



TPB Participation Plan *2014 Update*

POLICY CONSTITUENCIES

The TPB has defined the following three broad types of constituencies around which to develop future participation activities. In general, these three constituencies are grouped according to varying levels of engagement in regional transportation planning process and awareness of regional transportation issues.

- **The Involved Public** is both knowledgeable about transportation policy issues in general, as well as the TPB's role in the regional transportation planning process. These individuals and organizations already actively participate in the TPB process and have a fairly extensive understanding of regional transportation issues and policy. Among others, this category includes the TPB's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Access for All Advisory Committee (AFA).
- **The Informed Public** has some knowledge of transportation policy issues, but is not familiar with the TPB's role in the regional transportation planning process. They also may not be fully aware of the regional context underlying the transportation challenges experienced throughout the region. This middle tier often includes community leaders and opinion leaders who work at the local level.
- **The Interested Public** has an inherent interest in transportation challenges, but possesses little direct knowledge of transportation policy issues. This group, which is the largest of the three, includes the "general public," but it may also include community leaders or even elected officials who have limited exposure to transportation planning at any level.

These three constituency groups were developed with federal public participation regulations in mind. The federal regulations require that MPOs define a process for providing interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process. The regulations define these parties as: citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties.

Each of these different types of constituencies includes a wide spectrum of members, including individuals, interest groups, community leaders, and elected officials. The TPB also recognizes that each of these constituent groups include people from minority communities, people with limited English proficiency, people with low-incomes, and people from a variety of ages, including youth and the elderly. Staff remains aware of the need to engage these populations through outreach and participation.