

TPB PARTICIPATION PLAN

2020 Update

Bryan Hayes
TPB Transportation Planner

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Participation Plan Purpose

The TPB's Participation Plan guides TPB staff interactions with the public so that they can:

- 1) Reach as many people as inclusively as possible, and
- 2) Collect meaningful input and build support to inform TPB plans, programs, and aid in decision making.



Participation context

Participation Plan

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



ADOPTED BY THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
DECEMBER 19, 2007



The first formal participation plan was approved by the TPB in 2007. It was updated in 2014.

The TPB's Participation Plan is just one of the documents in the region that guides public engagement. Jurisdictions and agencies have their own plans.



What is new in the 2020 update?

Staff Guide

Public
Guide

Federal
Guide

Participation Policy

1. Clarify the purpose of public participation in the TPB process
2. Strengthen Participation Policy by adding policy principles and placing more emphasis on equity
3. Public Guide is a quick reference for members of the public looking to get involved in regional transportation planning at the TPB
4. Staff guide provides workflow to help staff outline an approach to reaching the public



Equity Perspective

Staff strive to incorporate an equity perspective into their work activities so that work acknowledges and seeks to accommodate different contexts, experiences, and abilities. This equity perspective is informed by COG's Title VI Plan and Program, the TPB Equity Statement, and the TPB's Equity Emphasis Areas. It acknowledges past inequities and barriers to involvement and seeks to be more just.

In looking through the equity lens, it will be helpful to consider the following:

- Staff should acknowledge past mistakes when working with groups that have been left out of the planning process and voice a commitment to do better.
- Staff should acknowledge barriers to participation and offer accommodations to help overcome those barriers.
- Staff should think about how to adapt their work to make it accessible despite these barriers.



Process for updating plan

Information gathering – Gathered information through internal discussions and a review of key documents. The information gathered helped identify elements that are highlighted in the plan update.

Stakeholder input – On multiple occasions draft work on the plan was shared with the AFA, CAC, and Technical Committees. Feedback from these groups helped shape plan draft.

Internal input – Worked with Team Leaders and other key DTP staff to develop and refine the draft, especially the Staff Guide.

Draft plan – The draft plan that is out for comment builds on elements from the 2014 update, and input gathered through the process.

Public comment – The plan is currently out for public comment. Input received from the public will be incorporated into final plan.



Public Comment and Next Steps

The 2020 TPB Participation update started its federally required 45-public comment period on Tuesday, August 25. The comment period ends on Friday, October 9. Board approval is scheduled for October 21.

- **August 25** – Announcement email sent to TPB public comment list
- **August 27** – Announcement sent to CAC and AFA
- **September 8** – TPB News blog post
- **September 16** – Brief the TPB on Participation Plan update
- **October 9** – Public comment period ends
- **October 15** – Comment summary and changes to Participation Plan finalized
- **October 21** – Board approval



Bryan Hayes

TPB Transportation Planner

(202) 962-3273

bhayes@mwkog.org

mwkog.org/TPB

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300

Washington, DC 20002



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board