

Looking at the TPB's Draft Participation Plan

TPB Regional Bus Subcommittee
June 26, 2007

1

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

2

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

3

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.

4

Continuing Challenges

- Limited resources.
- Special needs of traditionally underserved communities.
- 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.

5

Policy, Goals, Activities

- Policy Goals
 - *Effective communication and messaging of information leading to knowledgeable, informed constituencies.*
 - *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

6

Participation Strategy

Tailoring public involvement activities to three type of constituencies:

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

7

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.

8

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.

9

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).

10

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

11

Approving the New 2007 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 public comment period.
- November 21: TPB scheduled to approve the Participation Plan.

12

Question? Comments? Ideas?

Please review the Draft Participation Plan
and submit any comments to me
by Friday, June 29, 2007

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