

The TPB's Participation Plan

Presentation to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
September 18, 2007

Sarah Crawford
Transportation Planner
Department of Transportation Planning

Schedule for approving the 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 14: TPB scheduled to approve the Participation Plan

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

Recommendations from the 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

- Guiding expectations for public involvement in the TPB process
- Communicating the schedule for participation in the TPB planning cycle
- Prioritizing the use of limited resources
- Meeting the 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 Statement and Goals

- 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

- Procedures
- Committees
- Website & Publications
- Public Meetings & Trainings
- General Activities

Participation Strategy

Tailoring public involvement activities to three type of constituencies:

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

What is New in the Plan?

- Formalize effective tools and activities
 - Website
 - Visualization techniques
 - Public forums and workshops
 - Community Leadership Institute
- Develop an annual Participation Program
 - Tailor information to the *involved, informed, and interested* publics
 - Develop an integrated regional transportation “*story*”

Presentations on the Draft: May-September, 2007

- Transportation Planning Board
- Citizens Advisory Committee
- Access for All Advisory Committee
- TPB Technical Committee
- Regional Bus Subcommittee
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee
- Ad-Hoc Freight Committee
- Participation Plan focus group

Some Comments on the Draft

- Emphasize the importance of:
 - Obtaining qualitative, non-technical feedback
 - Creating opportunities for cross-jurisdictional understanding
 - Showing people we've "heard them"
 - Using "plain language" in documents
 - Understanding varying time constraints and levels of expertise
 - Supporting action at the local/state levels; understand that most people won't get involved at the regional level

Comments or Questions?

Please review the TPB Participation Plan and provide comments to TPB staff by the end of the 45-day comment period: October 28, 2007

Sarah Crawford

scrawford@mwcog.org

(202) 962-3237