

Summary of Updates to the 2017 OTO Public Participation Plan

The OTO Public Participation Plan (PPP) is intended to provide direction for adequate public notice to review and comment on plans and policies at key decision points in the regional transportation planning process. We at OTO believe that it is important to give people the opportunity to have a meaningful impact on the development of plans and programs that may affect them. Included with this plan is an evaluation of current and previous strategies that the OTO employs to elicit feedback and involvement from all interested parties.

The initial Plan was adopted by the OTO Board of directors in 2009. The Plan was updated in 2013 and revised in 2015. The 2017 Plan has been prepared as a standalone plan for compliance with the FAST ACT to ensure that it is developed in consultation with all interested parties and is a substantial rewrite from previous versions.

The following is a summary of significant changes to the OTO PPP in the current 2017 draft:

Introduction

- 1) Added “Planning Requirements” section explaining the required plans that MPOs must prepare per the code of federal regulations, including the PPP. (p. 1)
- 2) Added “Purpose of the Public Participation Plan Update” section providing a summary of previously adopted OTO PPPs from 2009, 2013, and 2015 revision as well as a summary of PPP requirements in SAFETEA-LU, MAP 21, and the FAST Act. (p. 2)
- 3) Added “Other Regulations related to MPOs and Public Participation” section which summarizes Title VI, ADA, LEP, Environmental Justice and Missouri Sunshine Law relating to public involvement. (pp. 2-4)

General Objectives and Evaluation Guidelines

- 1) This is an update to the “General Guidelines” section in the previous plan. The actual guidelines have been integrated into the “Participation Policies” section. An Appendix was added to the 2013 PPP in 2015 that described six performance measures that would be used to evaluate the PPP. This section has been updated to describe how the performance measures are now used to structure participation policies presented in the following section of the PPP update. (p.6)

Participation Policies

- 1) Strategies 1 – 5 have been changed to:
 - Objective 1: Reach
 - Objective 2: Access
 - Objective 3: Effective Communication
 - Objective 4: Input
 - Objective 5: Impact; and
 - Objective 6: Diversity and Equity
- 2) Policy statements have been reworded, moved to new objective, or deleted. Some of these haven't changed but have been reorganized in the new format. (pp.7-11)

- 3) The most significant change has been to the Diversity and Equity Objective. Strategy 4 in the previous plan cited language from the EJ executive order which wasn't relevant to including these populations in the planning process. The new objective identifies policies for Title VI, ADA, LEP, and EJ populations for public involvement. (p.11)

Public Participation Techniques

- 1) Disadvantaged Business Establishments (DBE) have been added to the OTO Master Database. (p.13)
- 2) The OTO Website section was changed to include a description of the giveyourinput.org site link and a description of the Interactive TIP Tool which have been implemented since the previous PPP update. (p.12)
- 3) Project Workshops/Open Houses has been broadened to Public Meetings/Community Events. (p.14)

Specific Plan Procedures for Public Participation

- 1) Sections for Revisions to the LRTP Requiring Amendments and Revisions allowed as Administrative Modifications added to the Long-Range Transportation Plan section. (p.15)
- 2) Stipulations from an MOU between OTO and CU Transit wherein, CU agreed to rely on the locally adopted public participation process requirements for the TIP as outlined in the PPP in lieu of the process required to develop its Program of Projects (POP) have been added. (pp.16 -17)
- 3) "Technical Corrections" added to Revisions allowed as Administrative Modifications for the LRTP and TIP. (pp.21 & 15)
- 4) "Public Participation Plan" and "Transit Coordination Plan, Other Plans, and Projects" sections added. (pp. 22 & 23)
- 5) UPWP Amendments and Administrative Modifications subsections added. (p.22)
- 6) Table 1: Core Document Public Participation Summary added (p. 24)

Appendix A: 2016 Public Participation Plan Evaluation

- 1) In the Appendix, survey results have been integrated into the annual PPP evaluation document. This has replaced the Appendix from the previous plan which was a handbook of sorts for evaluating the PPP. (p. 25 - 37)