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PASCO COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

September 2008

PURPOSE

The Federal Legislation enacted, on August 10, 2005, Federal Public Law No. 109-59, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which requires that the public have "full and open access" in the development of plans and programs under the metropolitan planning process and that the process of engaging the public be documented in a public participation plan. The transportation plans of the metropolitan area should reflect the needs of its citizens and enhancement of the community's assets. The Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO's) plan for public involvement is dynamic, innovative, and flexible. The plan can be modified in order to conform to various requirements for public involvement set by new regulations.

The Public Involvement Plan for Pasco County is created to reflect SAFETEA-LU requirements and to give greater attention to the thoughts and ideas of the citizens who are affected by changes in the area's transportation system. The intent of the Pasco County MPO public involvement process is to achieve a greater public understanding for the process of transportation planning and more cohesive support for the ultimate decisions.

The MPO's goal is to develop a public participation process that provides information on projects and plans and opportunities for continuous citizen input from the initial phases through final development of these plans and projects. A policy of the Pasco County MPO is that all persons regardless of race, sex, national origin, age, religion, or physical condition have full and complete access to the planning process. This public participation process and the strategies included herein are designed with consideration of that goal.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Pasco County is located in the central west region of Florida, along the Gulf of Mexico. According to 2007 population estimates, Pasco County is home to approximately 462,715 residents. Both Federal and local laws require the establishment of an MPO in all areas with an urbanized population over 50,000. The Pasco County MPO functions as the Countywide transportation planning organization and provides a forum for cooperative decision making with regard to Countywide transportation issues.

In order to implement a public involvement process that fulfills the intent of SAFETEA-LU, the MPO has reviewed the socioeconomic characteristics and demographics of the Pasco County metropolitan area to solicit participation from a broad spectrum of social and economic backgrounds and interests in transportation. Based on this review, a brief description of the population by ethnic group/race in Pasco County is as follows¹:

- 92.2 percent white
- 4.32 percent black
- 3.47 percent non-White/non-Black

¹ All Demographic Data Obtained from 2007 U.S. Census Bureau General Profile

- 9.99 percent Hispanic (may be of any race)

Pasco County has a lower percentage of racially oriented minorities than the State or the nation. It also has a higher percentage of female residents than male residents. The median household income in 2006 dollars was \$38,065.00. Approximately 9.9 percent of all persons in the County have incomes below the poverty level. 21.1 percent of the population is 65 years old and over.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The importance of effectively involving the public in the transportation planning process was first established in 1991 with the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) followed by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). Its successor, the SAFETEA-LU, continues to stress the importance of public involvement. Section 450.316(b)(1) CFR defines the public involvement requirements for the metropolitan planning process as follows.

The metropolitan planning process shall:

1. Include a proactive public involvement process that provides complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and supports early and continuing involvement of the public in developing plans and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) and meets the requirements and criteria specified below:
2. Require a minimum public comment period of 45 days before the public involvement process is initially adopted or revised.
3. Provide timely information about transportation issues and processes to citizens, affected public agencies, representative of transportation agency employees, other interested parties, freight shippers, private providers of transportation, and the segment of the community affected by transportation plans, programs, and projects including, but not limited to, central city and other local jurisdictions.
4. Provide reasonable public access to technical and policy information used in the development of plans, TIPs, and open public meetings where matters related to the Federal-aid highway and transit programs are being considered.
5. Require adequate public notice of public involvement activities and time for public review and comment at key decision points including, but not limited to, approval of plans and TIPs.
6. Demonstrate explicit consideration and response to public input received during the planning and program development processes.
7. Seek out and consider the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems including, but not limited to, low-income and minority households in an effort to ensure that the requirements of Title VI and Environmental Justice have been met during the planning and project process.
8. When significant written and oral comments are received on the draft Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) or TIP (including the financial plan) as a result of the public involvement process or the inter-agency consultation process required under the United States Environmental Protection Agency's conformity regulations, a summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of comments shall be made part of the final plan and TIP.

9. If the final LRTP or TIP differs significantly from the one which was made available for public comment by MPO and raises new material issues which interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts, an additional opportunity for public comment on the revised plan or TIP shall be made available.
10. Public involvement processes shall be periodically reviewed by the MPO in terms of their effectiveness in ensuring that the process provides full and open access to all.
11. These procedures will be reviewed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) during certification reviews for Transportation Management Areas, and as otherwise necessary for all MPOs, to ensure that full and open access is provided to the MPO decision-making processes.
12. Metropolitan public involvement plan shall be coordinated with Statewide and regional public involvement plans wherever possible to enhance public consideration of the issues, plans, and programs and reduce redundancies and costs.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES AND STRATEGIES

In order to comply with the various requirements for public involvement described above, the Pasco County MPO used a two-step process to develop their Public Involvement Plan. The first step included defining the major transportation planning activities that require public involvement. The second step defined the specific strategies used to involve the public in the transportation planning activities. These steps are further discussed below.

Transportation Planning Activities

The Pasco County MPO public involvement process includes the eight primary transportation planning activities listed below and described in the following text:

1. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
2. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
3. LRTP and Subsequent Amendments
4. Efficient Transportation Decision-Making (ETDM) Process
5. Mobility Management System (MMS)
6. Transit Development Plan (TDP)
7. Special Projects
8. Quadrennial Certification

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Annually, MPO staff develops a Countywide TIP. The current TIP includes the funded Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) for the jurisdictions within Pasco County and the Work Program for the Florida Department of

Transportation (FDOT). Efforts will be made to enhance the format of the TIP to make it more "user friendly." This will include the use of maps and graphics for simplified public review. Additionally, public involvement will be encouraged early in the TIP development process through a public workshop. The Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and FDOT will also review the TIP. Finally, the MPO Board will hold an advertised public hearing on the TIP at a designated, regularly scheduled MPO Board meeting.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Each year, MPO staff develops a UPWP that identifies the projects and activities to be undertaken by the MPO. The UPWP also provides information about the objective, previous work, methodology, responsible agency, and funding source for each work task. Based on comments received from the CAC and for the benefit of the general public, a summary page describing the UPWP in simple, nontechnical text will be included in the UPWP document.

The UPWP will also be reviewed by the CAC, TAC, and FDOT. The MPO Board will hold an advertised public hearing on the UPWP at a designated, regularly scheduled MPO Board meeting.

Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

The LRTP forms the blueprint to guide development of the future transportation system in Pasco County. The plan addresses requirements of SAFETEA-LU and includes both short- and long-range, multimodal, transportation improvement strategies.

The public will be encouraged to participate early on and throughout the LRTP development process. Such participation will be through MPO committee meetings, public workshops, and hearings. An LRTP schedule depicting key milestones will be maintained by the MPO and made available to interested parties.

If requested by local communities, MPO staff will conduct additional workshops on the LRTP Update. The workshops will provide an opportunity for requested jurisdictions and geographic areas of the County to review the plan. This effort will ensure coordination with local needs as reflected in local comprehensive plans.

Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process

The ETDM Process improves the effectiveness of transportation planning by integrating ecosystem preservation with land use planning and social considerations earlier in the transportation planning process. Resource agencies and the public are provided access to project plans and information about potential effects of transportation projects on Florida's natural and human environments. The public can review project data over the internet and provide input to MPOs and to the FDOT through public involvement events.

Mobility Management System (MMS)

The purpose of the MMS is to provide information on the transportation system performance and alternative strategies to enhance the mobility of persons and goods. One of the products of the MMS will be a list of prioritized short-range transportation improvements that might be incorporated into the local governments' CIP and State TIP. The list of priority projects will be updated annually, and the performance of the implemented projects will be monitored on a regular basis.

Public involvement in Pasco County will be achieved through workshops, the CAC, TAC, MMS Task Force, MPO Board, and surveys. Public workshops may include presentations to various municipalities upon their request. It is anticipated that most of the public involvement activities will be conducted during the identification and evaluation of the mobility management strategies; however, the public is encouraged to participate at any time during the MMS development process.

Transit Development Plan (TDP)

Florida State law requires a major update of the TDP every five years for systems receiving State funding for public transportation. This update results in a ten-year plan for transit and mobility needs, cost and revenue projections, and community transit goals and objectives.

Special Projects

Some of the projects undertaken by the MPO are projects of significant community importance. Examples of these types of projects might include corridor action plans, access-management studies, a major road-widening project, or a corridor-alignment study for a new road.

The public will be involved early in special projects through public workshops and/or other mechanisms to obtain public input and from the CAC. These workshops will be designed to solicit public input at an early enough stage of the project so that input can be considered and reflected in the planning study.

Quadrennial Certification Process

FHWA and FTA conduct a quadrennial certification of the metropolitan planning process for MPOs. During the on-site element of the Metropolitan Certification Review, the public involvement process should make a special effort to engage and involve representatives of minority and low-income groups to hear their views regarding changes to and performance of the planning process.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT STRATEGIES

The MPO reviewed a number of strategies designed to encourage public involvement in the Pasco County transportation planning process. The current strategies utilized by the MPO to solicit and encourage public involvement in the transportation planning process are described and summarized in Table 1.

**TABLE 1
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT STRATEGIES**

Public Involvement Strategies	Purpose	Elements
Public Workshops and Transportation Fairs	Inform the general public of the nature of regular transportation activities and to solicit public feedback of current County processes and procedures.	An informal meeting held to educate the public why specific projects are undertaken and how these projects will benefit the Pasco County citizens and the community at large.
Public Hearings	Allow, through public participation, early and continuing public involvement; formally present the plan or project to the public.	Generally held by the MPO Board prior to the adoption of an MPO transportation-related work product; public input used to develop finalized documents.
MPO Board	MPO Board meetings, open to the public, provide a forum for discussion of transportation plans and programs.	The MPO Board meets on a monthly basis on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m.
CAC	The CAC is comprised of a diverse group of individuals representing varied communities in the area in order to encourage a wide range of views and ideas on plans and projects and early involvement in development of the TIP, UPWP, and the LRTP.	The CAC meets on the Wednesday before the regularly scheduled MPO Board meeting at 9:30 a.m.; a CAC subcommittee was formed for the purpose of transportation plan development.
TAC	Appointed by the MPO Board, the TAC consists of professional and technical planners, engineers, and other disciplines created to provide interagency coordination between the MPO, FDOT, County, and local governments and to review and make recommendations concerning transportation plans and programs.	The TAC meets on the Monday prior to the MPO Board meeting at 1:30 p.m.; a TAC subcommittee was formed for the purpose of transportation plan development.
Public Involvement Plan Mailing List	Serves to inform the community of various transportation planning activities undertaken by the MPO, such as the LRTP, CAC, TAC, and MPO Board meetings; and future public workshops and hearings.	List includes civic associations, clubs, organizations, municipal governments, newspapers, and concerned citizens.
MPO Publications	Documents used to inform the general public about the transportation planning activities and projects being accomplished by the MPO.	Includes summary information, newsletters, and brochures; also includes an executive summary of the LRTP highlighting the development process.
Public Media Coverage	Inform all members of the public, including those traditionally underserved, so that they are aware of hearings and workshops and can provide input on transportation planning issues and the LRTP.	Includes use of public-access cable television, advertising in major and local newspapers, and direct mailings.
Public Surveys/ Comment Forms	To solicit citizen input on various topics concerning the transportation planning process.	Sent to random members of the public and those traditionally underserved.
Pasco County Website	To provide fast and efficient updates on projects or transportation plans and to provide documents or other information to the general public for their input.	Provides information on MPO activities, meetings, and members; downloadable plans; interactive maps of transportation projects; and opportunities to provide feedback on transportation issues.
Visualization Techniques	To visually convey the information provided in the MPO's planning documents, including the LRTP.	Includes the use of visualization techniques to engage the public, such as large maps, <i>PowerPoint</i> presentations, brochures, and informational packets at public workshops and other public events.
Special Efforts to Involve Traditionally Underserved and Underrepresented (Title VI Requirements)	Measures taken to involve population segments that are traditionally underserved/ underrepresented in Pasco County, as recommended by the U.S. Department of Transportation's order on environmental justice (Title VI requirements).	Focus on geographic locations with a high concentration of underserved and underrepresented.
ETDM Process	To provide the public access to project plans and information regarding potential effects of transportation projects on natural and human environments.	Internet application provides access to project information so the public can formulate commentary about potential sociocultural effects.
Consultation with State and Local Officials	To involve State and Federal environmental protection, tribal government, wildlife management, land management, and historic preservation agencies as appropriate in the development of the LRTP.	The consultation shall involve 1) a comparison of the LRTP with State conservation plans or maps, if available; or 2) a comparison of the LRTP with inventories of natural or historic resources, if available.
LEP Plan	To provide the public access to the MPO's plans and programs for those who do not speak or read English proficiently.	Provide reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to the information and services the MPO provides regardless of ability to read or speak English by providing, at the minimum, translators upon request ahead of time.

Public Workshops and Transportation Fairs

Since the general public is not aware of the nature of transportation planning activities, the MPO may hold public workshops to inform the public about specific projects. Additionally, these public workshops will occur during the LRTP development process. These LRTP workshops will be identified in the LRTP Milestone Schedule (when the LRTP is being developed). The MPO will establish dates and times of the workshops so that the majority of citizens interested in transportation issues can participate. At a minimum, these workshops shall be given public notice according to the Zoning Administration Procedures, Land Development Code, Article 300, Section 303.2, Paragraph B. Additionally, information about special, scheduled public workshops and summary agendas are posted in County government buildings, including all city municipalities locations. Meeting notices and agenda summaries are also distributed to public libraries, municipal governments, recreation centers, community centers, and newspapers within Pasco County. In addition, notices of the workshops are placed on the County's calendar (website). Press releases are provided to the local media during the development of major plans. Information regarding transportation workshops can also be found on the MPO's link under the Pasco County website at www.pascocountyfl.net (go to County Agencies/MPO). Transportation fairs are very similar to public workshops except they are conducted in a more informal setting and in populated areas like shopping malls. Staff will hold a debriefing at the conclusion of major public involvement efforts to discuss what worked, what did not, and what could be done differently. Staff will ask consultants to address this topic in their final reports. Also, staff will keep a log of lessons learned and note whether public meetings were well attended by members of the public and key stakeholder groups.

Public Hearings

Public hearings are generally held by the MPO Board prior to taking action on any plans or programs. The MPO will hold hearings at early stages of MPO projects and plans. Such hearings will allow for early and continuing public involvement. These hearings will occur during the development of activities, such as the TIP, UPWP, LRTP, and for special projects as determined necessary and appropriate by the MPO Board. At a minimum, all public hearings shall be given public notice according to the Zoning Administration Procedures, Land Development Code, Article 300, Section 303.2, Paragraph B. Additionally, information about scheduled public hearings and summary agendas is posted in County government buildings, including the government centers. Meeting notices and agenda summaries are also distributed to public libraries, municipal governments, and newspapers within Pasco County. Information based on public hearings will also be provided on the County's website, www.pascocountyfl.net (go to County Agencies/MPO).

MPO Board

The MPO Board is comprised of governmental officials who have approval responsibility for the UPWP, LRTP, and other planning activities and projects. The MPO Board approves membership on the CAC and for special committees. The MPO Board meets on a monthly basis on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. In the future, some MPO Board meetings may be scheduled for evening hours. Meeting notifications are provided to local newspapers through the County's Consumer Affairs Section and are open to the public. Additionally, information about scheduled MPO Board meetings and summary agendas are posted in County government buildings, including all city municipalities locations. Meeting notices and agenda summaries are also distributed to public libraries and municipal governments within Pasco County as well as to public-access cable television for public viewing. Information pertaining to MPO Board meetings is accessible via the County's website at www.pascocountyfl.net (go to County Agencies/MPO).

Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CAC is comprised of a cross section of representatives of the community including representation for the elderly, females, minorities, and Americans with disabilities. The CAC will be involved throughout the development of the TIP, UPWP, LRTP, and other transportation plans and studies. The committee will usually meet at a fixed time on a fixed day. These meetings are currently held on Wednesday, one week and a day before the regularly scheduled MPO Board meeting at 9:30 a.m., or at a designated time during the evening. The CAC meetings will be open to the general public to encourage a wide range of views and ideas on plans and projects from a variety of people. Information regarding the CAC meetings shall be made available to local newspapers through the County's Consumer Affairs Section. A CAC subcommittee may be specifically formed for the purpose of LRTP development. Additionally, information about scheduled CAC meetings and summary agendas are posted in County government buildings, including all city municipalities locations. Meeting notices and agenda summaries are also distributed to public libraries and municipal governments within Pasco County as well as to public-access cable television for public viewing. Information pertaining to CAC meetings is accessible via the County's website, www.pascocountyfl.net (go to County Agencies/MPO).

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC is appointed by the MPO Board and consists of professional and technical planners, engineers, and other appropriate disciplines. Interagency coordination is accomplished through the MPO, FDOT, County, and local governments, all of which are represented on the TAC. A TAC subcommittee may be specifically formed for the purpose of LRTP development. The TAC reviews and makes recommendations concerning transportation studies, the TIP, the UPWP, and the transportation plan. The TAC includes both voting and nonvoting members. The committee meets on the Monday prior to the MPO Board meeting at 1:30 p.m. Information regarding the meetings shall be provided to local newspapers through the County's Consumer Affairs Section. Additionally, information about scheduled TAC meetings and summary agendas is posted in County government buildings, including the government centers. Meeting notices and agenda summaries are also distributed to public libraries and municipal governments within Pasco County as well as public-access cable television for public viewing. Information pertaining to TAC meetings is accessible via the County's website, www.pascocountyfl.net (go to County Agencies/MPO).

Public Involvement Plan Mailing List

The MPO staff maintains and updates a mailing list for the purpose of informing the community about various transportation planning activities undertaken by the MPO. The mailing list includes civic associations, clubs and organizations, municipal governments, newspapers, and concerned citizens. As major transportation planning activities are initiated, such as the LRTP, the mailing list will be used to inform the community about scheduled CAC, Joint CAC, TAC, and MPO Board meetings; future public workshops and hearings; and to provide brief updates concerning the status and progress of ongoing transportation planning activities and projects. To be placed on the Public Involvement Plan Mailing List, please call the MPO at (727) 847-8140 or e-mail mrisner@pascocountyfl.net.

MPO Publications

The MPO periodically distributes summary information, newsletters, and brochures about the local and regional transportation planning activities and projects being accomplished. These include the CIP, UPWP, and special projects of community importance. Additionally, an executive summary of the LRTP will be produced to briefly describe, illustrate, and highlight the LRTP development process. Information about currently available publications can be obtained by calling the MPO at (727) 847-8140 or by visiting their website, www.pascocountyfl.net (go to County Agencies/MPO).

Public Media Coverage

The Pasco County Public Transportation Division has an ongoing program to inform the public of the opportunities available for assessing transportation alternatives. The MPO will coordinate its public media program with the Public Transportation Division.

The MPO uses public-access cable television, radio talk shows and advertising, newspapers (both major and local), and direct mailings through utility bills to inform the public about various transportation projects, the TIP, the UPWP, the TDP, and LRTP, where practical. This may include the production of videos or CDs for selected major programs and/or plans and public-service announcements on cable-access television concerning scheduled CAC, TAC, and MPO Board meetings; public workshops; and public hearings. Broadcasts of MPO meetings will be aired on cable-access television, where practical. The MPO will also encourage newspaper coverage of these meetings, and MPO staff will be available to assist reporters in their understanding of agenda items and topics. The goal of using this type of media coverage is to inform all members of the public, including those traditionally underserved, so that they are aware of the hearings and workshops and can provide input on transportation planning issues and the LRTP.

Public Surveys/Comment Forms

The MPO utilizes surveys and comment forms, as determined to be appropriate, to solicit citizen input on various topics concerning the transportation planning process. Such surveys and comment forms will be sent to those random members of the public and members of the public traditionally underserved so that their input can be considered in the transportation planning process. Staff may include a question in surveys and questionnaires distributed to the public that addresses the effectiveness of the outreach activity, such as, "Did this brochure/presentation/informational display tell you what you wanted to know? How could it better meet your needs? How did you find out about this workshop?" Staff will keep a log of answers received. Surveys and comment forms may also be available on the County's website, www.pascocountyfl.net (go to County Agencies/MPO).

Pasco County Website

The MPO maintains an internet site providing a forum for the most current information on activities and projects, meetings, public hearings, and Board members; downloadable plans for easy citizen review; interactive maps of transportation projects; links to related sites; and several opportunities to provide commentary to the MPO regarding their plans and programs. The MPO will add a "Send Us Your Thoughts" button to the MPO website page that links to the Pasco County online comment page and keep a notebook of comments received through the website. Staff will also add more links to the Links page of the MPO website, such as links to the ETDM site, where information on Pasco County projects can be found. The website can be accessed at www.pascocountyfl.net (go to County Agencies/MPO).

Visualization Techniques

The MPO is committed to providing visual aids, such as large maps, informational handouts, *PowerPoint* presentations, etc., at public workshops, public hearings, and other meetings as appropriate, as part of the public involvement process.

Special Efforts to Involve Traditionally Underserved and Underrepresented (Title VI Requirements)

The transportation underserved are those who have greater difficulty getting to places in their community, such as jobs, schools, recreation and shopping, than the population at large. Examples of the traditionally underserved include persons with disabilities and low incomes, minority groups, and the elderly. Transportation barriers make it difficult for them to be aware of transportation planning issues in their communities. Therefore, it is important to identify and implement specific strategies that enable these citizens to participate in the public involvement process. The MPO may utilize its advisory committee process to expand the participation of the historically underserved. It will recruit women and minority candidates to serve on the CAC in proportion to the County's general population. Staff may consider including the Local Coordinating Board in the review process for major plans. MPO staff will continue to cultivate partnerships with social service, religious, and other agencies and relies on this technique to distribute information to the transportation underserved.

Consistent with the U.S. Department of Transportation's order on environmental justice, special efforts are undertaken to involve population segments that are traditionally underserved and/or underrepresented in Pasco County. These requirements, based on Title VI of the 1964 Civil Right's Act, SAFETEA-LU, and NEPA, are designed to ensure the interests of minority and low-income populations are considered and addressed in all transportation decision making. These efforts may include the following: a) identify geographic locations with a high concentration of the traditionally underserved and underrepresented, b) host traditional workshops convenient to these geographic locations, c) invite community leaders from these geographic locations to participate on the CAC;, d) distribute information regarding the transportation planning process and opportunities for public involvement by providing information on public buses, and e) meet with and make presentations to organizations that represent this segment of the population.

Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process (ETDM)

Florida's ETDM Process provides public access to project plans and information through an internet application. This information allows the public to provide input about potential effects on the community.

Consultation with State and Local Officials

As part of the public involvement process for the LRTP, the MPO shall coordinate between appropriate Federal agencies, as well as the FDOT, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Southwest Florida Water Management District, and the Florida Department of Historic Resources (State Historic Preservation Officer). The consultation shall involve 1) a comparison of the LRTP with State conservation plans or maps, if available; or 2) a comparison of the LRTP with inventories of natural or historic resources, if available. This will be performed through the ETDM process as part of the long-range transportation needs plan.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

Federal law requires that reasonable steps be taken to provide language assistance for LEP persons seeking meaningful access to MPO programs. An LEP person is one who does not speak English as their primary language and who has a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS SUMMARY

Based on transportation planning activities and public involvement strategies previously discussed, Table 2, Public Involvement Process, presents a matrix of the public involvement strategies applicable to each transportation planning activity.

The matrix indicates whether the public involvement strategy is required or optional for each transportation planning activity.

The Pasco County MPO's public involvement process will be reviewed periodically to determine its effectiveness in involving the public in the transportation planning process. Adjustments to the strategies will be made as determined appropriate.

**TABLE 2
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS**

Public Involvement Strategies	Transportation Planning Activities						Quadrennial Certification Process
	TIP	UPWP	L RTP Development and Amendment Process	MMS	TDP	Special Projects	
Public Workshops and Transportation Fairs	R	O	R	R	R	O	O
Public Hearings	R	R	R	N/A	R	O	R
MPO Board	R	R	R	R	R	O	R
CAC	R	R	R	R	R	O	R
TAC	R	R	R	R	R	O	R
Public Involvement Plan Mailing List	O	O	R	R	R	O	O
MPO Publications	R	R	R	O	R	O	O
Public Media Coverage	O	O	R	O	O	O	O
Public Surveys/Comment Forms	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Pasco County Website	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Visualization Techniques	R	O	R	O	O	O	O
Special Efforts to Involve Traditionally Underserved and Underrepresented (Title VI Requirements)	O	O	R	O	R	O	O
ETDM Process	R	N/A	R	O	O	O	O
Consultation with State and Local Officials	O	O	R	O	O	O	O
Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan	O	O	R	O	R	O	O

R = Required.
O = Optional.
N/A = Not Applicable.

EVALUATION OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

Goal, Objectives, and Performance Measures

Goal: To effectively involve the public in all of the Pasco County MPO transportation planning activities.

Objective 1. Promote proactive and early public involvement; provide diverse opportunities for public participation.

Performance Measures

- MPO public forums, workshops, or meetings sponsored.
- Presentations to community groups.
- Provide the public notices early and at key points within the schedule of all planning activities.
- A Number of publications are available via the MPO website (LRTP, UPWP, and TIP).
- Diverse opportunities provided including workshops, public hearings, website, newspaper articles, CAC meetings, survey, and media organizations on mailing list.
- Provide one-on-one briefing with new members of the MPO Board, CAC, and TAC.
- Provide current planning documents to new Board members on an ongoing basis.

Objective 2. Provide full and easy access to complete information and key decisions; increase public awareness.

Performance Measures

- MPO newsletters during key planning activities.
- Newspaper advertisements and public notices published.
- Public meetings broadcast on Pasco County television.
- Public visits to the Pasco County MPO website.
- Public meetings held where public transit is available,
- Information provided to the public in an easy to understand format.
- Project information provided to public over the internet through the ETDM Process.
- Information available in libraries and other public places.

- Special brochures or newsletters during key planning activities.
- Transportation planning data and documents are available for website visitors.

Objective 3. Effectively involve the transportation underserved and underrepresented.

Performance Measures

- Organizations representing the underserved/underrepresented are included on mailing list for MPO planning activities.
- Public workshops and forums held in areas with high concentrations of the transportation underserved.
- Establish a log of community groups visited, the location, number of attendees, and the groups' general interests.
- Transportation services for the transportation underserved provided to and from workshops.
- Publicly posted announcements in free media for the transportation underserved.
- Provide opportunities for the public to access plans and programs for those who do not speak or read English proficiently.

Objective 4. Include public input in transportation decision making.

Performance Measures

- Public comments for MPO plans and programs are provided, considered, and documented.
- Documented revisions to plans based on citizen input.

Objective 5. Continuously monitor and improve the public involvement process.

Performance Measures

- Federal rules and regulations concerning public involvement reviewed on a regular basis.
- Updates to the MPO's Public Involvement Plan at least every five years.
- New ideas and public input used to improve the public involvement process.