



May 22, 2023

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee  
From: Daniel Callister  
Subject: MPC 7.b: Public Participation Plan Update

**Action Requested:** Information and discussion; provide direction to staff

### **Issue Statement**

The Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization's (CLMPO) current Public Participation Plan (PPP) was adopted in 2015. A full review and update to this plan is currently underway.

### **Background**

Federal regulation stipulates that MPOs shall develop and use a documented participation plan that defines a process for providing interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process. The current plan directs that the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in the PPP be reviewed periodically as directed by MPC. The purpose of this agenda item is to present a very quick overview of the MPO's 2015 PPP (available here <https://www.lcog.org/thempopage/central-lane-mpo-public-participation-plan>) and to solicit any direction from MPC regarding an update for 2023. The plan, aside from the introduction and appendices, consists of three main content sections:

### Goal, Objectives, and Policies

The goal of the PPP is articulated as "Citizen involvement in regional transportation issues", with the following objectives:

Objective 1: Provide citizens with information to increase their awareness of transportation issues, encourage their involvement in resolving the issues, and assist them in making informed transportation choices.

Objective 2: Ensure that the decisions made in the MPO transportation planning programs are consultative and are clearly explained and documented in a manner accessible to all interested public.

Objective 3: Ensure that the public involvement process provides full and open access to MPO decision-making.

Each objective is accompanied by a number of policies. This section serves as a critical foundation for the PPP and has remained intact through previous updates, with only minor additions.

### Providing Input

The PPP describes the primary public participation opportunities and the MPO's core public involvement tools. It includes an explanation of the process for developing a public participation strategy for each of the MPO's key products including the Regional Transportation Plan, the Unified Planning Work Program, the Transportation Improvement Program and others. Much of this information is summarized in Summary Table of Public Involvement (See Attachment 1).

### Evaluation of the PPP

The plan identifies measures to assess how well the public outreach and participation tools meet the objectives. Some of these measures include number of comments received, number of changes in draft documents resulting from public input, number of testifiers at public hearings, staff time that went to outreach efforts, etc. Also included in this section are several methods for meeting the objectives.

### **Discussion**

While the 2015 plan, at its core, is solid in its scope and objectives, it is in need of an update. Some updates, such as references to revised federal or state laws or to outdated documents or products, require little discussion. Review of the PPP however, also provides an excellent opportunity to reassess the tools, strategies, policies, and procedures contained therein.

Much has changed in the world since this plan was adopted. How people communicate and interact with each other, and the tools they use for that, has evolved faster in the last few years than anyone could have anticipated in 2015. MPO staff have begun a 2023 update to the PPP that will identify the most appropriate outreach tools and strategies for public involvement in the Eugene-Springfield metro area. Staff welcomes any discussion and direction at this time from MPC.

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### **Attachment:**

1 – Summary Table of Public Involvement