



August 3, 2006

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Kathi Wiederhold

Subject: Item 5.b – Draft Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Action Recommended: Review and discuss draft PPP.

Report

At the regular meeting on July 13, 2006, the Metropolitan Policy Committee released the draft PPP to the public, opened the public comment period, and directed staff to implement the public outreach strategy recommended by the CAC. The public outreach strategy for the draft Plan consists of the public comment period, public hearing before MPC, email notice to interested parties, and notice on the MPO web site. Initial comments from MPC resulted in the following two changes to Table 1-Summary Table of Public Involvement on page 13 of the draft PPP:

- Add the allocation of Surface Transportation Program-Urban funds as an MPO product.
- Add amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program as an MPO product.

With the PPP out for public comment, the CAC has turned its attention to developing a public outreach tool, called the Citizen's Guide for now, that will provide the community with information about the MPO process and how to get involved. The CAC envisions this document as a short primer that has lots of graphics and color, uses plain English, is friendly and easy-to-use, and uses humor.

Public Outreach Strategy for the Draft Public Participation Plan

- July 24, 2006 E-mail notice to interested parties.
- July 27, 2006 Notice posted on the MPO web site.
- Aug. 2, 2006 Review copies placed in libraries and other public places.
- August 2006 Notice in Spanish posted on the MPO web site.
- August 2006 E-mail in Spanish to environmental justice list.
- July-Aug. 2006 Review by the Transportation Planning Committee.
- Aug. 10, 2006 Discussion by the Metropolitan Policy Committee.
- Sept. 14, 2006 Public Hearing before the Metropolitan Policy Committee.
- Sept./Oct. 2006 Prepare Comments and Response Summary with input from Transportation Planning Committee and CAC.
- Oct. 12, 2006 Present Comments and Response Summary to MPC for review, comment. MPC adopts Public Participation Plan.

Initial Comments from Transportation Planning Committee

The Transportation Planning Committee conducted an initial review of the draft Plan at its regular meeting on June 22, 2006 and will make additional comments during the public comment period. In its initial review of the draft Plan, the Transportation Planning Committee recommended the following changes:

- Clarify the relationship between MPO transportation system planning and Statewide Planning
- Change language in Table 2, Evaluating Public Involvement Tools, to read “Stimulate more effective comments by improving the quality of the presentation materials” instead of “Quality of comments”
- Add language about the budget process for the core public involvement and optional public outreach strategies

Draft Public Participation Plan

The draft plan released by MPC accomplishes the following:

- Meets requirements for the federally-required MPO Public Participation Plan
- Identifies core public involvement tools the MPO will use for each key MPO product
- Tells how to measure whether the plan is effective
- Provides for an annual review so changes can be made to improve effectiveness
- Makes changes required by the federal transportation legislation called SAFETEA-LU
- Develops policies dealing with public involvement, including those dealing with responding to public comment received by the MPO and environmental justice