

What is SAFETEA-LU?

- **Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users**
- Governs U.S. federal surface transportation spending through 2010
- ***Authorization*** as opposed to ***Appropriation***
- \$286.4 billion total spending
- 1,227 pages long

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SAFETEA-LU Legislative Context

- Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) – 1991
- Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) – 1998
- Latest reauthorization round severely delayed due to conflicts between branches over total spending figure

SAFETEA-LU Content

- Titles include:
 - Federal Aid Highways (I)
 - Highway Safety (II)
 - **Public Transportation (III)**
 - Motor Carrier Safety (IV)
 - Research (V)
 - **Transportation Planning and Project Delivery (VI)**
 - Hazardous Materials Transportation (VII)

SAFETEA-LU Key Sections

- Section 3005 – Metropolitan Transportation Planning
- Section 3006 – Statewide Transportation Planning
- Section 3007 – Planning Programs
- Section 6001 – Transportation Planning

Interpreting the Law

- USDOT (including FHWA and FTA) issues regulations that specify in greater detail requirements and guidance based on the law
 - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) published June 9, 2006
- Comments accepted on the draft regulations until September 7, 2006
- In general, this NPRM closely tracks the language used in SAFETEA-LU and does not pose unanticipated challenges

SAFETEA-LU Metropolitan Planning Requirement Changes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Plan/TIP updates every 4 years instead of 3 B. Bicycle, pedestrian, & transit in annual listing of projects C. New stand-alone planning factor for safety D. New stand-alone planning factor for security E. Expanded planning factor to promote consistency with planned growth & economic development, environment F. Plan must discuss environmental mitigation activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> G. Consult with wider range of land use, natural resources, historic, & other officials H. Coordinated public transit – human services transportation plan I. Plan must include operations & management strategies J. Revamped Congestion Management Process K. <i>Enhancements to public involvement and outreach</i> |
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What requirements are in the existing law?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactive process • Provision of complete information • Timely public notice of public involvement activities and information about transportation issues and processes • Full public access to key decisions and time for public review and comment • Early and continuing public involvement in developing the TIP • Minimum public comment period of 45 days before adoption or revision of the public involvement process | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 30-day review period for Transportation Plan, TIP, and major amendments in non-attainment areas classified as serious and above • Explicit consideration and response to public input • Consideration of the needs of people traditionally underserved by transportation systems, including low-income and minority households; consistency with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including actions necessary to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 • Coordination of metropolitan and statewide public involvement processes • Periodic review of public involvement effectiveness |
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“Enhancements to Public Involvement and Outreach”

- Participation Plan now required
 - 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

What do we already do?

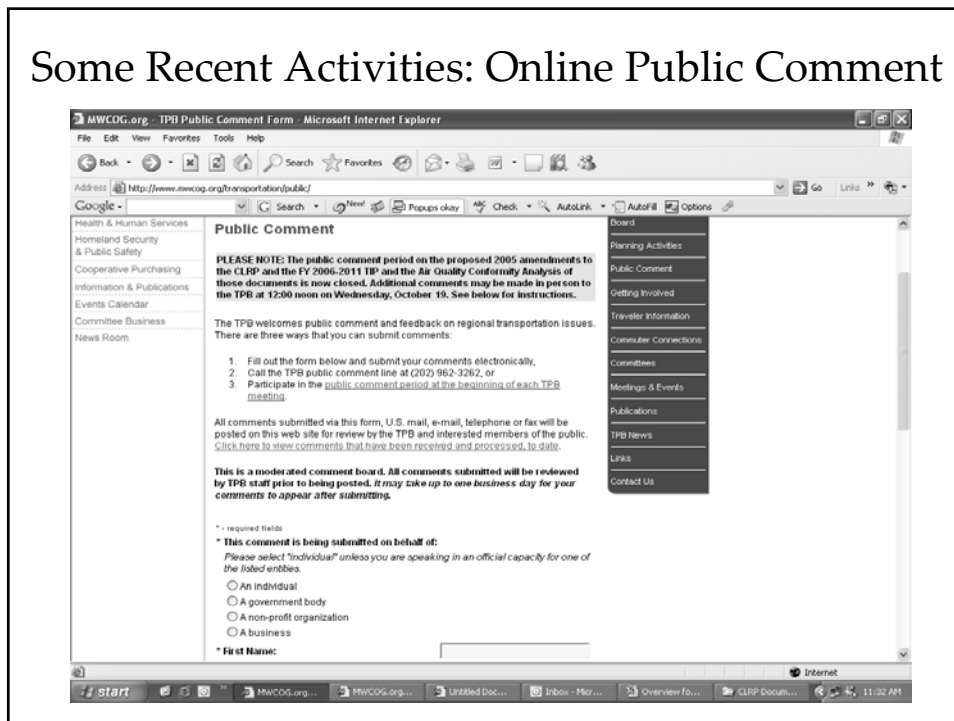
- Structures
 - Citizens Advisory Committee
 - Access for All Advisory Committee
- Procedures
 - Established in the Public Involvement Process
 - Include public comment, public notice
- Website
- Documents
 - *TPB News, The Region, Citizens Guide*, special publications
- Public Meetings
 - Forums on the TPB’s Scenario Study

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Some Recent Activities: New CLRP Documents



Some Recent Activities: Online Public Comment



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Some Recent Activities: CAC Scenario Forums



Community Leadership Institute – April 2006



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What do we hope to do better?

- **Engagement and education** of community leaders, particularly those not traditionally involved in the process.
- Develop more effective and timely **public information** on the plan.
- Obtain representative **citizen input** on key issues.

New Ideas:

1. *Educate* Community Leaders

The Community Leadership Institute

- Hope to repeat in Fall '06 and Spring '07
- Educate community leaders on how to affect decisions
 - Focus on project development and selection:
How and where are key decisions made?
- Discuss key regional challenges
 - Focus on results of Scenario Study
- Enlist program alumni in further education efforts

New Ideas:

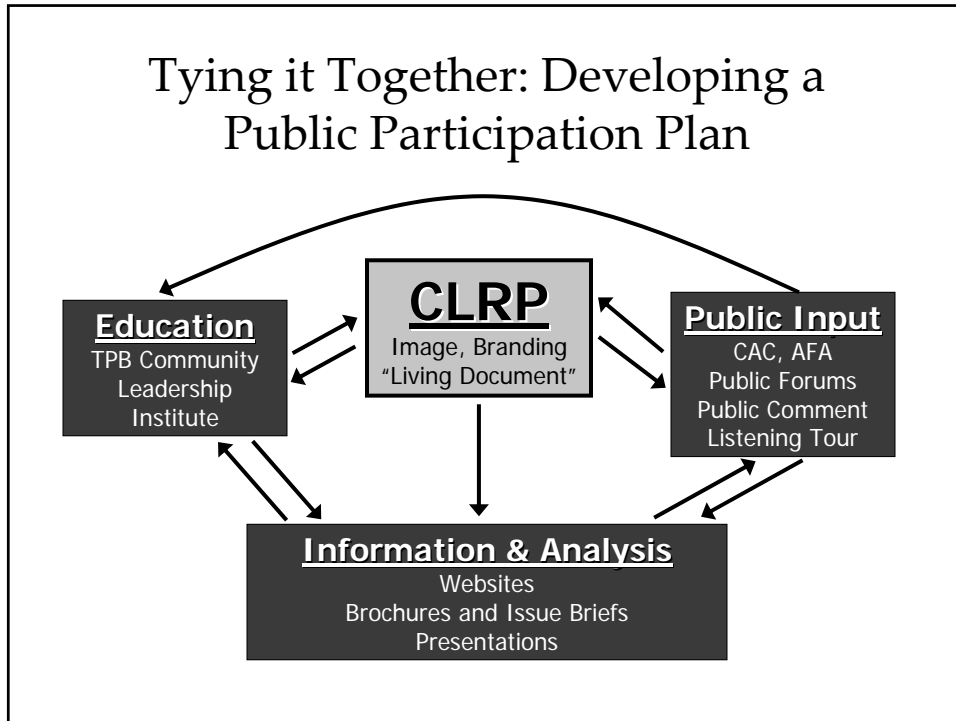
2. Make CLRP *information* more accessible

- A new identity for the CLRP (branding)
- Accessible web and printed information
 - Web-based CLRP homepage
 - Online project database
- Analysis: Available earlier and easier to understand
- Clearly explain project selection process

New Ideas:

3. Make public *input* to the CLRP more useful

- Make scenario forums more interactive
 - Incorporate techniques from CLI
- Improve the public comment process and documentation
- Conduct public opinion polls



- ### Federal Certification Review
- Regular review of TPB planning process conducted by USDOT
 - Distributed previously to CAC
 - Evaluates compliance with federal requirements and guidance
 - Contains “Recommendations” and “Commendations”

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Certification Recommendations

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formal agreement on regional transit planning 2. Fredericksburg MPO allocation agreement 3. Annual self-certification signatures page 4. Expand explanation of the CLRP and TIP links 5. Document transparency of project selection process 6. More detailed and consolidated financial plan 7. Description of the ridership constraint methodology 8. Comprehensive description of the Congestion Management System | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Description of the UPWP technical assistance process 10. Maintain commitments to emissions reduction measures 11. Demonstrate how Federal Planning Factors are addressed 12. Expand freight planning 13. Demonstrate safety and security in the planning process and project selection 14. Coordinate more frequently on land use issues 15. Make compliance with Title VI more visible in the process 16. <i>Evaluate regional public outreach efforts within the next two years</i> |
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What did the review say about Public Involvement?

- Commendation for “amount and quality of information available to the public through the TPB’s web site and publications”
- Recommendation to “evaluate the effectiveness of regional public outreach efforts within the next two years”

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Additional Guidance from the Certification Review

- Consideration of CAC recommendations on information improvements and analysis of the CLRP and TIP
- Expansion of efforts to reach minority, low-income, and disabled populations
- Development of a CAC charter and timely appointment of CAC members
- Improvement of information to CAC about projects in development
- Keeping Web information up-to-date

Public Involvement Evaluation

- TPB plans to conduct a comprehensive evaluation
- Draft RFP distributed for CAC comment
- Consultant to support completion of these tasks:
 - Documentation of current public involvement activities and comparison to other MPOs
 - Discussion with representatives of stakeholders and decision-makers about current process
 - Assessment of current techniques and recommendations for improvements
 - Assistance in production of a Public Participation Plan
- Target completion date in December 2006

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Items for CAC Discussion

- Draft RFP comments
 - How can the evaluation process be most meaningful and useful?
- Thoughts on framework for improvement: Education, Information, and Input
 - What mechanisms could be used for organizing and processing public input?
 - How can RMAS most effectively be used as a tool for all three?