



Looking at the TPB's *Draft* Participation Plan

TPB Technical Committee
July 6, 2007

Participation Plan: Inputs

- Current TPB Public Involvement Process, as amended in 1999
- Federal Metropolitan Planning Regulations of February 14, 2007, SAFETEA-LU
- Final report of the Evaluation of the TPB's Public Involvement Activities
- Lessons-learned since 1999

Federal Requirements

- Participation Plan now required under SAFETEA-LU (2005 federal transportation act)
 - Develop in consultation with “interested parties”
 - Publish/make available transportation plans, STIPs and TIPs for public view
 - Hold public meetings at convenient and accessible times and locations
 - Make information available in electronically accessible formats
 - Employ visualization techniques to depict statewide and metropolitan transportation plans

Recommendations from Circle Point Evaluation

- *Strategically* plan outreach activities
- Improve *integration* of public involvement activities
- Move *beyond* “one-size-fits-all” approach
- Work toward developing a “*regional story*”
- Conduct program *evaluations* more frequently

Continuing Challenges

- Align expectations for public involvement in the TPB process
- Annual nature of the TPB planning cycle
- Limited resources
- Special needs of traditionally underserved communities

Overarching Purpose of the Plan

- The Participation Plan describes the goals and objectives of participation in the TPB process.
 - Specific programming will be addressed in the annual Participation Program.
- The TPB's Participation Plan should be relevant over the next 5-7 years.
 - The Plan will be updated following the release of new transportation legislation.

Policy, Goals, Activities

- Policy Statement
 - Unchanged from 1998 Process
- Policy Goals
 - Effective communication and messaging of information
 - Involvement from diverse participants and opportunities for constituency building.
 - Open access to information and participation.
 - Reception of public comment and provision of meaningful feedback to constituencies.
- Participation Activities
 - Built upon list of activities from 1998 Process

Participation Strategy

Tailoring public involvement activities to three type of constituencies:

- 1. The Involved Public***
- 2. The Informed Public***
- 3. The Interested Public***

Goals: The *Involved* Public

- Recognize and ***support the vital contributions*** of citizens who are already active in the TPB process
- Utilize the expertise and commitment of involved individuals and groups to ***inform the TPB's decision-making***
- Support these individuals and groups in ***disseminating information*** to their communities

Goals: The *Informed* Public

- Provide information that will **empower** community leaders and other members of the informed public *to positively affect transportation decision-making at the local and state levels*
- Utilize the informed public and community leaders as **conduits to disseminate information** about regional transportation issues at the grassroots level
- **Encourage the informed public to get involved** in the regional transportation planning process

Goals: The *Interested* Public

- ***Make available basic information*** to create a more informed public
- ***Increase the capacity*** of interested citizens so that some might become “informed” and even “involved”
- ***Focus on basic issues***, not process (because most interested people will never get involved in our process, but we shouldn't ignore them)

What are we currently doing?

- Structures
 - Citizens Advisory Committee (established 1993; reconstituted 2000)
 - Access for All Advisory Committee (established 2001)
 - Other TPB Committees and Subcommittees
- Procedures
 - Established in the Public Involvement Process
 - Include public comment, public notice
- Website
- Documents
 - *TPB News*, *The Region*, *Citizens Guide*, special publications
- Public Meetings
 - Forums on the TPB's Scenario Study
- Community Leadership Institute

What is new in the Plan?

- Formalize effective programs and activities
 - Community Leadership Institute
 - Conduct public forums and workshops
 - Visualization techniques
- Develop annually a proactive strategy for participation
 - Strategize methods for tailoring information to multiple constituencies
 - Contribute to the “regional story” of transportation decision-making

Approving the New 2007 TPB Participation Plan

- June - September: Discuss draft with key stakeholders, and modify accordingly
 - CAC, AFA, Technical Committee and Subcommittees
- July 18: Brief the TPB on the draft
- September 13: Release the draft for the 45-day public comment period
- November 21: TPB scheduled to approve the Participation Plan

Questions? Comments?

Please review the Draft Participation Plan
and submit any comments to me
by Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Sarah Crawford

(202) 962-3237

scrawford@mwcog.org