

Public Participation Plan

Amended September 24, 2024

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Rogue Valley Council of Governments
155 N First Street
Central Point, Oregon 97502

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updated in 2014, 2018, & 2022.

Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

The RVMPO is staffed by the Rogue Valley Council of Governments

RVMPO



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Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain the information in an alternative format such as large print or electronic formats, etc., please contact Kelsey Sharp at ksharp@rvcog.org, (541) 423-1375, Rely users dial 7-1-1.

Resolution Number 2024-3
Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization - Policy Committee
Adoption of the Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
Public Participation Plan

Whereas, the Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) has been designated by the State of Oregon as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the greater Medford Urbanized Area; and

Whereas, the RVCOG has delegated responsibility for MPO policy functions to the Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RVMPO) Policy Committee which includes elected officials from Ashland, Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, Jackson County, the Rogue Valley Transportation District, and the Oregon Department of Transportation; and

Whereas, the RVMPO Policy Committee developed a Public Participation Plan which provides for a proactive public participation process that provides complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and supports early and continuing participation of the public in developing plans; and

Whereas, the RVMPO, as required by law, held a 45-day public comment period to secure input and comment on the proposed Public Participation Plan update; and

Whereas, the proposed Public Participation Plan meets the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) requirements and is consistent with Rogue Valley Regional Transportation Plan policies;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee hereby adopts the attached Public Participation Plan.

Adopted by the Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee on this 24th day of September 2024.



Jerry Marmion
MPO Policy Committee Chair

About this Document

This Public Participation Plan update was adopted by the RVMPO Policy Committee after a public hearing on September 24, 2024, to meet requirements of the federal transportation act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

This Plan has been updated by RVMPO Planning Staff, in consultation with the RVMPO Technical Advisory Committee and RVMPO Public Advisory Council. A 45-day public comment period, beginning on Friday, August 9, 2024, with a press release sent to the newspaper of record (Rogue Valley Times) and on the RVMPO website.

Special outreach was initiated during the comment period for interested parties including citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transit, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, and representatives of the disabled. This contact list is on file with the RVMPO and is available upon request. All comments received were recorded in the project file and reviewed by the Policy Committee at the public hearing.



1. Introduction

It is a goal of the Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RVMPO), as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Medford-Ashland metropolitan area, 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.

The purpose of the Public Participation Plan is to provide all interested parties with reasonable opportunities to comment on the RVMPO's plans, programs, and projects. The policies and practices described in the Public Participation Plan recognize the need for robust public involvement at all stages of regional planning. This plan is intended to encourage, facilitate, and follow through on public comments, concerns, and suggestions by establishing procedures for providing full public access to information and decisions, timely public notices, and early and continuing public involvement in plan development.

The Public Participation Plan describes methods, strategies, and desired outcomes for public participation, addressing outreach to a broadly defined audience of interested parties. Efforts undertaken outlined in this plan are a facet of the RVMPO's role of providing the region with a continuing, cooperative, and collaborative transportation planning process.

A. Consistency with Federal Requirements

Originally adopted in January 2007, the RVMPO's Participation Plan was created to comply with the public involvement requirements outlined in the *Safe, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users* (SAFETEA-LU) enacted in 2005. The plan was updated in 2014 under the requirements of *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (MAP-21), in 2018 under *Fixing America's Surface Transportation* (FAST) Act, and in 2022 under the current transportation authorization act, *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA), signed into law in November of 2021. Just as federal legislation builds on preceding standards, this update incorporates much

of the previous plan into a plan for public participation that complies with the continuing public participation provisions of the IIA.

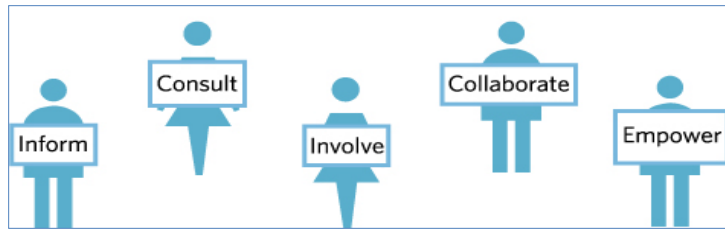
Carried over from the FAST act, the IIA continues to require MPOs to develop a participation plan to define a process for providing residents, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process. In doing so, MPOs must hold public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times and make public information available in electronically accessible formats. The participation plan must support continued consultation by all interested parties in all aspects of the planning process.

In addition to the transportation act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and a succeeding 1994 Executive Order require federal-aid recipients to consider impacts on minority and low-income populations and assure those populations can participate in planning decisions. Plan goals address these federal requirements, and procedures are consistent with those goals.

B. Establishment and the Role of the RVMPO

Federal law requires that metropolitan areas of at least 50,000 population form Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to be responsible for planning regionally significant transportation projects to assure that long-range, multimodal transportation system needs are met. Additionally, MPOs must show that transportation plans meet Clean Air Act requirements. Following the 1980 Census, the greater Medford urbanized area was designated a Metropolitan Statistical Area (an urbanized area with a population exceeding 50,000). To fulfill the federal planning obligation, the governor designated the Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) the region's MPO on July 27, 1982. Subsequently, the RVCOG Board of Directors delegated responsibility for RVMPO policy functions to the RVMPO Policy Committee. RVCOG provides staff support for the RVMPO.

2. Plan Overview



The Public Participation Plan is an adopted document of the RVMPO. It provides the policy framework for the role of the public in RVMPO decision making and it describes activities through which public concerns and suggestions are solicited, how responses are formulated, and how final work products reflect public sentiments.

The plan recognizes four key aspects of a meaningful public participation program that must be supported:

- **Inform** – The public must be provided with ample opportunities to learn about activities, issues and upcoming decision making.
- **Understand** – The public must be given adequate, relevant and understandable information about an issue, including competing values, technical issues, applicable standards and likely decision options. “Plain talk” should be used to be sure information can be easily understood by the general public.
- **Participate** – Project scheduling must allow adequate time for the public to learn about an issue and prepare responses that can be incorporated into the decision-making process at a time when such comments can influence outcomes.
- **Response** – Subsequent planning steps must clearly demonstrate how public input influenced the final product or provide some other response to input received.

The plan also recognizes that for any single project or planning activity there are likely to be several points at which the key activities described in this plan will need to be initiated. For example, providing up-to-date information should be ongoing throughout a project and opportunities should be provided to periodically update the public regardless of their level of familiarity with the project.

The goals and policies contained in the plan guide RVMPO activities to provide the public with opportunities to become informed, gain an understanding, and provide comment. The RVMPO intends for the public to have a say in all phases of metropolitan planning—from identifying needs to evaluating and selecting projects. Through the

goals, procedures and tools discussed in the plan, the RVMPO intends to foster on-going, two-way communication between decision makers and the public so that decisions reflect and respond to public concerns, needs and values.

The plan section *Public Role in Decision Making* (Page 13) describes activities the RVMPO undertakes to foster public participation. Some activities are regularly scheduled, and others are special events that coincide with project milestones. This section also describes the RVMPO's decision-making authority and outlines its processes and procedures, which include a citizen committee: the RVMPO Public Advisory Council (PAC). The organization's consistency with applicable regulations also is described, including its consistency with federal requirements for public participation contained in the IIJA

The *Public Participation Tools* section (pg. 19) describes various methods the RVMPO uses to engage the public. Through the course of any single project, it is anticipated that more than one tool or activity will be used.

The *Public Participation Implementation & Documentation* section (Page 21) outlines how public participation tools and methodologies are used in the context of the RVMPO's key tasks and responsibilities. This section also provides a snapshot of the basic duties of the MPO in fulfilling regional transportation planning obligations.

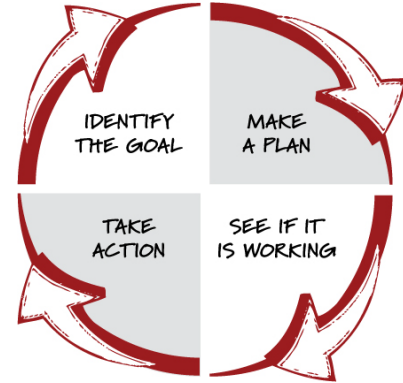
A list of commonly used transportation terms and acronyms relating to the metropolitan planning process is in *Appendix A*.

This plan is intended to provide the public with basic information about RVMPO operations so that any interested parties can begin to consider how they may participate. Additionally, it is a tool for RVMPO staff and can be a resource for member jurisdictions. It sets basic standards and procedures for the RVMPO to assure that the public is provided with opportunities to participate in metropolitan planning in a meaningful way. The plan describes numerous activities that may be undertaken to identify stakeholders, inform both the general-public and targeted audiences, and elicit comments and ideas from the community. It is not anticipated that all strategies would be effective in every situation. Nor is a single activity or strategy likely to foster sufficient public awareness and participation. Instead, this plan provides a menu of activities that can be combined to create a public involvement plan tailored to the scope and expectations of a plan, program, or project. It also sets expectations for public participation in key RVMPO activities.

3. Goals & Objectives

In order to meet federal standards continued under the IIJA and to continue to improve transportation planning, the RVMPO has set the following goals and policies for public participation.

Goal 1: Opportunities shall be created for all segments of the public to understand and be informed about issues under consideration by the RVMPO. Reasonable access to complete information about transportation planning issues and events will be provided.



Policy 1: An RVMPO website will be maintained containing information on: schedules and agendas for upcoming meetings; various updates and news topics; plan, program, and study documents; project applications and selection processes. Descriptions of programs, contact information and links to other organization websites will also be available. E-mail will be utilized and encouraged to allow comments on transportation planning related matters, including plan, program, and project development. The RVMPO website address will be included in printed materials.

Policy 2: All RVMPO plans and documents shall be made available for the public to review at the RVMCOG office and on the RVMPO website (www.rvmmpo.org). Copies of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and other RVMPO Plans may be distributed to all public libraries. Copies of draft documents for public review and comment shall be provided to planning partners to allow public review of those documents at their offices.

Policy 3: A Citizen’s Guide to Transportation Planning shall be created and periodically updated as a resource to the public. The Public Participation Plan outlines what strategies will be used by the RVMPO to increase public participation, while the Citizen’s Guide provides an overview of the region’s transportation policies and strategies for becoming involved in the planning process.

Policy 4: Fact sheets will be created on current transportation topics. These will translate the technical aspects of transportation planning into easily understood language. Fact sheets will be made available on the RVMPO website and can be included in information packets and placed in public areas.

Policy 5: A public involvement brochure will be designed to introduce the regional transportation planning process and specify how citizens can better participate in decision making. It can be sent to interested parties, included in information packets, and placed in public areas. Contact information will be included.

Policy 6: RVMPO will provide regular updates to the RVMPO website to help residents keep current and gain a better understanding of the transportation planning process, and related projects and programs.

Policy 7: RVMPO will provide project specific progress reports on significant MPO projects. Progress reports will aid in keeping those citizens that have shown an interest involved.

Policy 8: RVMPO will share articles on the regional transportation planning process with its transportation planning partners. Planning partners will be encouraged to use these articles in their organizational publications and websites.

Policy 9: RVMPO will provide summaries of several important documents on its website, including the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and Air Quality Conformity Analysis. These summaries will be short and will be presented in a non-technical way to make them more easily understood by the public.

Policy 10: RVMPO will work with local media on an ongoing basis to ensure proactive coverage of transportation planning activities. Press releases will be issued on current projects and programs. Additionally, designated members of the various RVMPO committees will be encouraged to provide public statements on planning activities to increase public awareness.

Policy 11: Whenever possible, RVMPO will go directly to interested groups instead of asking people to come to public offices. Staff shall be available to attend community meetings to discuss current planning initiatives and to provide an overview of the transportation planning process.

Policy 12: The RVMPO will employ visualization techniques to convey plans, issues, and concerns. These techniques may include maps, photographs, aerial photography, interactive tools, artist renderings and models to help analyze options, impacts and potential outcomes.

Policy 13: The RVMPO will incorporate equity measures in the transportation project evaluation process to assess how different communities are impacted by proposed changes and to prioritize projects that benefit underserved populations.

Goal 2: The public shall be provided timely notice on all transportation issues and processes.

Policy 1: The RVMPO will provide adequate time for public review of draft documents prior to opportunities for comment or testimony. The length of comment period and review periods will vary based on the nature of the plan or program, but during the development of major plans or projects such as the RTP, TIP, UPWP, and Air Quality Conformity will have at least a 30-day comment period. Amendments to existing plans and programs will have at least a 21-day comment period. Development of or major updates to the Public Participation Plan will have at least a 45-day public comment period (refer to Section 5: Public Participation Tools, Comment Periods).

Policy 2: Agendas of all meetings of the RVMPO committees shall be uploaded to the website at least six days before they occur. Notifications will be easy to understand and provide adequate information or indicate how additional information can be obtained. Information on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access and availability of information in other languages will be included.

Policy 3: To the extent possible, notifications of citizen involvement opportunities will contain the following information: the purpose of a meeting or event, location, and time, as well as information on public transit and a phone number where additional information can be obtained. The format for citizen involvement and the timeline for public comment on the project will also be included.

Goal 3: Provide the public with opportunities to participate in the transportation planning process.

Policy 1: The RVMPO will provide frequent opportunities for the general-public, interest groups, providers of transportation, and others to participate in the transportation planning process, especially in the early stages of plan and project development, when such comment can have the greatest effect.

Policy 2: The RVMPO shall conduct public hearings prior to the adoption of and/or amendment to each of the transportation plans and programs for which it is responsible and shall hold public forums and public meetings related to transportation planning initiatives and projects at appropriate times in the planning process. Whenever practicable, the RVMPO will work to improve the format of public meetings and hearings to better facilitate the public involvement process. An agenda item will be included in regularly scheduled RVMPO meetings to allow an opportunity for public testimony.

Policy 3: The RVMPO will schedule meetings to allow the greatest opportunity for attendance by the public and interested groups, including evening, lunch, or weekend meetings when necessary.

Policy 4: Planning initiatives shall be reviewed to determine the appropriate public involvement techniques, outreach activities and communication strategies. These tools will be tailored to the affected groups and interested citizens whenever possible.

Policy 5: Citizens and other interested parties who have expressed interest in a particular topic such as bicycle and pedestrian issues, shall be included in the planning process. Task forces shall be convened at appropriate times in the planning process.

Policy 6: Scientific surveys may be conducted at appropriate times to produce statistically valid results identifying the desires of the region. This will be considered a tool that could be used to determine the preferred outcome of a plan or project and used accordingly.

Policy 7: To increase the participation of citizens and organizations in the transportation planning process, the RVMPO will maintain a contact spreadsheet that can serve as an email and mailing list for a newsletter and/or other digital and paper mailings. Entries in this spreadsheet will include the names of those requesting copies of draft documents, submitting comments, and attending public hearings. Citizens requesting placement on this contact list will also be added. At the conclusion of the review and comment period for a planning project, individuals on this list can review the determination on an action and a summary of all public comments received and staff responses on the RVMPO website. The RVMPO will attempt to verify ongoing interest by allowing participants an opportunity to remove their names from the contact list. The request can be made by mail, telephone, or email.

Policy 8: The RVMPO shall continually work to identify new stakeholders interested in or affected by the transportation planning process. In accordance with the IJA, stakeholders shall include, but are not limited to “citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transit, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, affordable housing advocacy organizations and agencies, and other interested parties”.

Policy 9: A Public Advisory Council shall be maintained that reflects the diverse constituencies affected by transportation decisions. This group’s function will be to act as community liaisons by assisting in keeping the public informed on regional plans and programs and provide the citizen

perspective on planning issues. The group will advise and recommend appropriate courses of action to the Policy Committee and RVMPO staff on regional transportation issues.

Policy 10: The RVMPO staff and RVMPO committees will consider public input, which may result in revisions to draft plans and programs, as an integral part of the planning process. Every attempt will be made to respond to public comments in a timely manner. Summarized oral comments will be recorded at public meetings. When developing the RTP forms for written comments will be provided at all public meetings along with staff contact information. The public will have an opportunity to comment during public meetings of the Policy Committee before any final action, as well as via email prior to the meeting. A link on the website will be provided for public comments.

Goal 4: Identify and involve traditionally underserved communities, including communities of minority, low-income or elderly populations, in the transportation planning process.

Policy 1: The RVMPO will work to identify traditionally underserved populations within the region, including minority, low income and senior citizen populations. Outreach activities will be developed to involve stakeholders from these communities in the transportation planning process.

Policy 2: Some meeting sites will be selected which are more easily accessible to traditionally underserved communities. Meeting announcements will be placed in publications serving minority communities to ensure there is notification of upcoming meetings to these populations.

Policy 3: Assistance shall be provided upon request, and with 48-hour notice, to the hearing and visually impaired, those not fluent in English, the transportation disadvantaged or others requiring special assistance at all MPO meetings, hearings, and workshops. Public notices of these events shall notify the public of this opportunity. Meetings shall be held in ADA-compliant venues.

Policy 4: Meeting locations served by transit or accessible by means other than the automobile will be chosen whenever possible. Information on any transit routes that serve the meeting location will be included in meeting announcements.

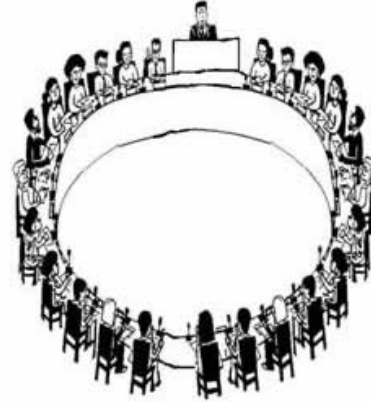
Goal 5: Public comments and concerns shall be considered as projects and plans are developed.

Policy 1: The RVMPO will gather and record public comments, making comments part of the permanent record for MPO projects and plans.

Policy 2: A summary, analysis or report on comments received and their disposition will be made a part of all Regional Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs.

Policy 3: In instances when a final version of a Regional Transportation Plan or Transportation Improvement Program differs significantly from the draft version that was subject to public review, another opportunity for public comment will be provided.

Policy 4: Summaries of responses to comments and any changes made as a result will be prepared and distributed at subsequent committee or public meetings and will be available on the MPO website.



4. Public Role in Decision Making

A. RVMPO Decision-Making Authority

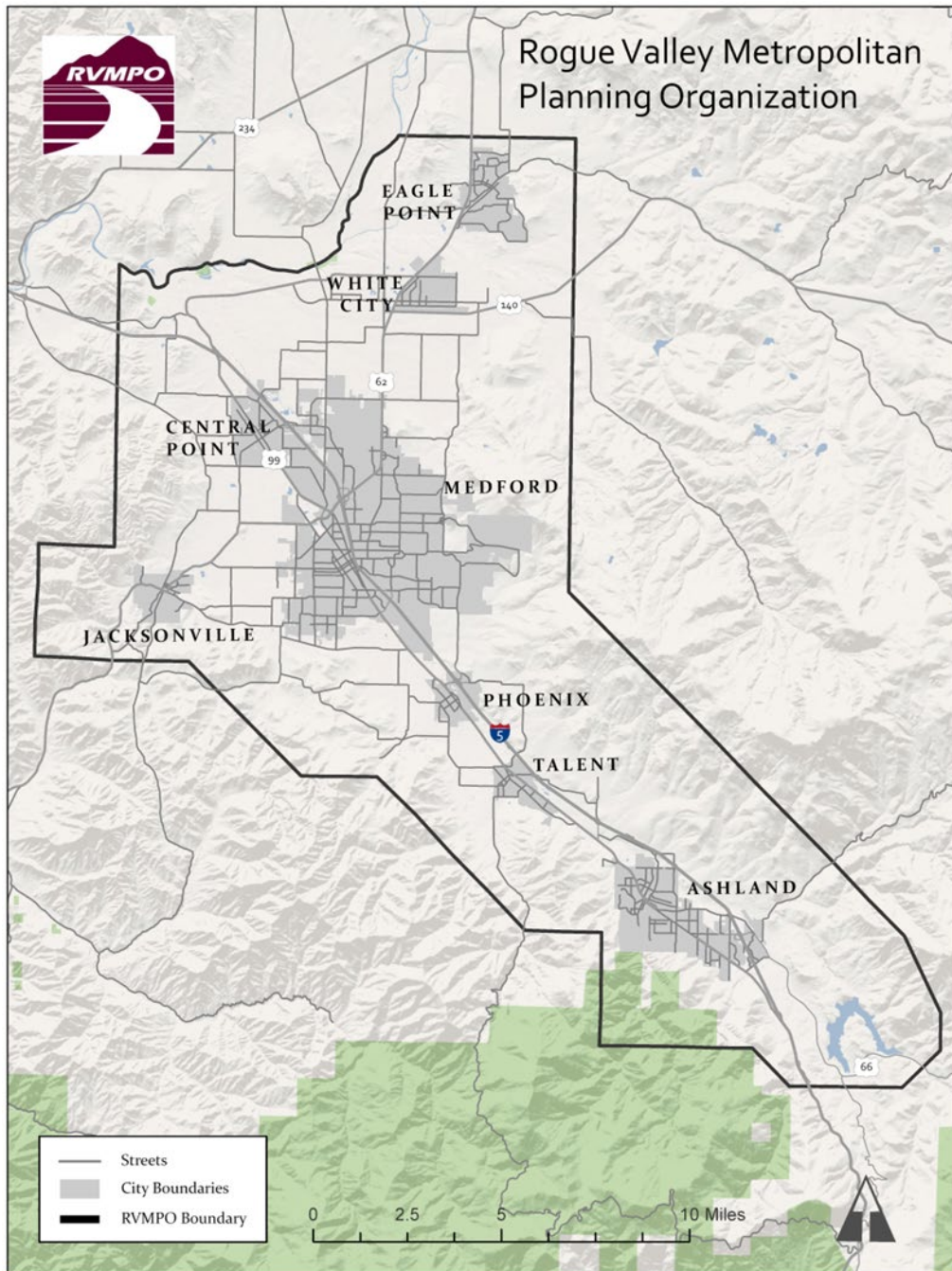
The RVCOG Board of Directors has delegated responsibility for RVMPO policy functions to the Policy Committee, a committee of elected and appointed officials from member jurisdictions – Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Ashland, Talent, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Jackson County – as well as the Oregon Department of Transportation and Rogue Valley Transportation District. Map 1 on the following page illustrates the RVMPO boundary.

In addition to the local government members, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Administration also participate in the MPO process.

Federal and state transportation planning responsibilities for the RVMPO can generally be summarized as follows:

- Develop and maintain a RTP and TIP consistent with state and federal planning requirements.
- Perform regional air quality conformity analyses for carbon monoxide (CO), for which the Medford area is a Maintenance Area, and particulate matter (PM₁₀) for which an area corresponding roughly to the expanded RVMPO boundary is a Maintenance Area.
- Review specific transportation and development proposals for consistency with the RTP.
- Coordinate transportation decisions among local jurisdictions, state agencies and area transit operators.
- Develop an annual work program.

Map 1: RVMPO Area Map



B. RVMPO Structure and Process

The Policy Committee considers recommendations from the public and from RVMPO sponsored advisory committees as part of its decision-making process. The organization maintains two standing advisory committees that meet regularly to review matters to be decided:

- The Public Advisory Council (PAC), made up of representatives from a broad range of interests and constituencies; and
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), made up of jurisdictional public works and planning staff members.

All committees operate under bylaws, which were adopted after a public hearing by the Policy Committee.

Additionally, the RVMPO periodically organizes advisory committees and steering committees for specific projects and purposes. These committees often capitalize on particular knowledge or capability in the community. For example, a Freight Advisory Committee consisting largely of local shippers and carriers was organized to provide review and advice for the Rogue Valley Freight Study.

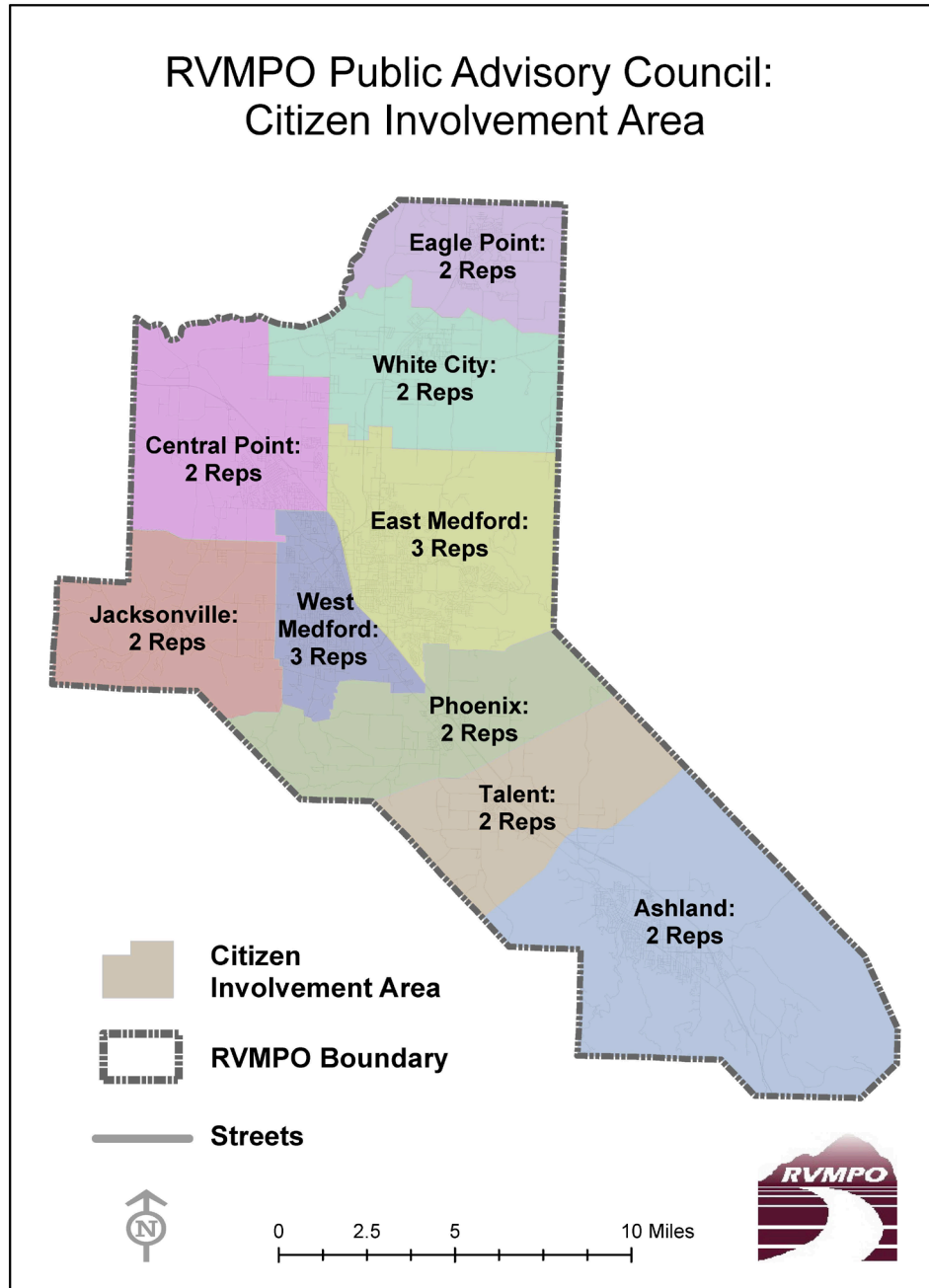
All RVMPO committee meetings are public and are announced by direct notice to stakeholders and website postings. Material for all committee meetings is posted on the web site (www.rvmppo.org) at least 6 days in advance of the meeting, and time for public comment is reserved for all committee meetings.

The PAC is a key public participation activity for the RVMPO. It serves as a public sounding board for discussion of regional transportation issues. PAC membership is determined by both geographical and topical areas or categories, as set out in the PAC bylaws. Members must reside, own property, or operate a business in the geographical area they represent. To represent one of the six topical interest areas – mass transit, freight, low-income families, minority populations, seniors, and public health – members must demonstrate a particular interest or expertise.

Figure 1: Public Advisory Council (PAC) Membership Areas and Categories

Membership Areas	Membership Categories
Ashland	Bicycle/Pedestrian
Talent	Mass Transit
Phoenix	Freight
Medford	Low Income
Central Point	Minority
Jacksonville	Public Health
White City	Senior
Eagle Point	

Map 2: Citizen Involvement Areas Map*



*This map illustrates the nine citizen involvement areas for the RVMPO Public Advisory Council. The number of areas is determined by population. Each area has at least two (2) PAC seats, except the West and East Medford areas which both have three (3) seats.

The public is encouraged to participate in RVMPO issues by joining the PAC or attending its meetings. The PAC meets in the evening to accommodate work schedules. (Both the TAC and the Policy Committee meet during the day.) To become a PAC member, volunteers are asked to fill out an application, which is reviewed by the PAC for a recommendation. The Policy Committee appoints PAC members to two-year terms, which may be renewed. The PAC application form is in Appendix B. The three standing committees maintain a regular meeting schedule, as noted in Table 1 below.

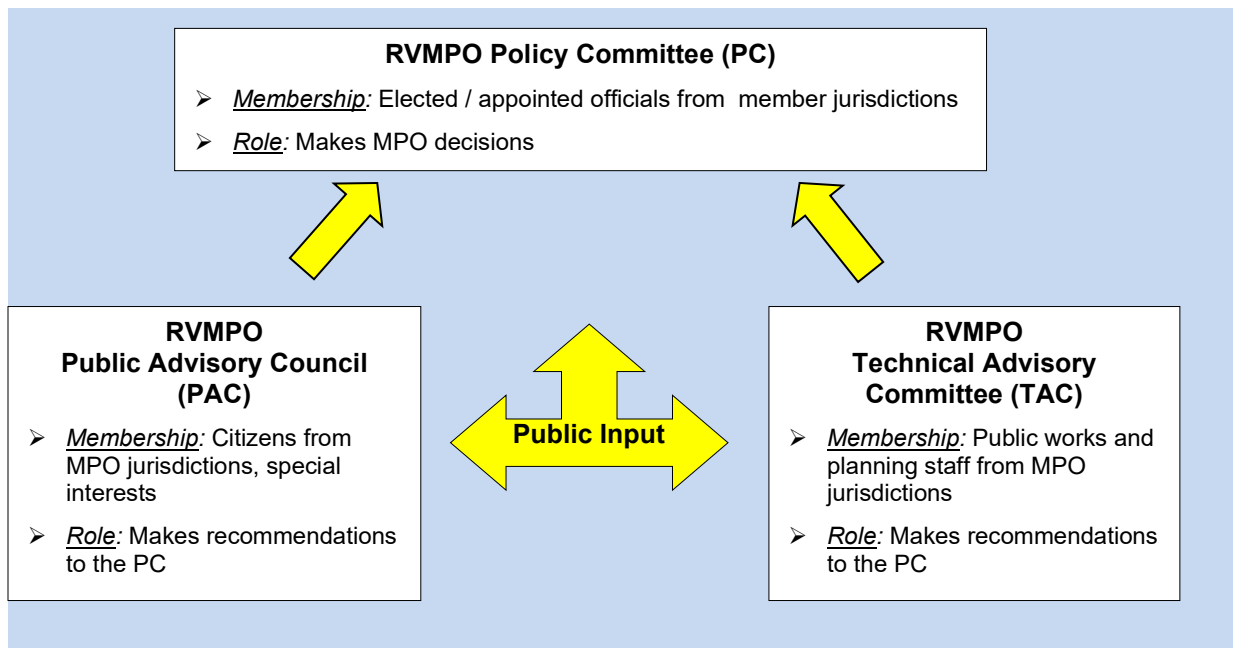
Table 1: RVMPO Meeting Schedule

Committee	Meeting Day	Date	Website
Policy Committee (PC)	Fourth Tuesday	Monthly	www.rvmpos.org
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Second Wednesday	Monthly	
Public Advisory Council (PAC)	Third Tuesday	Monthly	

C. RVMPO Committees and Committee Relationships

The RVMPO’s committee structure and its schedule of regular, public meetings help ensure that decision makers on the Policy Committee routinely hear from a broad base of stakeholders. The public may choose to address only the Policy Committee or provide input to the advisory committees as well. The RVMPO organizational structure chart, below, illustrates how the public may participate in decision making.

Figure 2: RVMPO Organizational Structure



D. Compliance with Guidelines

The Public Participation Plan and the goals and policies that form its foundation are intended to ensure that the RVMPO provides the public with opportunity to influence Policy Committee decisions. The plan acknowledges that much of the RVMPO's decision making is based on policies and decisions made at the jurisdictional level. Therefore, the RVMPO supports local efforts to encourage public participation in local decision making. In some instances, project ranking at the regional level may be based in part on demonstration of local support. Local governments, in their transportation planning activities, are encouraged to be consistent with the RVMPO Public Participation Implementation Guidelines in Section 6.

The procedures outlined in this plan establish minimum standards for public participation. However, failure to exactly comply with the procedures contained in the plan shall not, in and of itself, render invalid any RVMPO decisions or actions. Any dispute arising from this plan will be resolved with a focus on the degree of compliance and the extent to which the RVMPO's actions met the intent of the goals and policies. If it is determined that the spirit of the goals is not met, the RVMPO may conduct additional public involvement to ensure adequate public review.

E. Consultation with Tribal Governments

The RVMPO boundary resides within ancestral and unceded traditional territories of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Coquille Indian Tribe, and the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation. The Indigenous people of this land never surrendered lands or resources to the United States. Following treaties between 1851 and 1855, Kalapuya people were dispossessed of their indigenous homeland by the United States government and forcibly removed to the Coast Reservation in Western Oregon. Today's descendants of the Kalapuya are citizens primarily of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon. We give our respect and appreciation to all the Kalapuya generations stewarding this land and to the many more tribes who have ancestral connections to this land.

The United States Government's relationship with Tribal governments is set forth in the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, judicial decisions, and Executive Orders and Presidential memorandum. Therefore, to the greatest extent practicable and to the extent permitted by law, the RVMPO will consult with tribal governments prior to taking action that has substantial direct impact on federally recognized tribal governments. To ensure that the rights of sovereign tribal governments are fully respected, all such consultations are to be open and candid so that tribal governments may evaluate for themselves the potential impact of relevant proposals.

The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Coquille Indian Tribe, and the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation are all contacted during the Public Participation Plan update to provide comments.

F. Outreach to Underserved Populations

The RVMPO seeks to involve citizens who are underrepresented in the transportation planning process. Various outreach approaches that inform underserved populations about MPO transportation planning activities include:

- Holding public meetings in locations accessible by transit.
- Providing Spanish translation services upon request.
- Ensuring all meeting locations are ADA assessable.
- Publishing MPO documents in Spanish.
- Providing the public with the option of participating in MPO meetings via ZOOM.



5. Public Participation Tools

Through the course of any single project, it is anticipated that more than one tool or activity will be used.



Website The RVMPO website, www.rvmppo.org is the organization’s principal means of communicating its work to the public. All meeting schedules and materials, including meeting minutes, are posted, as are drafts of all reports, research findings and publications, including the regional plan, TIP, and work plan. A tool on the site enables visitors to directly contact staff. Project selections, such as the CMAQ and STBG funding process, are conducted on the web (applications posted for committee review). Staff continue to expand the utility of this site.



Newsletters The RVMPO can produce newsletters seeking to time publications to important events and opportunities for the public to participate in an event or comment on a pending action. Copies may be distributed to libraries and city halls around the region, sent to email addresses on transportation-related lists, and distributed at meetings.



Fact Sheets, Brochures These are typically single topic communication pieces that address a subject in depth for deeper public understanding. They are used at open house sessions to provide participants with background for discussion and comment, and available in the public information display in the RVCOG lobby.



Feedback Forms Simple, one-page questionnaires can elicit public attitudes about a variety of subjects. These forms should be designed to include guided comments (specific questions to which the RVMPO seeks comments) and open-ended questions that encourage respondents to describe their concerns.



Visualization Techniques As much as possible the RVMPO should use maps, charts, photographs, aerial photography, and interactive tools to engage the public. Visual cues may tell the story more quickly than paragraphs of information and can be used with written material to give the public a more thorough picture of an issue or debate. Visualization techniques should be incorporated into other

tools listed in this section whenever possible, e.g., photographic posters at open houses illustrating smart growth concepts, plan maps printed as fact sheets, and diagrams of possible improvements.

In 2021, the RVMPO developed an inter-active TIP on its website. This interactive TIP is designed to provide the Transportation Improvement Program in a more user-friendly format. It provides the basic information on each of the projects in an easy-to-read format. Each project sheet contains a map of the project location and/or limits, a project description and Key Number, and a funding table indicating which funds are being used for which phases of the project and, for any amendments that occur, a link is provided to the Change Management Request form that explains in detail what modifications are being made to the project.



Virtual Open Houses These informal sessions use visualization techniques to foster discussion and elicit comment from all segments of the community including agency staff, public and elected officials. Open Houses are held in conjunction with RTP and TIP updates, as well as major planning studies. They are widely advertised.



Committee Meetings Efforts are made to schedule meetings of the three standing committees and ad hoc committees at convenient times and locations as determined in consultation with committee members. Public Advisory Council meetings agendas are mailed (paper or electronic) to an interested-parties list, with meeting materials being posted on the website. Oregon Public Meetings Law requires that all meetings of governing bodies be noticed in advance, be open to the public, held in an accessible location, and that a recording and/or minutes be made available for public review.



Comment Periods, Legal Advertising Formal public comment periods are initiated for draft UPWP, RTP, TIP and Air Quality Conformity Determination (AQCD), Public Participation Plan and major funding decisions. Comment periods related to the various plans and programs vary. Table 6.1 in section 6. – Public Participation

Implementation and Documentation outlines the various timelines. Public hearings and initiation of comment periods are advertised in the Press Release section of the Mail Tribune (newspaper of record), Medford, OR. Additional advertising may be purchased. All comments received are retained in the project record.



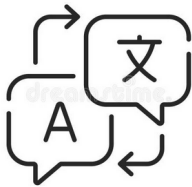
Public Hearings The Policy Committee conducts public hearings for plan and program updates and other key funding decisions.



Press Releases Project milestones and key opportunities for public input may be described in press releases sent to all news media in the region (print, radio and television).



Display Advertising Public Advisory Council meetings and other key events may be promoted in newspaper ads. The RVMPO should attempt to obtain prominent placement in the Sunday paper and other editions.



Spanish Language Information The Spanish-speaking population is the region’s largest minority. According to 2022 American Community Survey data, 2.7% of the RVMPO’s population has been identified as having limited English proficiency (LEP). To assure that LEP populations are provided meaningful access to MPO activities, the RVMPO will continue to provide Spanish language translation, when requested.



Other tools. Radio spots may be used to announce special events and opportunities for public participation.



Social Media The RVMPO may utilize social media to increase engagement, promote public events and build new relationships.

6. Public Participation Implementation & Documentation



The RVMPO is responsible for coordinating a collaborative transportation planning process for the region. All interested parties must be included, including those who are traditionally underserved by the transportation system and services. This section of the plan addresses the core metropolitan planning activities and responsibilities, focusing on how the public participates in their production.

Features of meaningful public involvement



A. MPO Work Products and Public Participation

There are six core work products that an MPO is responsible for producing and keeping up to date on a regular schedule. Those products and the public participation in each are discussed below.

- 1) [Unified Planning Work Program \(UPWP\)](#). Produced annually, the UPWP lists all planning tasks and studies the MPO will undertake during the year. All three

RVMPO standing committees discuss and propose planning tasks. Public Advisory Council meetings are advertised, and materials are posted on the website. Staff conduct additional consultation with agencies and interested parties as necessary. The Policy Committee holds a public hearing on the draft UPWP after a 30-day comment period. Fact sheets and other information may be produced by staff as necessary. A record of comments received, and responses is kept on file, reported to committees, posted on the website, and may be incorporated into the final plan.

- 2) **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**. Updated every four years, the RTP is a long-range, 20-year plan that contains the region's goals and policies, projects, funding forecasts, strategies, and projected demands on the transportation system. Advisory committees discuss the plan update over several meetings. The RVMPO hosts two open house sessions, a 30-day comment period and public hearing. Comments received will be responded to and included in the final document. The draft RTP and supporting White Papers and other research as needed are posted on the website and provided to interested parties. Open house meetings are advertised in the newspaper, on the website, and by mailing (paper or electronic) to individuals and organizations on transportation mail/email lists. Staff conducts outreach including community presentations.
- 3) **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**. Updated every four years, the TIP is the short-range listing of financially constrained (funded) projects to be undertaken in the coming four years. Projects in the TIP are incorporated into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Public process for the TIP update is the same as and conducted concurrently with the RTP update. The TIP and all major amendments are subject to a public comment period (30-day for program adoption, 21-day for major amendments) and a public hearing. (Public notice of public involvement activities and time established for public review and comment on the TIP will satisfy the Program of Projects (POP) requirements of the Section 5307 Program and other Federal Transit Administration funding programs.) A record of comments received is kept on file with responses, reported to committees, posted on the website, and may be incorporated into the final plan.
- 4) **Air Quality Conformity Determination (AQCD)**. The RVMPO is required to show through the AQCD that both the RTP and the TIP conform to federal Clean Air Act standards. The determination process is technical in nature, but the findings are subject to public review during the activities described above for the RTP and TIP. A record of comments received will be kept on file with responses, reported to committees, posted on the website, and may be incorporated into the final plan.
- 5) **RVMPO Public Participation Plan**
The Public Participation Plan is subject to periodic review, evaluation and updating. The plan is updated every 5 years to meet federal requirements for public involvement in metropolitan planning and Oregon Public Meetings and Public Records Law. Furthermore, the RVMPO covers a growing region where

the public has demonstrated an interest in the state of transportation facilities and services. RVMPO staff shall periodically review the Public Participation Plan with an eye toward augmenting tools and procedures.

Evaluation is an integral part of public involvement and is discussed in the section *Evaluating Public Participation Plan & Activities*. Updates that follow an evaluation will be posted on the web site, reviewed by the TAC and the PAC, noticed to the local media, and publicly discussed to encourage both comments on proposed amendments and suggestions for additional amendments. There will be a 45-day comment period prior to a public hearing by the Policy Committee. Comments received will be responded to and included in the final document.

6) **[RVMPO Environmental Justice and Title VI Plan](#)**

The Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RVMPO) Environmental Justice and Title VI Plan is updated every 3-years to meet federal and state requirements for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to fulfill obligations under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the President's Executive Order on Environmental Justice (1994) and subsequent orders and enforcement regulations. Referred to generally as Title VI and Environmental Justice, the provisions are intended to prevent federally funded actions from having disproportionate impacts on certain populations and ensure that members of the public have equal access to the decision-making process.

Updates will be posted on the web site, reviewed by the TAC and the PAC, noticed to the local media, and publicly discussed to encourage both comments on proposed amendments and suggestions for additional amendments. There will be a 30-day comment period prior to a public hearing by the Policy Committee. Comments received will be responded to and included in the final document.

B. RVMPO Discretionary Funding

The RVMPO coordinates the allocation of funds from two significant federal sources: Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. Jurisdictions submit applications based on the goals, priorities and projects in their state Transportation System Plans (TSP). All TSPs in the region are periodically updated and those updates include a public participation component, which typically includes a citizen advisory committee. Additionally, RVMPO applications ask jurisdictions to provide information about public participation in the project for which federal funds are sought. Applications are posted on the website for comment, along with guidelines and criteria. Comments received during a 30-day comment period are kept on file with responses, reported to committees and posted on the website.

Public Participation Plan

Activity	Adoption or Regular Update
Development of Draft Document	Draft Document to be distributed to MPO Standing Committees prior to commencing 45-day public review period
Release draft document for public review	Advertise 45-day public comment period in local print media and place draft document on MPO website
Adoption of Final Document	45 days after the notice of public comment period and upon holding a public hearing during the Policy Committee meeting

Table 2: RVMPO Work Products Public Review & Comment Timeframe

RVMPO Work Products & Public Participation		
RVMPO Work Product	When Updated	Public Review & Comment Timeframe
Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)	Every 5 Years	30-days
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)	Every Year	30-days
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	Every 3 Years	30-days
TIP Amendments	As Needed (Monthly)	21-days
Public Participation Plan	Every 5 Years	45-days
Title VI / EJ Plan	Every 3 Years	30-days

Table 6.1 – Public Participation Process

Regional Transportation Plan		
Activity	Adoption	Amendment
Development of Draft Document or amendment	Public input will be sought during development of draft document. Such efforts can include but not be limited to the following: making available fact sheets and brochures, feedback forms, participating in local events, holding public meetings, posting information on the MPO's website.	N/A
Releasing draft Document or Amendment for public comment and agency review	Notice of formal public comment period that will last a minimum of 30 days and notice of public hearing will advertised in local print media and on MPO website. Comments will also be sought from participating agencies as well as from the MPOs standing and policy committees.	Draft document is made available online at least 21 days prior adoption. Notice of the documents availability shall be advertised in local print media and placed on the MPO's website.
Adoption of Final Document or Amendment	30 days after the notice of public comment period and upon holding a public hearing during the Policy Committee meeting	21 days after noticing the amendment in the local print media, and after review and recommendation from the MPO's standing committee(s), the Policy Committee shall hold a Public Hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting and then take action on proposed amendment
Transportation Improvement Program & Unified Planning Work Program		
Activity	Adoption	Amendment
Development of Draft Document or amendment	Developed internally	Developed internally
Releasing draft Document or Amendment for public comment and agency review	Notice of formal public comment period that will last a minimum of 30 days and notice of public hearing will advertised in local print media and on MPO website. Comments will also be sought from participating agencies as well as from the MPOs standing and policy committees.	Draft document is made available online at least 21 days prior adoption. Notice of the documents availability shall be advertised in local print media and placed on the MPO's website.
Adoption of Final Document or Amendment	30 days after the notice of public comment period and upon holding a public hearing during the Policy Committee meeting	21 days after noticing the amendment in the local print media, and after review and recommendation from the MPO's standing committee(s), the Policy Committee shall hold a Public Hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting and then take action on proposed amendment

7) Evaluation and Revision of the Public Participation Plan

Federal Metropolitan Planning guidelines require a periodic review of the effectiveness of public involvement processes. MRMPO will review the public involvement process and activities to ensure that all interested parties, including transportation stakeholders and traditionally underserved groups, have opportunities to provide input.



Evaluation is key to any plan update. The evaluation should fit the activity. It can be a debriefing at the staff level, identifying elements that worked well and developing improvements. Evaluation questions should be incorporated into public comment forms distributed at events. Also, surveys can be conducted to solicit input. Surveys, like feedback forms, are a way to get evaluation feedback on either an event or an ongoing program from a targeted or randomly selected group. Surveys can be conducted using a statistically valid method or can be more informal questions posed to gather a viewpoint from the public. Surveys may be conducted in person, online, by phone, by mail or email.

A variety of sources may be used for evaluation, including:

- Telephone comments,
- Citizen letters,
- Internet E-mail,
- Newsletter questionnaires,
- Questions and comments made in meetings, workshops, and displays,
- Focus group comments, and
- Comments from advisory committees.

Responses will be tracked demographically and geographically by zip code to ensure that target audiences are being contacted. If certain areas are found to be underserved, MRMPO will target these areas for increased outreach to provide those citizens with the opportunity to participate. In addition, periodic surveys will provide a mechanism for measuring the effectiveness of the public involvement process.

During each Public Participation Plan update, the MPO will identify transportation projects that were completed over the previous five years located in underserved neighborhoods. Each project will be evaluated to determine how the project improved conditions in the community.

Due to COVID and staffing shortages the MPO was not able to evaluate the last Public Participation Plan update. The current plan appears to be working well. The MPO continues to follow the goals, policies, and best practices for public participation included in the plan. The current update of the plan (2024) includes more graphics, and information about the MPO and its planning activities.

Appendices

Appendix A: Glossary, Acronyms and Common Transportation Terms

AQCD	Air Quality Conformity Determination: Finding based on analysis showing that plans, programs and projects comply with Clean Air Act standards. The RVMPO area is regulated for carbon monoxide (Medford) and particulates.
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality: The program is a federally-funded program for surface transportation improvements designed to improve air quality and mitigate congestion.
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
TSP	Transportation System Plan: A state-required long-range plan for municipal multi-modal transportation networks generally incorporated into comprehensive land use plans; must be consistent with the RTP and TIP.
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization: Required by federal law in urban areas over 50,000 population, and designated by the governor, MPOs consist of local jurisdictions that collaborate to fulfill federal requirements for long- and short-range, regional, multimodal transportation planning.
PPP	Public Participation Plan
PAC	Public Advisory Council: The RVMPO's citizen sounding board; makes recommendations to the Policy Committee, which makes all MPO decisions.
PC	Policy Committee: The RVMPO's decision making body; made up of member jurisdiction representatives.
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan: Long range, multimodal plan for regional transportation needs.
STBG	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program: Provides flexible funding for surface transportation needs.
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee: RVMPO committee of member jurisdictions' planning and public works representatives; makes recommendations to the Policy Committee.
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program: Federally required, short-range multi-modal list of the region's projects for the coming four years.
UPWP	Unified Planning Work Program: Federally required plan for projects and studies to be undertaken by the MPO for the year.

Appendix B: Public Advisory Council Application Packet

ROGUE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Public Advisory Council (PAC)

Membership Application

Return Application to:

Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
Rogue Valley Council of Governments
P.O Box 3275
Central Point, OR 97502
541-664-6674
www.rvmppo.org

Email return to: rvmppo@rvcog.org

For background about the Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization and the role of the Public Advisory Council go to our website, www.rvmppo.org

PLEASE PRINT

Personal Information: Please circle one. (Mr. / Mrs. / Ms.)

Name: _____

Home address (include Zip code): _____

Telephone: (home) _____ **(business)** _____

Email _____

About PAC membership... The Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Public Advisory Council (PAC) makes recommendations on transportation planning issues to the RVMPO's Policy Committee. PAC members are appointed by the Policy Committee to two-year terms, representing one of the RVMPO's regional areas of interest. The PAC has positions for both geographic and issue-specific interests. Appointments are based on an applicant's ability to represent one of the Geographic or Issue-Specific interests.

- To represent one of the **geographic areas** listed below and illustrated on the attached RVMPO map, you must live, own property or operate a business within that area. You do not have to live within city limits. (Please refer to the RVMPO map, or call 664-6674 ext. 360, for clarification.)

- **Issue-specific positions** represent the freight industry, mass transit, low-income citizens, minorities, senior citizens, and public health. Low-income and minority representatives do not have to be low income, or a racial minority, but would advocate for the concerns of those communities. Special-interest representatives may live, own property, or operate a business anywhere within the RVMPO.

1. Please indicate below the geographic area, or special interest that you would represent. Select only one from the following list, section (A) or (B) below.

A. Geographic Area (see Citizen Involvement Area map on the last page):

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ashland | <input type="checkbox"/> Central Point | <input type="checkbox"/> Eagle Point |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville | <input type="checkbox"/> East Medford | <input type="checkbox"/> West Medford |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix | <input type="checkbox"/> Talent | <input type="checkbox"/> White City |

B. Special Interest Area:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freight industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Mass Transit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low Income Citizens | <input type="checkbox"/> Minority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizens | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health |

(Continued on Next Page)

2. What experience, interest, knowledge or qualifications would you bring to the Public Advisory Council?

3. Why do you want to become a member of the Public Advisory Council?

Signature _____

Date _____

Thank You!

POLICY STATEMENTS REGARDING CITIZEN APPOINTMENTS

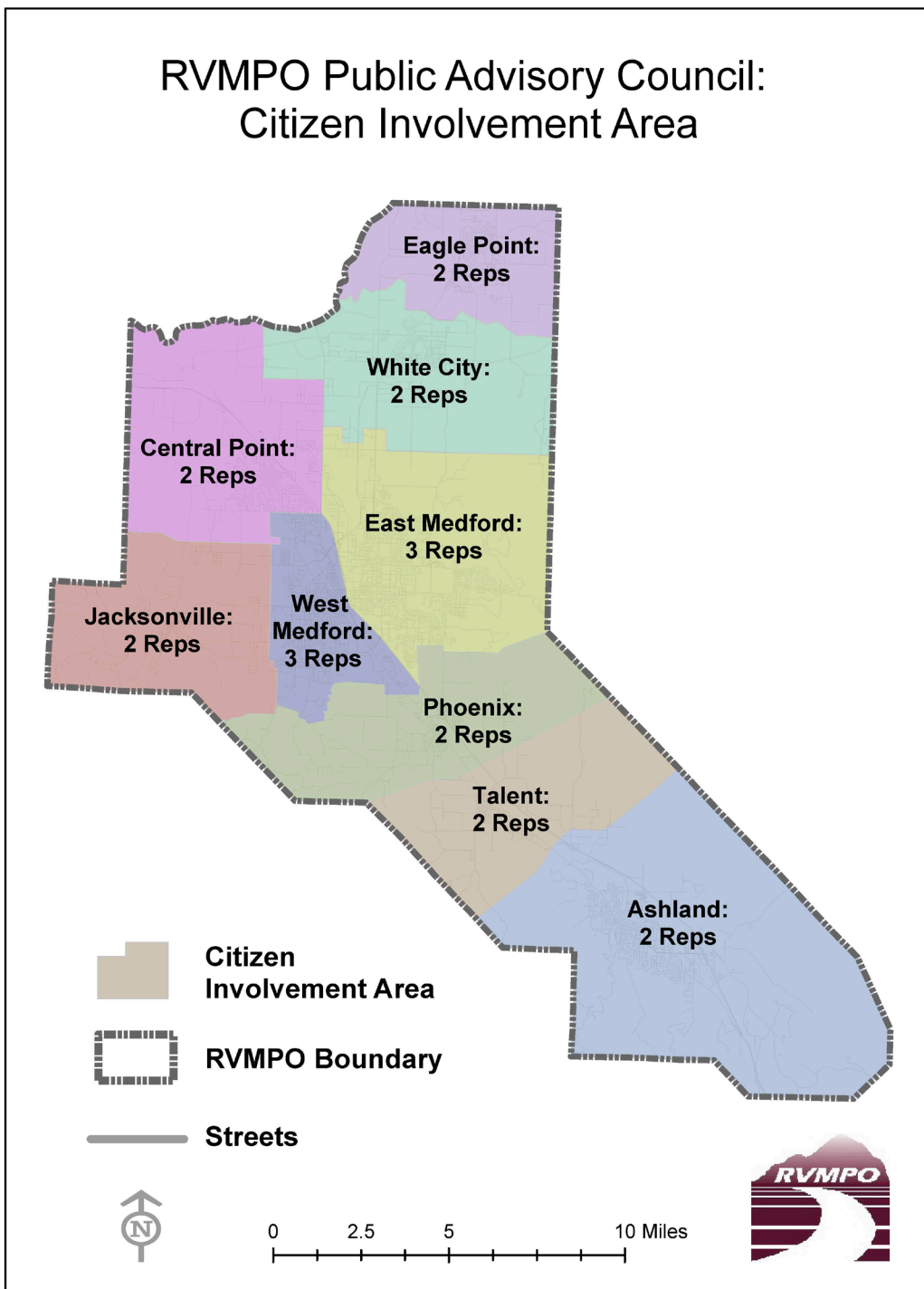
- ◆ The council consists of representatives from Citizen Involvement Areas within the RVMPO and special interests. There are nine Citizen Involvement Areas with at least two members possible from each area, representing a population of up to 25,000. An additional position is created when an area exceeds 25,000 population. The council may have as many as six at-large members, one each representing the following: freight industry, mass transit, minority citizens, low income citizens, senior citizens, and public health.
- ◆ Members of the council must reside, own property, or operate a business within the Citizen Involvement Area that they represent.
- ◆ Public Advisory Council members will be approved by the RVMPO Policy Committee.
- ◆ Vacancies on the PAC shall be publicly announced. Potential members shall submit a statement of interest. When more than one person applies for a position, selection shall be based on maintaining a broad cross section of interests on the council. If no one responds to the public announcement, staff and PAC members may solicit to groups or individuals to fill membership vacancies.
- ◆ Selection of council members shall be conducted through RVMPO's established application process, meeting the nondiscrimination requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 12898.
- ◆ The term of office shall begin the day the member is appointed to the council and shall continue for two years, except that such term of office shall terminate immediately upon:
 - a. Relocation outside the RVMPO, or the Citizen Involvement Area that the member represents; and
 - b. Unexcused absence from three regularly scheduled, consecutive meetings.

Please Note: These policy statements are from Public Advisory Council bylaws.

Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization map attached. Boundaries of Citizen Involvement Areas are illustrated. Medford has two Citizen Involvement Areas divided by Interstate 5.

For more information call: Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization, Rogue Valley Council of Governments, 541-664-6674.

RVMPO Public Advisory Council: Citizen Involvement Area



Appendix C: Analysis of Public Outreach Efforts, 2021 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update

2021 RTP UPDATE

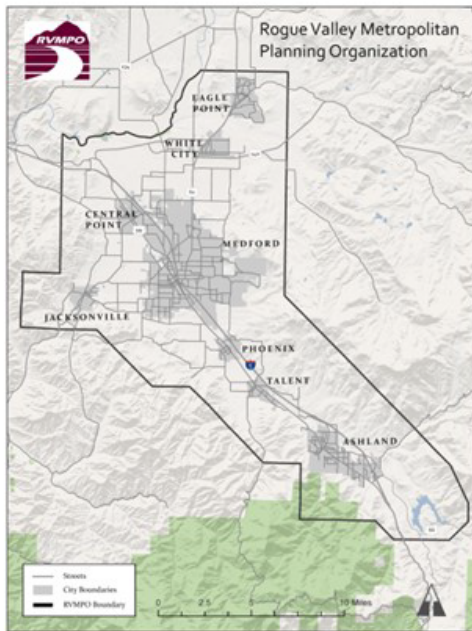
Review of Effectiveness: Opportunities Created for Public Input and Outreach Methods Used

Activity:	Public Advisory Council (PAC) Meetings w/ RTP Review	Public Workshop (Virtual Open House)	RTP Survey	Public Hearing for RTP Adoption at Policy Committee Meeting	Brochure Distribution	RTP Draft Copy Distribution	Website Email Link (Comment Period)
How Advertised or Distributed to Public: <i>(policy/method)</i>	Website	Newspaper advertisements; Website homepage	Talent Harvest Festival, Medford Pear Blossom Festival, Jackson County Harvest Festival, Website	Newspaper advertisement; Website homepage	Talent Harvest Festival, Medford Pear Blossom Festival, Jackson County Harvest Festival, MPO Meetings, RVMCOG Entryway	All Public Libraries w/in RVMPO Area	Website homepage
Activity Dates/Times:	08/18/20, 5:30pm 11/17/20, 5:30pm 01/19/21, 5:30pm 09/08/21, 1:30pm	Thurs, 06/10/21	N/A	Tues, 09/28/21, 2pm	N/A	Public Comment Period (Aug.-Sept., 2021)	Public Comment Period (Aug.-Sept., 2021)
Public in Attendance: <i>(measure of effectiveness)</i>	0	Visited 539 times	N/A	4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Public Comments Received: <i>(measure of effectiveness)</i>	PAC, only (no outside public comment)	0	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	0

Note: All PC & TAC meetings containing RTP review are not listed. These meetings are open to the public. During RTP update development, no public comment re: RTP noted during these meetings.

APPENDIX D: RVMPO Fact Sheets (English/Spanish)

What is the Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RVMPO)?



A federally designated metropolitan transportation planning organization (an urban area with 50,000+ population).



Coordinates transportation planning efforts among the city, county, state and transit operators for the entire “urbanized” area.



Receives and distributes federal funding for various transportation projects.



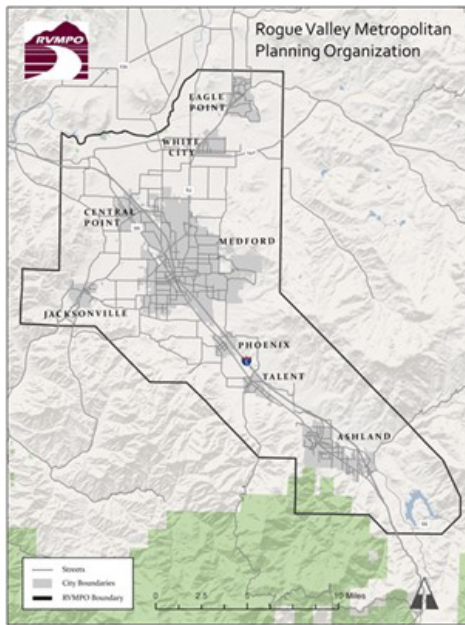
Develops - and participates in development of - plans and programs that consider transportation needs for cars, bikes, buses, pedestrians, and freight.





Knowing the transportation issues and needs for **all people** is important to the RVMPO.





¿Qué es la Organización de Planificación Metropolitana de Rogue Valley (RVMPO)?




 Una organización de planificación de transporte metropolitano designada por el gobierno federal (un área urbana con 50,000+ habitantes).

 Coordina los esfuerzos de planificación de transporte entre la ciudad, el condado, el estado y los operadores de tránsito para toda el área "urbanizada".

 Recibe y distribuye fondos federales para varios proyectos de transporte.

 Desarrolla y participa en el desarrollo de planes y programas que consideran las necesidades de transporte de automóviles, bicicletas, autobuses, peatones y carga.

 Conocer los problemas y necesidades de transporte de todas las personas es importante para el RVMPO.



APPENDIX E: Federally Defined “Interested Parties” Applicable to the RVMPO

According to Federal law (23 CFR 450.210(a) and 450.316(a) interested parties include:

- Citizens
 - General Public

- Affected Public Agencies
 - City of Ashland
 - City of Talent
 - City of Phoenix
 - City of Jacksonville
 - City of Medford
 - City of Central Point
 - City of Eagle Point
 - Jackson County
 - Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD)
 - Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)
 - Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
 - Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
 - Oregon Division of Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
 - Oregon Tribes

- Freight Shippers & Providers of Transportation Services

- Private Providers of Transportation

- Representatives of Users of Public Transportation and Users of Pedestrian Walkways/bicycle Transportation Facilities

- Representatives of the Disabled

- Other Interested Parties (seniors, minorities, low-income, underserved populations, etc.)

APPENDIX F: 2024 Public Participation Plan Update Outreach Activities

The Public Participation Plan update was adopted by the RVMPO Policy Committee after a public hearing on September 24, 2024, in Central Point, to meet federal transportation planning requirements. The RVMPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Public Advisory Committee (PAC) recommended adoption after review of the draft plan and suggesting changes. This Plan incorporates suggested changes from public agencies, staff, TAC and PAC, and was open for a 45-day comment period – from August 9, 2024 to September 24, 2024- , which is required by federal law for Public Involvement Plans.

Regarding specific policies required by the IJJA, the RVMPO staff prepared the plan to comply with the IJJA. After review by the Technical Advisory Committee on July 10, 2024, and the Public Advisory Council on August 20, 2024, staff completed the draft plan, which was open to public comment from August 9, 2024, to September 24, 2024. No additional public comments were received.

In addition to review by RVMPO committees, special outreach was initiated during the comment period for interested parties including citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transit, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of persons with disabilities, agencies or entities responsible for safety/security operations, providers of non-emergency transportation services receiving financial assistance from a source other than title 49, U.S.C. Chapter 53, and other interested parties.

Outreach activities included:

- Legal Notice of 45-day public comment period August 9, 2024, to September 24, 2024, published on August 9, 2024, and public hearing, published in the Rogue Valley Times.
- Agency Notice provided on August 9, 2024, and draft posted on RVMPO web site August 9, 2024.
- Technical Advisory Committee, presentation, and discussion on July 10, 2024.
- Public Advisory Council, presentation, and discussion on August 20, 2024.
- Outreach to Planning Partners listed on Table F-1 below.
- Outreach to organizations and tribes listed on Table F-2 below.

Table F-1 – Agency Planning Partners

2024 RVMPO Public Participation Plan Update		
Planning Partners		
Name	Agency	Email
Ashley Bryers	FHWA	ashley.bryers@dot.gov
Daniell Casey	FTA	danielle.casey@dot.gov
Tom Guevara	ODOT	Thomas.Guevara@odot.oregon.gov
Ned Conroy	FTA	ned.conroy@dot.gov
Steve Lambert	Jackson County	lambersm@jacksoncounty.org
Paige West	RVTD	pwest@rvtd.org
Jin Ren	ODOT	jinxiang.REN@odot.state.or.us
John Vial	City of Medford	John.Vial@cityofmedford.org
Karl MacNair	City of Medford	karl.macnair@cityofmedford.org
Matt Brinkley	City of Medford	matt.brinkley@cityofmedford.org
Satvinder Sandhu	FHWA	satvinder.sandhu@fhwa.dot.gov
Tara Weidner	ODOT	Tara.J.Weidner@odot.state.or.us
Mike Baker	ODOT	Michael.Baker@odot.state.or.us
Josh LeBombard	DLCD	josh.lebombard@state.or.us

Table F-2 – Interested Parties Outreach

Organization	Mailing Address	Contact	Website	Email	Phone	2024 PPP Update Outreach Used
Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation	12801 Mouth of the Smith River Rd, Smith River, CA	Brigette Finigan, Senior Planner	www.tolowa-nsn.gov	brigette.finigan@tolowa.com	707-487-9255	
Coquille Indian Tribe	3050 Tremont Street North Bend, OR 97459	Brenda Meade, Tribal Chairperson	www.coquilletribe.org	brendameade@coquilletribe.org	541-756-0904	
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	2371 NE Stephens Street, Suite #100 Roseburg, OR	Michael Rondeau, CEO	www.cowcreek-nsn.gov	mrondeau@cowcreek.com	541-672-9405	
Rogue Valley Council of Governments Senior and Disability Services	P.O. Box 3275 Central Point, OR 97502	Ann Marie Alfrey Interim Director	www.rvcog.org	amalfrey@rvcog.org	541-423-1334	
Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad (CORP)	333 S.E. Mosher Roseburg, Oregon 97470	John Bullion	www.gwrr.com/corp/	john.bullion@gwrr.com	541-941-3709	
ACCESS (Jackson County Only)	3630 Aviation Way Medford, OR 97504	Carrie Borgen	www.accesshelps.org	cborgen@accesshelps.org	541-770-6691	
United Way of Jackson County	60 Hawthorne Street Medford, OR 97504	DeeAnne Everson	www.UnitedWayofJacksonCounty.org	DeeAnne@UnitedWayofJacksonCounty.org	541-773-5339	
Combined Transport, Inc	5656 Crater Lake Ave Central Point, OR 97502	Mike Card	www.combinedtransport.com	mcard@combinedtransport.com	541-734-7418	
MultiCultural Association of Southern Oregon	PO Box 67 Medford, Oregon 97501	Jason Houk	www.kskq.org	jason@kskq.org	541-482-3999	
Northwest Seasonal Workers	203 N. Oakdale Ave Medford, Oregon 97501		www.nswamedford.org		541-773-6811	
Oak Harbor Freight	2890 Nansen Drive Medford, Oregon 97504	Mike Gardiner	www.oakh.com	Mike.gardiner@oakh.com	541-858-0309	
Siskiyou Velo	P.O. Box 1394 Phoenix, OR	Lisa Brill	www.siskiyouvelo.org	lisa4bikes@gmail.com		
Bear Creek Greenway Foundation	P.O. Box 4561 Medford, OR 97501	Joy Olson	www.bearcreekgreenway.com	bearcreekgreenway@gmail.com	541-774-8183	
Ashland Library	410 Siskiyou Blvd Ashland, OR 97520		www.jcls.org/branch/ashland	information@jcls.org	541-774-6980	
Talent Library	101 Home St. Talent, OR		www.jcls.org/branch/talent/	information@jcls.org	541-535-4163	
Phoenix Library	510 West 1st St. Phoenix, OR 97535		www.jcls.org/branch/phoenix/	information@jcls.org	541-535-7090	
Jacksonville Library	340 West C St. Jacksonville, OR 97530		www.jcls.org/branch/jacksonville/	information@jcls.org	541-899-1665	
Medford Library	205 South Central Ave Medford, OR 97501		www.jcls.org/branch/medford/	information@jcls.org	541-774-8690	
Central Point Library	116 South 3rd St. Central Point, OR 97502		www.jcls.org/branch/central-point/	information@jcls.org	541-664-3228	
Eagle Point Library	239 West Main St. Eagle Point, OR 97524		www.jcls.org/branch/eagle-point/	information@jcls.org	541-826-3313	
White City Library	3143 Avenue C White City, OR 97503		www.jcls.org/branch/white-city/	information@jcls.org	541-864-8880	

APPENDIX G: FEDERAL REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ACCESSIBLE LOCATIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ([Title II, Subpart D-Program Accessibility §35.149](#))
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ([Section 504](#))

AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCEDURES ([40 CFR §93.105\(e\)](#))

EARLY AND CONTINUOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Establish early and continuous public involvement opportunities in statewide and non-metropolitan planning and programming ([23 CFR §450.210 \(a\)\(1\)\(viii\) & \(ix\)](#))
- Development of Statewide Public Involvement Process ([23 CFR §450.210\(a\)](#))
- Establish early and continuous public involvement opportunities in metropolitan transportation planning and programming ([23 CFR §450.316 \(a\)\(1\)\(vii\)](#))
- Development of MPO Public Participation Plan ([23 CFR §450.316\(a\)](#))
- Early coordination, public involvement, and project development (NEPA) ([23 CFR §771.111\(a\)\(1\) and 23 CFR §771.111 \(h\)](#))

ELECTRONICALLY PROVIDED INFORMATION ([23 CFR §450.210\(a\)\(vi\)](#))

ELECTRONICALLY PROVIDED INFORMATION (Federal Agencies) (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, [Section 508](#))

LIMITED-ENGLISH-PROFICIENCY ([Executive Order #13166](#))

PUBLIC INPUT ON PERFORMANCE-BASED PLANNING ([23 U.S.C §135 \(h\)\(1\)](#))

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

- Legal Requirement for Public hearings ([23 U.S.C. §128](#))
- Regulations that ensure that public meetings are held at convenient and accessible locations and times ([23 CFR §450.210](#) and [§450.316](#))
- Regulation to provide public notice of NEPA-related hearings, public meetings, and the availability of environmental documents so as to inform those persons and agencies who may be interested or affected (CEQ Regulations [40 CFR §1506.6\(b\)](#))

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARINGS (Federal Agencies)

- Sunshine Act: Federal requirements for announcing public meetings in an early and transparent manner ([5 U.S.C. §552b](#))

PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION

- Prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin ([Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#))
- Prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex (Section 162 (a) of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973; [23 USC §324](#))
- Prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, [Section 504](#))
- Prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; [Pub. L. 101-336, 104 Stat. 327](#), as amended)
- Prohibiting discrimination on the basis of Limited English-Proficiency ([Executive Order #13166](#))
- Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations ([Executive Order 12898](#))
- Prohibiting Discrimination on the basis of age ([Age Discrimination Act of 1975 - 42 U.S.C. §6101](#))
- Traditionally Underserved By Existing Transportation Systems ([23 CFR §450.210\(a\)\(1\)\(viii\)](#) and [§450.316\(a\)\(1\)\(vii\)](#))

PUBLIC INTEREST ([23 U.S.C. §109 \(h\)](#))

PUBLIC RECORDS (The Freedom of Information Act ([5 U.S.C. §552](#)))

IMPROVING AGENCY DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION (Federal Agencies) ([Executive Order 13,392](#))

TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION

INVOLVEMENT <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tribal/references/>

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/transportation-planning/public-involvement-outreach>

Regulations related to the use of **VISUALIZATION TECHNIQUES** to describe the proposed planning documents ([23 CFR §450.210\(a\)](#) and [§450.316\(a\)](#))

APPENDIX H:

Performance Based Planning

A. Performance Measures

The RVMPO adopted targets in February 2018 for the Safety performance measures (discussed below) and accepted the Transit Asset Management performance measures established by RVTM (discussed below).

To be reported on annually as required for state DOTs and MPOs:

1. Fatalities
2. Fatality Rate (Fatalities/100M Vehicle Miles Traveled)
3. Serious Injuries
4. Serious Injury Rate (Serious Injuries/100M Vehicle Miles Traveled)
5. Nonmotorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries

Note that more detailed information on ODOT performance measures and targets is provided in the 2016 Oregon Transportation Safety Action Plan.

B. Safety

MPOs can use the state established targets or establish targets specifically for the planning area for performance measures listed above. The RVMPO is currently using ODOT’s established targets, which are based on an S-curve forecast trend using five-year averages to achieve the vision of zero fatalities and life-changing injuries by 2035. The targets are applicable to all public roads in the MPO and must be reported annually. For reference, Table 1 below identifies each target baseline and five-year average target for the five performance measures out to 2015-2019 for the entire state of Oregon.

Table 1 - Statewide Safety Targets

Safety					
Base Period	Fatalities (People)	Fatality Rate (People per 100 Million VMT)	Serious Injuries (People)	Serious Injury Rate (People per 100 Million VMT)	Non-motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries (People)
2021 Baseline reported Crashes (2014-2018)	448	1.48	1,739	5.03	257
2022 First Year Reported Crashes (2015-2019)	444	1.46	1,722	4.98	254

The federal performance areas and targets addressing safety are contained in the [Oregon Transportation Safety Action Plan](#).

How projects in the TIP help achieve Safety Targets

The safety of all users on our transportation system has always been a high priority for the RVMPO and the local jurisdictions, especially vulnerable users. One of the goals of the MPO's 2021-2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is to have a regional transportation system plan that is designed with the safety of all users in mind. The scoring criteria used to prioritize projects that are considered for RVMPO funding directly links the goals of the RTP with the selection of projects.

Almost every project in the TIP has a safety element. Projects that more directly benefit the safety of the transportation system include:

- **HSIP projects** – HSIP projects are specifically selected to improve the safety of the roadway. Projects include buffered bike lanes, road diet, enhanced pedestrian crossings, signal improvements, curve warning signs, rumble strips, turn lanes, and other proven safety measures.
- **Urban Upgrade Projects** - Projects that add bike lanes and sidewalks along the roadway reduce the need for non-motorists to walk or bike in the roadway, along narrow shoulders, or in the ditch. Separating the vulnerable users from motor vehicles provides a safer environment, reducing the chances of dying or being seriously injured.
- **Intersection Improvements** – Projects that add, or replace, traffic signals and/or add turn lanes reduce the potential for serious crashes. Most crashes occur at intersections.

C. Pavement and Bridge Condition

ODOT established statewide targets for each of the six pavement and National Highway System (NHS) bridge condition performance measures and reports progress every four years. The RVMPO has adopted the state's targets for this measure.

D. Performance of the National Highway System (NHS)

ODOT established statewide targets for each of the six performance measures evaluating the system performance of the NHS and reports on progress every four years. These include travel time reliability, freight movement, and the Congestion and Air Quality Program (CMAQ). For the CMAQ measures, only the total emissions reduction for all CMAQ funded projects is required for MPOs with more than 200,000 people during the first reporting period (January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021). The RVMPO is unaffected by this measure.

Table 2 Federal Performance Measures

FAST ACT (FHWA) Performance Measures		2022 Performance Baseline	2023 (2 Year) Performance Target	2025 (4 Year) Performance Target	
Pavement Condition					
1. Percentage of pavements of Interstate System in Good condition		57.7%	50.0%	50.0%	
2. Percentage of pavements of the Interstate System in Poor condition		0.2%	0.5%	0.5%	
3. Percentage of pavements of the non-Interstate NHS in Good condition		33.5%	30.0%	30.0%	
4. Percentage of pavements of the non-Interstate NHS in Poor condition		2.9%	5.0%	5.0%	
Bridge Condition					
5. Percentage of NHS bridges classified as in Good condition		13.3%	11.4%	10.0%	
6. Percentage of NHS bridges classified as in Poor condition		1.8%	2.4%	3.0%	
National Highway System Performance					
7. Percent of the person-miles traveled on the Interstate that are reliable (Interstate Travel Time Reliability measure)		78%	78%	78%	
8. Percent of person-miles traveled on the non-Interstate NHS that are reliable (Non-Interstate Travel Time Reliability measure)		78%	78%	78%	
Freight Movement on Interstate System					
9. Truck Travel Time Reliability (TTTR) Index (Freight Reliability measure)		1.45	1.45	1.45	
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality - Traffic Congestion					
ODOT and CLMPO	10. Annual Hours of Peak Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) Per Capita	3.6 hours	8.5 hours	9 hours	
	11. Percent of Non-SOV Travel	30.2%	33.0%	35.0%	
ODOT and SKATS	10. Annual Hours of Peak Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) Per Capita	7 hours	7 hours	7 hours	
	11. Percent of Non-SOV Travel	24%	23.2%	22.7%	
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality - On-Road Mobile Source Emissions					
12. Total Emissions Reduction; 2-year and 4-year cumulative reported emission reductions, for all projects funded by CMAQ funds, of each criteria pollutant and applicable precursors (PM2.5, PM10, CO, VOC, and NOx) under the CMAQ program for which the area is designated nonattainment or maintenance		Baseline	2 Year Kg/Day:	4 Year Kg/Day:	
		VOC	N/A	N/A	
		CO	92.25	46.13	92.25
		NOx	0	0	0
		PM10	1115.03	557.51	1115.03
		PM2.5	0	0	

*FHWA Performance Areas and Measures are contained in the Oregon Highway Plan (OHP) Appendix D

~ Adopted May 17, 2018 (Original 2006 OTP is currently under Revision)

The [Oregon Highway Plan](#) addresses the FHWA performance management requirements for National Highway Performance, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, and National Freight Movement. The performance based planning process and performance targets contained in this amendment are for ODOT’s federal reporting requirements only. The requirements and targets addressed in this amendment are not applicable to the Transportation Planning Rule for consistency in regional and local transportation system plans. The federal performance areas and targets regarding public transportation are contained in the Oregon Transit Asset Management Plan, and will be referenced in the [Oregon Public Transportation Plan](#).

E. Transit Asset Management (TAM)

In 2012, MAP-21 mandated FTA to develop a rule establishing a strategic and systematic process of operating, maintaining, and improving public capital assets effectively through their entire life cycle. The FTA Final Rule for Transit Asset Management (49 USC 625) established four performance measures for transit districts.

- 1) Rolling Stock: The percentage of revenue vehicles (by type) that exceed the useful life benchmark (ULB).
- 2) Equipment: The percentage of non-revenue service vehicles (by type) that exceed the ULB.
- 3) Facilities: The percentage of facilities (by group) that are rated less than 3.0 on the Transit Economic Requirements Model (TERM) Scale.
- 4) Infrastructure: The percentage of track segments (by mode) that have performance restrictions. Track segments are measured to the nearest 0.01 of a mile. (JCT does not operate a track system; therefore, this measure does not apply.)

RVTD is designated as a Tier II transit agency and relies on the Oregon Public Transit Tier II Transit Asset Management Plan to meet the federal TAM target requirements. The RVMPO supports the Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD) Tier II TAM targets.

How projects in the TIP help achieve JCT TAM Targets

The RVMPO is committed to supporting the transit system in the area. Historically, RVMPO's federal funds have been used for planning, operations, and purchasing buses as well as promoting greater accessibility.

Table 3 on the following page shows Tier II transit agency TAM targets.

Table 3 Tier II TAM Plan Performance Targets

Tier II Group TAM Plan Performance Targets

Asset Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Equipment - Automobiles	40%	40%	40%	25%	12%	8%
Equipment - Truck and other Rubber Tire Vehicles			40%	45%	44%	45%
Rolling Stock - Articulated Bus					30%	20%
Rolling Stock - Over the Road Bus	20%	20%			75%	78%
Rolling Stock - Bus	40%	40%	20%	25%	20%	25%
Rolling Stock - Cutaway	40%	40%	50%	40%	32%	38%
Rolling Stock - Van	40%	40%	45%	41%	45%	40%
Rolling Stock - Minivan	40%	40%	45%	41%	32%	34%
Rolling Stock - SUV	40%	40%	40%	23%	38%	31%
Rolling Stock - Automobile	40%	40%	45%	63%	50%	50%
Facilities - Passenger / Parking Facilities	10%	10%	50%	0%	0%	0%
Facilities - Administrative / Maintenance Facilities	10%	10%	20%	3%	1.5%	1.5%

APPENDIX I:

2024 Public Participation Plan Update Comment Log

Name & Entity	Date	Comment	RVMPO Staff Response
Ashley Bryers, FHWA	3/11/24	Received PPP	See attachments below
	3/11/24	Provided comments on draft PPP	
	3/19/24	Examples on how to involve interested parties	

From: [Byers, Ashley \(FHWA\)](#)
To: [dmoo@rvccog.org](#)
Cc: [Ryan MaClaren](#)
Subject: RE: MRMPO Draft 2024 Public Participation Plan
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 4:24:17 PM
Attachments: [lmap001.png](#)
[MRMPO 2024 Public Participation Plan Draft-ADB Comments-2024-03-11.docx](#)
[MRMPO PPP FHWA Checklist.docx](#)

Hi Dan,

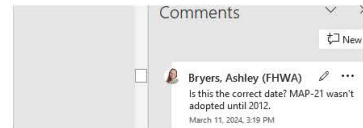
I provided comments on the MRMPO PPP. The same comments apply to the RVMPO PPP. Overall great job! I really appreciate that you already had several of the elements that were necessary.

Also attached is the PPP FHWA checklist so you can see what I used to review the plan.

My one additional comment for the RVMPO PPP is below.

A. Consistency with Federal Requirements

Adopted in January 2007, the RVMPO's previous Public Participation Plan was created to comply with the public involvement requirements outlined in the prior transportation authorization bill, the Moving Ahead for Progress-21 Act (MAP-21). Today, the current transportation authorization act, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law in November of 2021, incorporates performance goals, measures, and targets



Please let me know if you'd like to chat about my comments.

Thank you,
Ashley

--
Ashley Bryers, AICP, Planning Program Manager, she | her | hers
FHWA | Oregon Division | 503-316-2556 | ashley.bryers@dot.gov

From: Bryers, Ashley (FHWA)
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 12:54 PM
To: Dan Moore <dmoo@rvccog.org>
Cc: Ryan MaClaren <rmaclaren@rvccog.org>
Subject: RE: MRMPO Draft 2024 Public Participation Plan

Will do!

Thank you,
Ashley

--
Ashley Bryers, AICP, Planning Program Manager, she | her | hers
FHWA | Oregon Division | 503-316-2556 | ashley.bryers@dot.gov

From: Dan Moore <dmoo@rvccog.org>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 11:50 AM
To: Bryers, Ashley (FHWA) <ashley.bryers@dot.gov>
Cc: Ryan MaClaren <rmaclaren@rvccog.org>
Subject: RE: MRMPO Draft 2024 Public Participation Plan

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ashley – Please disregard the previous draft plans I sent you. I noticed that the draft copies of the MRMPO and RVMPO Public Participation Plans that I sent you do not have a section for tribal consultation. I added that section (E) under Public Role in Decision Making in both plans. Sorry for the confusion. Let me know if you have any questions or need more information. Thanks.

Dan

From: Bryers, Ashley (FHWA) <ashley.bryers@dot.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 8:25 AM
To: dmoo@rvccog.org <dmoo@rvccog.org>
Cc: Ryan MaClaren <rmaclaren@rvccog.org>
Subject: RE: MRMPO Draft 2024 Public Participation Plan

Thank you, Dan.

This is to confirm I received both MRMPO's and RVMPO's PPPs. I will get you comments.

Have a great day!

Thank you,
Ashley

--
Ashley Bryers, AICP, Planning Program Manager, she | her | hers
FHWA | Oregon Division | 503-316-2556 | ashley.bryers@dot.gov

From: Dan Moore <dmoo@rvccog.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 7:58 AM
To: Bryers, Ashley (FHWA) <ashley.bryers@dot.gov>
Cc: Ryan MaClaren <rmaclaren@rvccog.org>
Subject: MRMPO Draft 2024 Public Participation Plan

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the content is safe.

Ashley,

Attached is a copy of the draft 2024 MRMPO Public Participation Plan for your review and comment. The public hearing for adoption is scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2024 with the MRMPO Policy Committee. Let me know if you have any questions or need more information. Thanks.

Dan

Dan Moore | Senior Transportation Planner
Rogue Valley Council of Governments
155 N. 1st Street
P.O. Box 3275
Central Point, OR 97502
541-423-1393
541-324-1166 (cell)
www.rvcog.org | www.rmpo.org | www.mrmmpo.org

From: [Bryers, Ashley \(FHWA\)](#)
To: dmoore_rvcog.org
Subject: RE: Examples of How to Involve Interested Parties
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 4:32:16 PM

Hi Dan,

Sure! It looks like I was referencing surveying interested parties to see how they like to be involved in the process.

I worked on both plans below.

- Starting on page 48 of the pdf has the survey responses.
 - <https://assets.lawrenceks.org/mpo/ppp/2022PPP.pdf>
 - If you'd like to contact the Planners at the Lawrence-Douglas County MPO to get a copy of the original survey, feel free to reference me! - https://lawrenceks.org/mpo/contact_us/
- Starting on page 41 of the pdf has the survey response.
 - https://www.wampo.org/files/ugd/bbf89d_8aa96d7ec09e41b9953d85cfec2406f3.pdf
 - And the same goes for the WAMPO staff - <https://www.wampo.org/meet-the-team>

I'm planning on attending the MRMPO Policy Committee meeting on Thursday in person, so we can always talk more there.

Thank you,
Ashley

--

Ashley Bryers, AICP, Planning Program Manager, she | her | hers
FHWA | Oregon Division | 503-316-2556 | ashley.bryers@dot.gov

From: Dan Moore <dmoore@rvcog.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 2:47 PM
To: Bryers, Ashley (FHWA) <ashley.bryers@dot.gov>
Subject: Examples of How to Involve Interested Parties

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Ashley,

In one of your comments on the MRMPO Public Participation Plan you offered to provide some examples of how to involve / engage interested parties. I'd like to take you up on your offer. Let me know what you think. Thanks.

PPP Review Checklist

MPO:	MRMPO & RVMPO		
FHWA/FTA Reviewer:	Ashley	Comments Submitted to MPO:	3/11/24
Public Comment Period:		Adoption Date:	Planned for 6/20/24 & 7/23/24

23 CFR 450.316 Interested parties, participation, and consultation

CFR	CFR Language	Questions to Consider	FHWA Comments/Notes	
			Page	Comments/Notes
23 CFR 450.316(a)	1) The MPO shall develop the participation plan in consultation with all interested parties and shall, at a minimum, describe explicit procedures, strategies, and desired outcomes for i-ix	Were interested parties consulted in the development of this PPP?	25	No, I made a comment
		Did the MPO follow the PPP procedures in the development of this PPP?	18	Yes.
23 CFR 450.316(a)(1)(i)	(i) Providing adequate public notice of public participation activities and time for public review and comment at key decision points, including a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP;	Does the PPP show the public comment period for each planning document?	19	Yes! Nice table that has the full public comment. I asked for the amendment public comment period to be added.
		Does the PPP show the steps that are to be taken for each document during the development	17+	No table, but listing of how each document is created is provided. I asked about adding a table.

CFR	CFR Language	Questions to Consider	FHWA Comments/Notes	
			Page	Comments/Notes
		phase?		
23 CFR 450.316(a)(1)(ii)	(ii) Providing timely notice and reasonable access to information about transportation issues and processes;	Does the MPO provide timely notices to meetings and public comment opportunities?	6	Yes! Six days for meetings Page 19 has a table for planning products.
		Does the MPO provide reasonable access to information? Where is it posted online?	12 15	I asked for the committee urls to be added on page 12. They mentioned the website is used to post all minutes and report drafts.
23 CFR 450.316(a)(1)(iii)	(iii) Employing visualization techniques to describe metropolitan transportation plans and TIPs;	Does the MPO use graphics and other visualization techniques to describe MTPs and TIPs?	15	Yes!
23 CFR 450.316(a)(1)(iv)	(iv) Making public information (technical information and meeting notices) available in electronically accessible formats and means, such as the World Wide Web;	Are documents posted online?	15	Yes. I asked for the urls to be added to each of the 6 planning products on page 17
		Are meeting notices posted online?	6	yes. 6 days prior.
23 CFR 450.316(a)(1)(v)	(v) Holding any public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times;	Does the PPP discuss holding meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times?	1 and 16	Yes Police 2 of goal 4 also – page 8

CFR	CFR Language	Questions to Consider	FHWA Comments/Notes	
			Page	Comments/Notes
23 CFR 450.316(a)(1)(vi)	(vi) Demonstrating explicit consideration and response to public input received during the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP;	Does the PPP say how the MPO will consider public input during the development of the MTP and TIP?	8	The MRMPO staff and committees will consider public input, which may result in revisions to draft plans and programs, as an integral part of the planning process. Every attempt will be made to respond to public comments in a timely manner.
23 CFR 450.316(a)(1)(vii)	(vii) Seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income and minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services;	How does the MPO plan to engage the traditionally underserved?	15	Mentions it, but doesn't say how. I made a comment about tabling.
		Did the MPO collect and use data during its EJ/Title VI activities to identify and reach out to underserved groups?		Added as a comment on page 15
		Did the MPO make the public participation/ involvement activities accessible to all members of the public and stakeholders?	8 and 9	Talked about accessible locations and where traditionally underserved communities can reach.

CFR	CFR Language	Questions to Consider	FHWA Comments/Notes	
			Page	Comments/Notes
		How diverse were outreach activities and approaches?	25	Added as a comment suggesting a survey be utilized to gather input that would be more diverse than only discussing at TAC, CAC, and PC.
23 CFR 450.316(a)(1)(viii)	(viii) Providing an additional opportunity for public comment, if the final metropolitan transportation plan or TIP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the MPO and raises new material issues that interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts;	Does the PPP state that if the final MTP or TIP differs significantly from the version made available for public comment they will provide an opportunity for public comment?	9	Policy 3: In instances when a final version of a Regional Transportation Plan or Transportation Improvement Program differs significantly from the draft version that was subject to public review, another opportunity for public comment will be provided.
		How many comments were received?	34	Not obtained yet but have the table ready for them.
		Did the agency document, consider, and respond to comments on the development of the PPP?	34 18	Not obtained yet but have the table ready for them. States comments will be responded to and included in the final document.
		Were the public	18	Not yet but says will be

CFR	CFR Language	Questions to Consider	FHWA Comments/Notes	
			Page	Comments/Notes
		comment responses disseminated to the public?		included in the final document.
23 CFR 450.316(a)(1)(ix)	(ix) Coordinating with the statewide transportation planning public involvement and consultation processes under subpart B of this part ; and 23 CFR 450.316(b) The MPO should consult with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities within the MPA that are affected by transportation (including State and local planned growth, economic development, tourism, natural disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, airport operations, or freight movements) or coordinate its planning process (to the maximum extent practicable) with such planning activities.	Was the PPP developed in consultation with other entities that are impacted by transportation in the MPA?	25	Suggested doing a survey to gain their input.
		Does the PPP state how the MPO will consult with other agencies within the MPA?	No 17	I added a comment asking for each of the 6 core documents to have a section about how interested parties are involved.
https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ58/PLAW-117publ58.pdf#page=89	Does the MPO detail how they will consult with low-income housing organizations?		8	Added as a comment
23 CFR 450.316(a)(1)(x)	(x) Periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in the participation plan to ensure a full and open participation process.	Does the PPP have performance measures?	19	Not explicitly. I asked for 1 or 2 to be explicitly tracked.
		How often are the performance measures to be		I added this as a comment.

CFR	CFR Language	Questions to Consider	FHWA Comments/Notes	
			Page	Comments/Notes
		updated?		
		Were past PPP performance measures evaluated for effectiveness? What changed to improve the PPP process?		Added as a comment on page 19
		How often will the PPP be updated?	18	Said periodic. I asked for X years.
23 CFR 450.316 (a)(3) 45 Day public comment period on the PPP	A minimum public comment period of 45 calendar days shall be provided before the initial or revised participation plan is adopted by the MPO. Copies of the approved participation plan shall be provided to the FHWA and the FTA for informational purposes and shall be posted on the World Wide Web, to the maximum extent practicable.	Was the PPP approved through a 45-day public comment period?	2	Yes, it will be.
23 CFR 450.316 (b) Consultation with planning officials	In developing the MTP, the MPO should consult with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities within the MPA that are affected by transportation (including State and local planned growth, economic development, tourism, natural disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, airport operations, or freight movements) or coordinate its planning process (to the maximum extent practicable) with such planning activities.	Does the PPP state how the MPO will consult or coordinate its planning process, with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities in the MPA that are	17	Added as a comment on page 17

CFR	CFR Language	Questions to Consider	FHWA Comments/Notes	
			Page	Comments/Notes
23 CFR 450.316 (c) Tribal Consultation	When the MPA includes Indian Tribal lands, the MPO shall appropriately involve the Indian Tribal government(s) in the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP.	affected by transportation? Or is this in a different document?		
23 CFR 450.316 (d) Consultation with Federal land management agencies	When the MPA includes Federal public lands, the MPO shall appropriately involve the Federal land management agencies in the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP.			
23 CFR 450.316 (e) Document processes	(e) MPOs shall, to the extent practicable, develop a documented process(es) that outlines roles, responsibilities, and key decision points for consulting with other governments and agencies, as defined in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section, which may be included in the agreement(s) developed under § 450.314 .			
23 CFR 450.324 (j) Public comment, consistent with the participation plan	The MPO shall provide individuals, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, public ports, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation (including intercity bus operators, employer-based commuting programs, such as carpool program, vanpool program, transit benefit program, parking cashout program, shuttle program, or telework program), representatives of users of public			

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	transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the transportation plan using the participation plan developed under § 450.316(a) .			
2021 Planning Emphasis Areas	Public Involvement	Did this plan include Virtual Public Involvement (VPI) tools?	16	Virtual open houses.

*Does not include 23 CFR 450.340 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) in the table because they are not pertinent.

Questions

Questions to Consider	FHWA Comments/Notes	
	Page	Comments/Notes
How is the PPP going to be implemented for the UPWP, MTP, TIP, etc.?	17	Listed for each of the 6 core documents.
How is equity considered in the PPP? (This isn't a requirement, but a FHWA initiative.)	TOC	Added as a comment asking for this.

Resources to Share:

- [Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making](#)
- [Reference Tool - Public Involvement - Planning - FHWA \(dot.gov\)](#)

RVMPO has fact sheets policy 4. RVMPO has more Goal 1 policies.

