CHAPTER 3

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Introduction

The RVMPO has an adopted Public Participation Plan, last updated in 2018, which remains consistent with the planning requirements of the 2015 transportation act, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act).

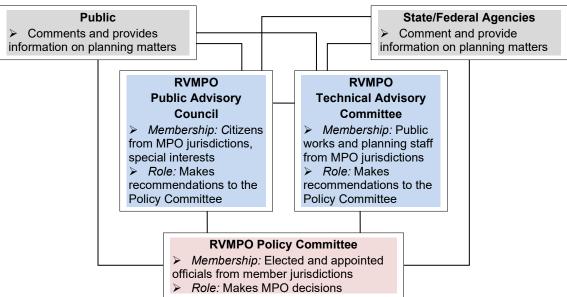
Public participation activities are conducted according to standards and requirements of the RVMPO Public Participation Plan. The participation plan establishes a goal of the RVMPO to provide citizens and interested parties with reasonable opportunities to participate in the metropolitan transportation planning process. Beyond efforts to provide information to the public, this goal encompasses a wide range of strategies and activities to enable the public to be involved in a meaningful way in the RVMPO's decision-making process. Ultimately, efforts to bring more voices and wide-ranging interests to the table will yield better planning results.

3.1 RTP PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RTP UPDATE

The RVMPO had scheduled and advertised a series of workshops and open houses in the month of March for public outreach and participation. However, due to national health pandemic (COVID-19) these public meetings had to be canceled. In its place, RVMPO staff created a virtual open house to allow for public comment and participation. The virtual open house was posted on the RVMPO website.

Figure 3.1.1: RVMPO Organizational Structure



Development of this RTP update involved close coordination with member jurisdictions at both the staff and policy level. Critical parts of the plan, including the forecasts, policy statement and project selection were developed in RVMPO committee meetings, and individual consultation with jurisdictions. Public review and comment was made available through the website, from comments and recommendations made by the RVMPO Public Advisory Council, at committee meetings and public hearings, and at selected community events. Meetings at which plan components were discussed had been announced by email. Additionally, the RVMPO solicited comments on the plan to a contact list of "interested parties" and Title VI/Environmental Justice related organizations in the region. Meetings were also advertised from time to time in the local news media. The Policy Committee conducted a public hearing on the RTP as well as the conformity determination during the formal comment period. The public was invited to freely participate through advertisements in the Medford Tribune and on the RVMPO website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND THE RTP

This section presents a summary of public comments received throughout the plan update process. It is important to note that this does <u>not</u> include comments and recommendations from the RVMPO Public Advisory Council (PAC), an appointed group who are vital part of the MPO's public participation process. The PAC participated in the plan update process by making comments and recommendations on RTP material to the Policy Committee. Their meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the RVMPO website. For purposes of this RTP chapter, this section summarizes input from the public, other than the PAC.

No comments were received.

