

LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN ADDENDUM (AUGUST 25, 2009)

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Addendum is to ensure that the public is made aware of the purpose, process, and public-participation opportunities related to the 2035 LRTP PIP Update. It is the desire of the Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) staff that enough detail is provided in the LRTP PIP Addendum to allow for the specificity needed in conveying to the public opportunities for their involvement in the transportation-planning process.

2. **What is the LRTP?** The LRTP identifies transportation improvements necessary to maintain adequate mobility and accommodate anticipated growth. The Pasco County 2035 LRTP is currently being developed by the MPO. The completed 2035 LRTP will contain a list of needed and cost-affordable highways, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, trails, and Intelligent Transportation System projects beginning with Year 2009 through Year 2035. At this time, the LRTP is required to be updated every five years.

3. **LRTP Basic Development Process:** The LRTP is developed by the following:
 - a. Updating the PIP document to reflect the most up-to-date process that will be used to engage the public in the upcoming LRTP development.
 - b. Establishing the Goals, Objectives, Measures of Effectiveness, and Roadway Prioritization Criteria to help guide the development of the plan.
 - c. Forecasting population and employment and corresponding projected transportation demand to Year 2035. Developing a 2035 Transportation Needs Plan to accommodate the forecasted growth regardless of the cost.
 - d. Forecasting transportation system costs and available revenues to pay for anticipated improvements.
 - e. Establishing a 2035 Financial Constraint Plan (also known as the Cost-Affordable Plan) by considering projected and anticipated available revenues and costs to pay for the plan.

At this time, the draft Needs Plan is finalized. The draft final version of the Cost-Affordable Plan will be introduced to the MPO Board during the October 8, 2009, regularly scheduled MPO Board meeting, and the final plan is scheduled to be adopted by the MPO Board during the regularly scheduled December 10, 2009, meeting.

4. **LRTP PIP Activities and Public-Notification Strategies:** The main goal of the public-involvement process is to ensure early and effective involvement of the public in development of the LRTP. The public includes citizens; business leaders and groups; environmental and civic organizations; advocacy groups that represent the needs of the underserved and underrepresented, including the low income, minorities, elderly, and persons with disabilities, all which play a valuable role in the transportation-planning process.

The following describes public-involvement activities and public notification strategies that have been and will be used by the MPO in order to accomplish this goal. In addition to this summary, we have provided two tables which provide a visual aid to how these activities are utilized. Table 1, entitled "Public-Involvement Process," illustrates how each public-involvement activity relates to each step in the LRTP development update process. Table 2, entitled "Public-Notification Strategies," summarizes the variety of public-notice strategies that will be used for each LRTP public-involvement activity.

Note: Prior to the update of this addendum, MPO staff had already begun public-involvement activities related to the LRTP update. For a detailed listing of past activities, please see Appendix A.

PUBLIC-INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

The following lists and describes public-involvement activities that MPO staff performs as it relates to the LRTP development process. In addition, the past (in Appendix A) and future efforts are identified for each activity.

1. **MPO Board, Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC):** The MPO Board consists of elected officials representing municipalities and the County. The TAC and CAC are advisory committees for the MPO Board. Action items taken to the MPO Board go through the advisory committees for comment and input. The MPO Board and advisory committees meet on a monthly basis. "LRTP Issues" is part of the regular TAC and CAC agendas throughout the LRTP development process, and the MPO Board is also briefed on the status of the LRTP on a regular basis. The public is also allowed to speak at the MPO Board meetings during the specially allocated time placed on the agenda for public comments. The future MPO, TAC, and CAC meetings relating to 2035 LRTP are listed below.

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Locations</u>
September 2, 2009	Pasco Economic Development Council Office (East Side of Suncoast Parkway) 16506 Pointe Village Drive, Suite 101 Lutz, FL
September 30, 2009	West Pasco Government Center 7530 Little Road, Suite 230 New Port Richey, FL
November 4, 2009	Dade City Annex Building 14150 - 5 th Street Dade City, FL
December 2, 2009	Pasco Economic Development Council Office (East Side of Suncoast Parkway) 16506 Pointe Village Drive, Suite 101 Lutz, FL

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Locations</u>
September 8, 2009	West Pasco Government Center 7530 Little Road, Suite 230 New Port Richey, FL
October 5, 2009	West Pasco Government Center 7530 Little Road, Suite 230 New Port Richey, FL
November 9, 2009	West Pasco Government Center 7530 Little Road, Suite 230 New Port Richey, FL
December 7, 2009	West Pasco Government Center 7530 Little Road, Suite 230 New Port Richey, FL

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BOARD

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Locations</u>
September 10, 2009	Historic Pasco County Courthouse 37918 Meridian Avenue Dade City, FL
October 8, 2009	West Pasco Government Center 7530 Little Road, Board Room New Port Richey, FL
November 12, 2009	West Pasco Government Center 7530 Little Road, Board Room New Port Richey, FL
December 10, 2009	Historic Pasco County Courthouse 37918 Meridian Avenue Dade City, FL

Note: Starting time for all CAC meetings is 9:30 a.m., TAC meetings is 1:30 p.m., and MPO Board meetings is 10:00 a.m.

Opportunities for Future Participation:

- The **PIP Addendum** will be presented at the regularly scheduled September 10, 2009, MPO Board meeting to notify the public of the addendum. The addendum is expected to be adopted during the October 8, 2009, MPO Board meeting. The addendum will also be presented to the CAC and TAC during September and October meetings.
- The **LRTP Goals, Objectives, Measures of Effectiveness, and Roadway Prioritization Criteria** will be presented to the MPO Board for approval during the September 10, 2009, meeting. The Goals, Objectives, Measures of Effectiveness, and Roadway Prioritization Criteria will also be presented to the CAC and TAC during the September meetings for comments and approval. The LRTP draft final Cost-Feasible and Needs Plans will be presented to the MPO Board during the October 8, 2009, and

December 10, 2009, meetings for final adoption. The draft final plan will also be presented to the CAC and TAC during the October and December meetings.

2. **Public Hearings** are required for adoption or amendment to the LRTP and addendum to the PIP. All public hearings occur during the regularly scheduled MPO Board meetings.

Opportunities for Future Participation:

- Two public hearings are scheduled for the addendum to the PIP. The addendum to the PIP is a requirement per Federal Highway Administration as part of a recent certification review and resulting corrective action. The first public hearing will be conducted during the September 10, 2009, MPO Board meeting to let the public know of the upcoming addendum.
- The second public hearing will be conducted during the October 8, 2009, MPO Board meeting to adopt the addendum. In addition to the PIP Addendum public hearings, two other public hearings will be conducted during the October and December MPO Board meetings in order to adopt the final LRTP. The October 8, 2009, MPO Board hearing will open up a 30-day comment period, and the December 10, 2009, MPO Board hearing is for the adoption of the final plan.

3. **Public Workshop:** Informal public workshops are conducted throughout the County throughout the LRTP development process. The workshops allow the public to review and comment on the proposed plans and to complete surveys. The MPO staff, MPO's consultant, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) staff, and the County's engineering staff are present to answer questions. Easy-to-understand maps are provided and a brief *PowerPoint* presentation may be given by the MPO's consultant.

Opportunities for Future Participation:

Two more workshops are planned sometime between the October 8, 2009, and December 10, 2009, time frame. One workshop will be conducted on the west side of the County and the other will be held on the central/east side. The exact locations of the workshops are unknown at this time, but the public will be notified well in advance using the notification techniques described in the following paragraphs.

4. **Special Effort to Engage Minority and Underserved Populations:** In an effort to engage minority and underserved populations, MPO staff conducts the following activities during the LRTP development process.

Opportunities for Future Participation:

The MPO staff will continue to coordinate/meet with the local Spanish newspaper, *Gaceta Latina*, to write an article about upcoming activities, including hearings and workshops, and to educate the minority and underserved populations of the LRTP process.

5. **Surveys:** Survey forms are prepared to receive public input during public workshops and are available on the MPO website. Key questions are asked to help in the development of the LRTP.

Opportunities for Future Participation:

None are planned at this time.

6. **Newsletter:** Newsletters are usually three to four pages long and provide information about updates to and the status of the LRTP. They contain easy-to-read materials and colorful maps. A space is also provided in the newsletter for public comment and input.

Opportunities for Future Participation:

A total of three newsletters will be produced. They will be distributed to MPO Board members and advisory committee members and will be handed out at the workshops and placed on the website. MPO staff can be contacted to receive newsletters at any time.

7. **Federal and State Consultation on Environmental Mitigation Strategies:** Per Federal mandate, all MPO's are required to consult with Federal, State, and local environmental agencies to identify systemwide environmental mitigation strategies as part of the LRTP development process. The agencies identified are the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), and the County's Environmental Lands Acquisition Management Program (ELAMP).

Opportunities for Future Participation:

None are planned at this time.

8. **Regional Coordination Efforts:** The LRTP is developed in consultation and coordination with other surrounding, adjacent MPO's, the FDOT, and Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA).

Opportunities for Future Participation:

The regional activities include participation in frequent Technical Review Team (TRT), Chair's Coordinating Committee (CCC) staff directors, quarterly regional Joint CAC (JCAC), and CCC Board meetings. In addition, staff participates in frequent meetings with TBARTA staff and its consultant to coordinate TBARTA's master plan with the individual MPO's LRTP and regional component of the LRTP. The LRTP is also developed in close consultation with FDOT staff in regard to usage of the transportation demand forecasting model, coordination with the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) plan, project costs on State facilities, and available State and Federal revenues. Moving forward, staff will continue to coordinate the development of the LRTP with surrounding MPOs through the CCC process and TRT. In addition, MPO staff will continue close contact with the FDOT and TBARTA to ensure consistency. The regional public-notification process will be used to notify the public of upcoming meetings and activities of the CCC.

9. **Public-Involvement Notification Strategies:** Several notification strategies are used to notify the public of upcoming public hearings; workshops; MPO Board, CAC, and TAC meetings; special minority and underserved meetings, and regional coordination efforts. As mentioned previously, Table 2 lists public-notification efforts relating to each public-involvement activity. The following describes each notification activity in more detail.

- **Public Notices:** MPO, CAC, and TAC meeting agendas and notices are advertised on the County's and MPO's websites under the quick-link section called "Calendar." A notice is also mailed out (both e-mailed and U.S. mail) to local newspapers (*St. Petersburg Times*, *Tampa Tribune*, *Suncoast News*, and *Gaceta Latina*), trucking industry representatives, local municipalities, and other agencies and stakeholders.
- **Legal Notices:** Legal advertisements are mainly used to notify the public of upcoming public hearings and are published in local newspapers (*St. Petersburg Times*, *Tampa Tribune*, *Suncoast News*, and *Gaceta Latina*) 7 and 14 days prior to any public hearing.
- **Newspaper Articles:** Newspaper articles are used mainly to notify the public of the upcoming workshops. A news release is sent out to local newspapers (*St. Petersburg Times*, *Tampa Tribune*, *Suncoast News*, and *Gaceta Latina*) to help them write an article. The local Spanish newspaper receives the news release to ensure notification of the minority and underserved populations.
- **Flyers:** Flyers are used to notify the public of the upcoming workshops. The flyers are usually placed in all public-transportation buses and include the dates, times and, locations of the workshops. Flyers were also distributed to public schools within minority and underserved populations prior to the development of the Needs Plan. Due to lack of responses, the distribution of flyers to public schools may not continue in the future.
- **MPO Website:** The website is used to place notices for public workshops; public hearings; MPO Board, CAC, and TAC meetings; and special meetings with minority and underserved population representatives. In addition, newsletters, surveys, and *PowerPoint* presentations are placed on the website. The MPO's website is also linked to the regional website.

The MPO website address is <http://portal.pascocountyfl.net/portal/server.pt/community/metropolitanplanningorganization/246/home> or go to www.pascocountyfl.net (click on County Agencies/MPO).

- **Special Mailing List:** MPO staff maintains a list of more than 700 names belonging to businesses, civic associations, and the public at large. The mailing list is used to notify the public of upcoming workshops.
- **Cable Television:** All MPO Board meetings are broadcasted live on Verizon Channel 42 and Brighthouse Channel 622 at 10:00 a.m. and replayed during the month.
- **List of Environmental Permit Agencies:** A list of staff representing Federal, State, and local environmental agencies are maintained by MPO staff. This list is used to set up meetings with appropriate staff.
- **Special Notification to Engage Minority and Underserved Populations:** Flyers are distributed to schools within minority and underserved populations with notifications of the upcoming workshops. The response to this notification has not been significant, so this notification strategy may not continue. Newspaper articles were written in the local Spanish newspaper in order to engage the minority population in the LRTP development process and the upcoming workshops. A list of minority and underserved populations

representatives is maintained by MPO staff to coordinate special meetings prior to development of the Needs Plan.

- **Regional Notification:** Notifications for regional activities, including TRT, CCC staff directors, and JCAC and CCC Board meetings, are placed on the regional website at www.regionaltransportation.org. This website also provides a link to the MPO website.
- **MPO Staff:** MPO staff can be reached during normal business hours at (727) 847-8140 to receive any pertinent information in regard to the LRTP.

Get Involved!

The Pasco County MPO staff strives to provide the public with multiple opportunities to be involved in the LRTP development process. Public hearings and workshops will be conducted, along with the production of newsletters, newspaper articles, and legal ads in local newspapers, to notify the public of the upcoming workshops and hearings. In addition, the MPO website is available for members of the public to receive information related to upcoming workshops, hearings, special and regular meetings, or other LRTP documents. MPO staff will always be available to answer questions by dialing (727) 847-8140 during normal business hours. If you have any ideas about how the MPO staff can keep you engaged and abreast of activities related to the LRTP update process, we welcome your feedback. Moreover, if you would like to receive updates related to this or any other update provided by this MPO staff, please email your comments, questions, and concerns to aatefi@pascocountyfl.net.

**TABLE 1
Public-Involvement Process**

Public-Involvement Activities	LRTP Steps							
	PIP Update	PIP Addendum	Goals, Objectives, Measures of Effectiveness/ Prioritization Criteria	Population/ Employment Forecast	Needs Plan	Cost and Revenues	Cost-Feasible Plan	Plan Amendment
MPO Board	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
CAC	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
TAC	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Public Hearing	x	x					x	x
Public Workshop				x	x	x	x	x
Newsletter								
Surveys					x		x	
Special Efforts to Engage Minority and Underserved Populations					x			x
Federal and State Consultation on Environmental Mitigation Strategies					x		x	
Regional Coordination Efforts								
TRT					x		x	
CCC Directors					x		x	
CCC Chairs					x		x	

**TABLE 2
Public-Notification Strategies**

Notification Strategies	Public-Involvement Activities									
	MPO Board	CAC	TAC	Public Hearing	Public Workshop	Newsletter	Survey	Engage Minority and Underserved Populations	Federal/State Consultation on Environmental Mitigation Strategies	Regional Coordination Efforts
Public Notices	x	x	x	x	x					x
Legal Notice				x						
Newspaper Article					x			x		
Flyers					x					
MPO Website	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x
Special Mailing List					x					
Cable Television	x									
Special Notification to Engage Minority and Underserved Populations										
Flyer								x		
Local Spanish Newspaper Article					x			x		
List of Minority and Underserved Populations Representatives								x		
List of Environmental Agencies									x	
Regional Website										x
MPO Staff	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

APPENDIX A

Public-Involvement Past Activities

The following lists and describes the MPO's past activities relating to the LRTP development process.

MPO Board, CAC, and TAC

Past activities: The PIP update, population forecast, Needs Plan, and draft version of the Cost-Feasible Plan were presented to the TAC and CAC for comment and approval. The MPO Board opened up a 45-day comment period for the PIP update on September 11, 2008, and adopted the PIP on December 11, 2008. The MPO Board and subcommittees have also been briefed on the population/employment forecast, Needs Plan, and draft version of the Cost-Feasible Plan.

Public Hearing

Past Activities: At the start of the LRTP development process, a public hearing was conducted on September 11, 2008, in order to update the PIP. The hearing started a 45-day public comment period. A second public hearing was conducted on December 11, 2008, to adopt the updated PIP.

Public Workshops

Past Activities: A total of four public workshops have been conducted prior to development of the Needs and Cost-Affordable Plans. Two workshops were held in April 2009 prior to development of the Needs Plan, and two workshops were held in July 2009 prior to development of the Cost-Affordable Plan. The workshops were held throughout the County, including western, central, and eastern areas of the County. MPO staff also attended several greenways, trails, and blueways meetings and a master plan workshop and received input that should help in development of the trail, bicycle, and pedestrian component of the LRTP.

Special Efforts to Engage Minority and Underserved Populations

Past Activities: Two special meetings were arranged early in the process and prior to development of the Needs Plan to engage with and receive input from minority and underserved representation. One workshop was conducted in the west side of the County and the other in the east side.

Assisted a local Spanish newspaper (*Gaceta Latina*) to write an article in regard to the overall process of the LRTP and upcoming workshops.

Upon special request from various agencies representing the minority and underserved, staff attended two special meetings to discuss issues pertaining to their needs.

Surveys

Past Activities: Surveys forms were handed out at the public workshops during April and July meetings and were placed on the MPO's website. Also, survey forms were placed on the transit buses for the April workshops.

Newsletter

Past Activities: A newsletter was produced and provided at the MPO LRTP needs workshop in July 2009. The newsletters were distributed to MPO Board members, advisory committee members, and interested parties during workshops and were placed on the MPO's website.

Federal and State Consultation on Environmental Mitigation Strategies

Past Activities: In August 2009, MPO staff and the MPO's consultant met with representatives from the ACOE, SWFWMD, and ELAMP to talk about the systemwide mitigation strategies. Input from the meeting will be used as a guide in development of the LRTP, and the pertinent meeting summary will be published in the LRTP final document.

Regional Coordination Efforts

Past Activities: The regional activities include participation in frequent TRT, CCC staff directors, quarterly regional JCAC, and CCC Board meetings. In addition, staff participated in frequent meetings with TBARTA staff and its consultant to coordinate TBARTA's master plan with the individual MPO's LRTP and regional component of the LRTP. The LRTP was also developed in close consultation with FDOT staff in regard to usage of the transportation-demand forecasting model, coordination with the SIS plan, project costs on State facilities, and available State and Federal revenues.