

**CURRENT PROJECTS FOR FY 15 & FY 16
PROJECTED DATES FOR BOARD REVIEW**

FY 2015

OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT
						GPO/WEP	It's Broken Rep Fee Process		DPP - Brief 2 Vocational Assessment	Retirement Security	SSI Children
						SSI Stmt OUTLINE to Board	SSI Stmt Draft to Board				DPP - Brief 3 External Experts
						DPP - Brief 1 Single Decision Maker	2014 Annual Rpt				Disability Solvency

FY 2016

OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT
Service to the Public Project			History Rpt	2015 Annual Rpt							
Tech Panel Report											
DPP - Brief 4 Residual Functional Capacity			DPP - Brief 5 Impairment Severity			DPP - Brief 6 Listing of Impairments			DPP - Brief 7 Hearing Procedures		

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FY 2017

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CURRENT and PROPOSED BOARD PROJECTS

#	Project Name	Short Description of Current Project	Board Members	Status	Date for Board Action
Immediate Action by Full Board Needed					
1	GPO/WEP	A review of options to reform Social Security's WEP/GPO rules to offset benefits for people with noncovered pensions, with a possible policy recommendation from the Board	Alan Dorcas	In Draft - Need Board Review	April 2015
2	SSI Simplification Outline	SSI is administratively burdensome, the program has not been updated since it was created, simplification of In-Kind, Maintenance and Support is needed.	Entire Board	Outline Drafted Need Board to Review and Approve Outline	April 2015 - Outline May 2015 - Draft
3	Disability Policy Project Brief 1 Single Decision Maker	Topics on modernization and streamlining SSA's disability process: Brief 1 - Single Decision Maker	Henry	Draft Report	April 2015
Board Approved Projects Currently in Draft - With Staff					
4	It's Broken: SSA's Complicated Process of Paying Attorney Fees	Outlines the current fee agreement and fee petition payment process - how complicated and time consuming it can be		Draft Report	May 2015
5	2014 Annual Report	Summary of 2014 activities	Entire Board	Draft Report	May 2015
6	Disability Policy Project Brief 2 Vocational Assessment	Brief will discuss the appropriate way to assess vocational ability? Review the current assessment process - the systems and vocational grids relied on (and currently being updated) and the use, qualifications and pay of vocational experts and the 15 year policy rule for determining vocational relevancy		Draft Report	July 2015
7	Retirement Security - Planning for an Unknown Future	A review of options to increase retirement income from Social Security, pensions & savings, and increased earnings	Dorcas Barbara	Draft Report	August 2015
8	SSI Children	Combine 2013 and 2014 SSI reports and add in more about California's efforts to help foster children, debt collection procedures, Able Act, and interagency cooperation.	Lanhee Bernie	Research and Rough Draft Started	September 2015
9	"We Can Work it Out" Solvency Options for the Disability Trust Fund	Review of Options to Address Solvency and to outline the importance of address the depletion of the DI trust fund reserves before 2016.	Jagadeesh Alan	Report	September 2015

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10	Disability Policy Project Brief 3 External Experts	Brief will address the current Consultative Examination process. Does it play an appropriate role in disability decision-making? Are CE providers, MEs and VEs currently used by SSA sufficiently qualified and paid? Is agency providing sufficient training? What kind of oversight/quality review should SSA provide?		Draft Report	September 2015
11	Service to the Public	Compilation of comments from employees (during site visits) and the general public.		Rpt or Ltr to Coss and Congress	October 2015
12	Disability Policy Project Brief 4 Residual Functional Capacity	Brief will address whether residual functional capacity analysis needs to be updated. How current medical evidence is evaluated and weighted and whether controlling weight should be given to the treating source and the definition of treating source be expanded.		Draft Report	October 2015
13	Tech Panel	Independent Panel	Henry	Meetings	October 2015
14	Disability Policy Project Brief 5 Impairment Severity	Brief will address whether residual functional capacity analysis needs to be updated. How current medical evidence is evaluated and weighted and whether controlling weight should be given to the treating source and the definition of treating source be expanded.		Draft Report	January 2016
15	History of the Board Report	History of the creation of SSAB and how the agency has evolved over the years	Entire Board		January 2016
16	2015 Annual Report	Summary of 2014 activities			Feb 2016
17	Disability Policy Project Brief 6 Lisitng of Impairments	Should the listings be used to screen a large number of cases quickly, as originally intended? Is the addition of functional criteria add too much subjectivity? Why is the update process so lengthy and complicated?		Draft Report	April 2016
18	Disability Policy Project Brief 7 Hearing Procedures	Are the current procedures for video hearing appropriate? Are there changes to the procedures that could improve and increase usage of video hearings?		Draft Report	July 2016

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Ongoing Projects					
19	ChartBook	Update all of the charts in the Chartbook on the Website			
20	ALJ Hiring Process at OPM	Continue to work behind the scenes on changing how OPM hires ALJs			
Possible New Reports and Projects for Now or Sometime in the Future					
21	UI/DI	There is new legislation pending in Senate which includes more restrictions on the "no double dipping" legislation in the President's Budget.			
22	Old Debts	After several articles about the number of people that were having federal benefits intercepted for overpayment of social security benefits that were decades old the Commissioner stated that the agency would stop going after these benefits. However, according to a class action law suit the agency has continued its practice. The agency lost its summary judgment motion and the case is proceeding forward.			
23	Death Master File	In a briefing with Assistant Deputy Commissioner Marianna LaCanfora the history and complicated process of collecting, verifying and sharing information on the death master file was discussed. This is a topic where there seems to be a lot of misunderstanding. An issue brief outlining the issues and responsibilities might address some of the sensalism following some recent news reports and headlines could educate Congress about the important underlying issues involved.			
24	ALJ Model Rules	In a recent meeting with the ALJ Union they have indicated it would be helpful to them to have model rules of procedure. They drafted some in 2003 which we are waiting to receive.			
25	Systems Notices	The languages in SSA Notices can be confusing but currently systems generated notices can cause misunderstanding and hardship			
26	Temporary Disability	Should there be something in between not being able to work at all and needing to take time off with an intention of returning to the workforce?			
27	Work Incentives	How can SSA improve the return to work programs?			
28	Survivor Benefits	SSAB has never written a report on the survivors program.			