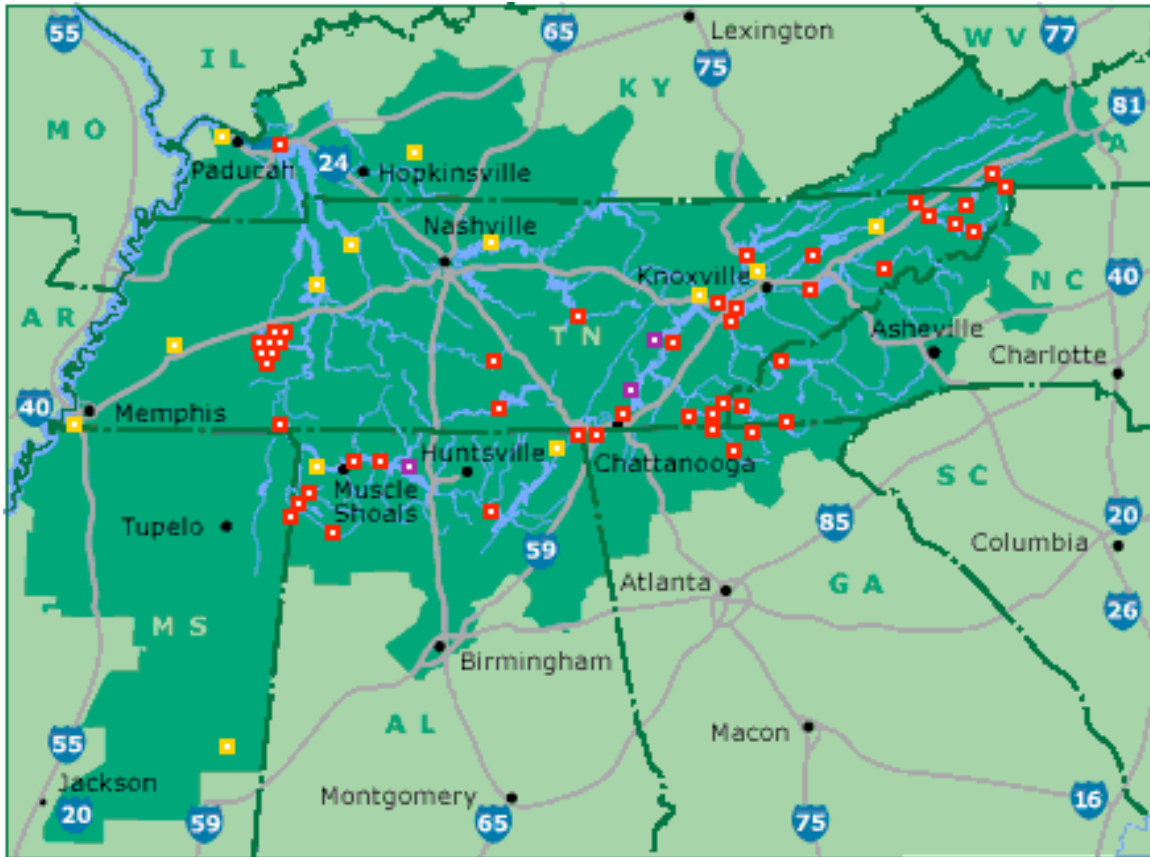
- When reviewing policy it is always important to start with history and context
  - The US system is Liberal Democratic, which means the role for the state is defined based on market failures and structural/contextual flaws in the economy
  - Most federal policy aimed toward economic development emerged during critical junctures, either crisis or discontinuity

# TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY ACT

## AN ACT

To improve the navigability and to provide for the flood control of the Tennessee River; to provide for reforestation and the proper use of marginal lands in the Tennessee Valley; to provide for the agricultural and industrial development of said valley; to provide for the national defense by the creation of a corporation for the operation of Government properties at and near Muscle Shoals in the State of Alabama, and for other purposes.

# TVA



This image is in the public domain. Source:Tennessee Valley Authority

# TVA

- *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of maintaining and operating the properties now owned by the United States in the vicinity of Muscle Shoals, Alabama, in the interest of the national defense and for agricultural and industrial development, and to improve navigation in the Tennessee River and to control the destructive flood water in the Tennessee River and Mississippi River Basins, there is hereby created a body corporate by the name of the “Tennessee Valley Authority” (hereinafter referred to as the “Corporation”).*

# Regional Planning Association

- In spring of 1929, Regional Plan Association released a monumental plan for New York and the surrounding metropolitan region. Only a few months later, financial havoc hit the markets and the United States plunged into the Great Depression.
- To combat this crisis and restart the American economy, the federal government eventually started investing in programs to get people back to work and to build the systems we would need for future prosperity, including housing and communities, energy supply and hydroelectric dams, and roads and bridges. With the most comprehensive plan in the nation, New York successfully captured many of these federal dollars and built the regional systems that made our metropolis the world city it is today.
- Same time of the TVA

# POVERTY IN AMERICA

White, poor, isolated, illiterate,  
unemployed, lost in time

**APPALACHIA**



# ORIGINAL FRAME RURAL POVERTY

- Fading jobs: Ties to agriculture and natural resources
- Missing ingredients: Lack of infrastructure and basic services
- Out migration: losing brightest and best
- Lacking collective action: weak or non-existent institutions
- Gaps in leadership: closed and inwardly focused
- Race and the legacy of slavery

## **POVERTY RECOGNIZED AS A MULTIFACETED PROBLEM WITH NO SINGLE CAUSE**

From *The New York Times* In 1964:

Industrial regions were thriving; The South was the region of poor people;

Most poor families in the US were those whose principal wage earner worked.

Those with low education levels;

Race mattered, non-whites more likely to be poor, but the majority of poor people were white.

DIVERSITY OF PLACE, DIVERSITY  
OF PEOPLE SHARING A  
COMMON PROBLEM:  
Policy Solution

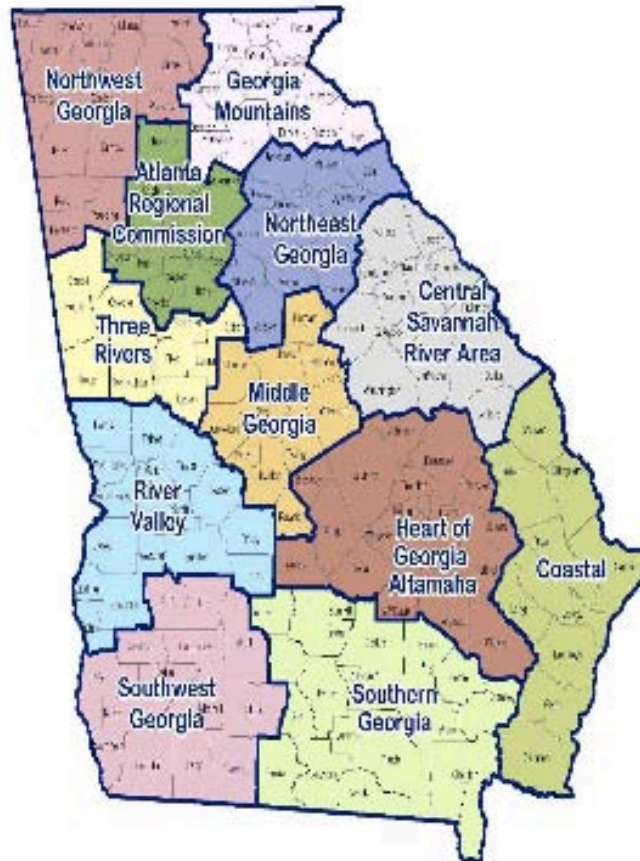
# A-95 Review Process

- In 1969, the feds created a review process that required that all federal projects undergo what became known as “A-95 review” to determine the fit or coordination of federal project spending. The lack of intergovernmental coordination was leading to waste, redundancy and inefficient and sometimes destructive overlap . Envisioned as a project-based review, it quickly emerged as a form of intergovernmental regionalism.

# Regional Commissions

- Denali
- Great Lakes
- New England
- Appalachia
- Borderlands
- Piedmont
- Ozarks

# Directory of Regional Commissions



Reprinted from Georgia Department of Community Affairs



**Georgia Department of Community Affairs**

Courtesy of Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Used with permission.



# Regional Councils

- A regional council is a multi-service entity with state and locally-defined boundaries that delivers a variety of federal, state and local programs while continuing its function as a planning organization, technical assistance provider and “visionary” to its member local governments. As such, they are accountable to local units of government and effective partners for state and federal governments.
- The role of the regional council has been shaped by the changing dynamics in federal, state and local government relations, and the growing recognition that the region is the arena in which local governments must work together to resolve social and environmental challenges. Regional councils have carved out a valuable niche for themselves as reliable agents and many operate more independent of federal funding. Comprehensive and transportation planning, economic development, workforce development, the environment, services for the elderly and clearinghouse functions are among the types of programs managed by regional councils.

# Metropolitan Planning Council

- The Federal Highway Administration has identified 384 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). An MPO is an agency created by federal law to provide local input for urban transportation planning and allocating federal transportation funds to cities with populations of greater than 50,000. Nearly half of MPOs (178) operate as part of the Regional Council serving the same general geography. Under federal law emanating from the 1973 Highway Act and the Urban Mass Transit Act, organizations in urbanized areas are designated by their Governors to perform significant planning and programming of federally funded highways and transit projects. Through the Long Range Transportation Plan and its link to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), MPOs are responsible for approving significant expenditures of federal dollars.

# Metropolitan Planning Organizations

- Today, regional councils have retained their identity but their role has changed dramatically. Of the more than 500 regional councils throughout the country, some include metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). At least 350 MPOs have been established to serve as urban regional transportation entities in areas with a population of 50,000 or more. Some MPOs are extensions of regional councils, and slightly more than half are stand-alone organizations responsible for fulfilling federal and state metropolitan transportation planning requirements. A board of elected officials and other community leaders typically governs each regional council and MPO.

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11.201 Gateway to the Profession of Planning  
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