



March 21, 2024

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Daniel Callister
Subject: MPC6.c: Draft 2024 Public Participation Plan

Action Requested: Conduct public hearing; provide feedback as needed

Issue Statement

Central Lane MPO staff has prepared a draft Public Participation Plan (PPP) to replace the current plan adopted in 2015.

Discussion

Federal law requires MPOs to develop and use a documented participation plan that provides interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process. This plan has been developed to replace the 2015 plan and includes updated policy language and procedures, as well as tools, strategies, and evaluation methods. The plan is divided into four chapters:

Chapter 1 provides baseline information about who the MPO is and what the PPP is and how it was developed.

Chapter 2 presents the MPO's participation goal, objectives, and policies.

Chapter 3 describes tools and strategies for participation, as well as specifying the tools to be utilized for each of the MPO's key work products.

Chapter 4 describes how the public involvement tools will be evaluated for effectiveness and updated as needed.

Several appendices are included documenting public comments and how those influenced the plan development, a report of the results of the 2023 public participation survey, additional tools for participation, and other information.

Summary of Changes from the 2015 Plan

In addition to updated information and references to documents, regulations, and other resources, the 2024 plan includes more detailed documentation of the MPO's public involvement procedures, particularly for the RTP and MTIP, and consultation with federal land management agencies and tribal governments. The plan has been

augmented to include tools and strategies that incorporate social media and other virtual means of engagement. More substantive changes are listed below, including changes to policy language:

Goal, Objectives, and Policies

- Policy 1.2 was to hold public meetings, when feasible, at a “site convenient” to citizens and other interested parties. This is now “convenient time and location”.
- Policy 2.6 “Schedule meetings and hearings of the MPO policy board ... to allow the best opportunity for attendance by the public.” The word “attendance” is now replaced with “participation”.
- Policy 3.1 “Evaluate the response to public involvement techniques... Periodically, adjust strategies to improve performance, not to exceed four years between evaluations.” The words “not to exceed four years between evaluations” have been removed. Instead, the evaluation and adjustment are recommended, in Ch.4, to be every four years.
- Policy 3.2 “Review the [PPP] periodically, not to exceed four years, and adopt revisions as necessary...” The words “not to exceed four years” have been removed. Instead, this review is recommended, in Ch.4, to be every four years.

Core Public Involvement Tools and Key Work Products

- Speakers’ Bureau is no longer identified as a core tool
- The Web Notice core tool has been significantly expanded to incorporate the use of social media.
- Table 1 Summary Table of Public Involvement has been revised to more accurately reflect the use of outreach and participation tools for the MPO’s key work products. Revisions are based on updated policies and procedures since the 2015 plan.

Evaluation

- Measures specific to the Speakers’ Bureau have been removed.
- Measures have been added to evaluate the effectiveness of social media use.
- Methods are added for use of social media to meet objectives.

Addressing Federal Corrective Actions

In 2023 CLMPO received a quadrennial thorough evaluation, conducted by FHWA and FTA representatives, of its transportation planning process and adherence to federal requirements. The evaluation report includes the following two corrective actions and one recommendation relevant to the PPP:

To meet the requirements of 23 CFR 450.316, CLMPO must update the 2015 Public Participation Plan (PPP) by January 2025 to specifically address the following requirements:

Per 23 CFR 450.316(1), revise procedures to more accurately document current public involvement procedures that will be used as part of the 2050 RTP as well as other public processes. These procedures must be reviewed periodically to ensure they remain current and result in an effective and open public process.

Per 23 CFR 450.316(d), include procedures in the PPP for involving and consulting with federal land management agencies, that manage land in the MPA, in the development of the RTP and TIP.

The Federal Team recommends that, although no tribal lands are located within the metropolitan planning area, CLMPO should expand documentation of the process to coordinate with tribal governments.

To address these, the PPP is anticipated to be adopted in 2024, before the January 2025 deadline. The 2024 plan has been updated to more accurately document the public involvement procedures that will be used as part of future RTP and MTIP processes, see section titled “Product-Specific Public Outreach Strategy”. Table 1 has been updated to reflect procedures more accurately for both the RTP and MTIP. Evaluation measures for the effectiveness of these procedures have been updated to reflect new platforms and tools and will be reviewed periodically.

Documentation of procedures for involving and consulting both with federal land management agencies and with tribal governments in the development of the RTP and MTIP is provided in the 2024 plan. Specific and relevant contacts at Bureau of Land Management have been confirmed, consulted with, and were added to the MPO’s notification lists. MPO also consulted with contacts representing the US Army Corps of Engineers and US Forest Service who both manage lands outside of, but near the MPO’s boundaries. Specific and relevant contacts at Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde, of Siletz Indians, and of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians have been consulted, and were added to the MPO’s notification lists.

Public Guide to Transportation Planning

Staff are working on a public-friendly Guide to Transportation Planning for publication later this year. This resource is designed to help lay persons understand why, when, and how to get involved in the Eugene-Springfield area’s transportation decision-making process. The guide complements and supports the objectives of the PPP. It will replace a similar guide published by the MPO in 2007.

Public Involvement

Public involvement during the development of this plan has been extensive and is documented in Chapter 1 of the draft. Plan adoption will follow the procedures laid out in the current PPP, including a 45-day public comment period beginning on the date of the publication of the April MPC agenda and concluding May 12, with a public hearing at today’s meeting. Upon completion of the public comment period, comments received and committee direction will guide any necessary revisions for a final draft to be recommended by TPC for MPC adoption.

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Attachment:

- Draft 2024 Public Participation Plan