

TPB PARTICIPATION PLAN

2020 Update

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Citizens Advisory Committee
June 11, 2020



Past Participation Plans

Participation Plan

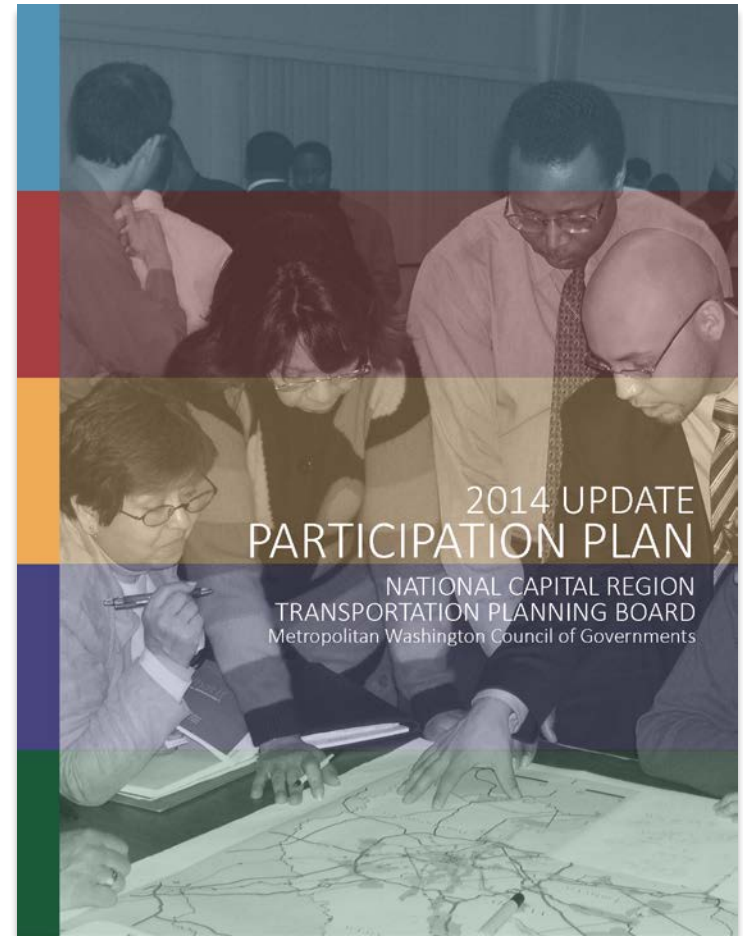
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



ADOPTED BY THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

DECEMBER 19, 2007

2007



2014



Proposed Changes for 2020 Update

1. Clarify the purpose of public participation in the TPB process
2. Clarify the purpose of the participation plan
3. Explain how the TPB's participation activities target different constituencies
4. Enhance evaluation activities
5. Remove operational details regarding TPB advisory committees
6. More explicitly tie in Title VI requirements
7. Ensure TPB meets federal metropolitan planning requirements



Main elements of 2020 Update

Staff Guide

**Public
Guide**

**Federal
Guide**

Participation Policy



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.

NOTE: This presentation includes draft language for the 2020 Participation Plan update. Language may change based on input from the AFA, CAC, and other groups.



Presentation focus

This presentation focuses on the Participation Policy (policy statement, principles, goals, and constituencies) and the Public Guide.

Seeking CAC input on these two questions:

1. Do the goals, principles, and constituencies serve as a solid foundation for making surer that TPB interactions with the public are inclusive and accessible?
2. Does guidance on how the public can get involved at the TPB address the concerns and perspectives of the CAC?



Policy Statement

It is the policy of the TPB to provide public access and involvement under a collaborative planning process in which the interests of all stakeholders are reflected and considered. It is the TPB's intent to make both its policy and technical processes inclusive of and accessible to all stakeholders.



Policy Principles

The policy principles articulate TPB values around informing and engaging the public. These principles guide engagement and point toward goals, without specifying the goals or the means to achieve them.

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.

Plain Language – TPB Staff strive to use plain language when possible so that their work is accessible to as many people as possible.

Early and Ongoing Participation - Staff strive to involve the public early in planning processes to maximize impact of public input. Staff also strive to involve the public throughout processes to create repeat interactions with the public.



Policy Principles, continued

Timely Response - Staff strive to acknowledge receipt of public input in a timely manner and provide information about how that input will be used. This will build trust by demonstrating the value of input.

Clarity of Purpose – TPB staff strive for clarity of purpose when planning public facing work. This will help staff determine if the work is meant to inform, consult, or engage the public. This will also help the public understand their role in the TPB plan or activity and how their input will be used.



Policy Goals

The policy goals describe what the TPB is trying to achieve through its participation activities. Goals are measurable and demonstrate staff effectiveness towards fulfilling the principles.

Communicate effectively with appropriate audiences. The TPB will disseminate information about programs and projects through a variety of conduits. Information will be presented in a manner that is clear and tailored to each of the TPB's constituencies.

Provide clear and open access to information and participation opportunities. The TPB will work to improve access to technical and planning documents and, where appropriate, tailor these documents to be accessible to more constituencies. Opportunities for participation in TPB meetings and in committee meetings will be clearly defined and provided for at each meeting.



Policy Goals, continued

Gather input from diverse perspectives. The TPB will continue to encourage participation from diverse constituencies and to provide forums for discussion about transportation issues that are responsive to the interests of different constituencies.

Respond meaningfully to public comment and feedback. The TPB will provide information on how comments will be considered in the planning process, including the development of Visualize 2045 and TIP, and acknowledge the comments that were received and considered.

Promote a regional perspective. The TPB will communicate how regional transportation planning plays a vital role in coordinating planning activities on many levels. The TPB will also work to connect the public to where their input can have the biggest impact, which is often on the local level.



Policy Constituents

Every person who lives in the Washington region is impacted by transportation. The TPB acknowledges that not every person is aware of the TPB or has an understanding for how decisions are made at the regional, state, and local levels.

To make sure that TPB participation efforts are most effective, it is important to tailor the communications and outreach to different constituencies. These three constituencies are grouped according to varying levels of engagement in regional transportation planning process and awareness of regional transportation issues.

The three groups of constituents are: active stakeholders, community leaders, and the general public.



Policy Constituents, continued

Active stakeholders are 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 (AFA) Advisory Committee.

Community leaders have some knowledge of transportation policy issues but are 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 and opinion leaders who work at the local level.

The general public has an inherent interest in transportation challenges but possess little direct knowledge of transportation policy issues. This group, which is the largest of the three. In addition to the public, this group includes community leaders and elected officials who have limited exposure to transportation planning at any level.



Public guide for getting involved

The public guide chapter in the Participation Plan describes ways that the public can get informed about the TPB and get involved at the TPB.

- **Monthly TPB meeting** – Attend in-person or online (www.mwcog.org/tpbmtg) and comment (TPBcomment@mwkog.org)
- **Join an advisory committee** – Citizens Advisory Committee (mwkog.org/tpbcac) and AFA (mwkog.org/tpbafa/)
- **TPB News** – Subscribe to TPB News to learn about all the great things going on at the TPB (mwkog.org/tpbnews)
- **Visualize 2045** – We are planning our next long-range plan update (visualize2045.org)
- **Other subscriptions** (mwkog.org/subscribe/)
- **Comment** – Comment on a specific plan or on anything transportation related (mwkog.org/tpbcomment/)



Next Steps

1. Meet with CAC & AFA – June 11020
2. Draft plan – June 2020
3. Meet with Technical Committee & Team Leaders – July 2020
4. Public comment (45 days) – Summer 2020
5. Board approval – Fall 2020



Small group discussion questions

1. Do the goals, principles, and constituencies serve as a solid foundation for making surer that TPB interactions with the public are inclusive and accessible?
2. Does guidance on how the public can get involved at the TPB address the concerns and perspectives of the CAC?



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