

Dover/Kent County MPO

Review of Public Participation Plan strategies



Public Participation Plan

Three Objectives of the Public Participation Strategy

Dissemination of information

Educate the public and promote understanding of the region's needs

Expansion of MPO Constituency

Increase public and private sector constituency and intergovernmental communications. Reach out to the traditionally underserved

Assure opportunities for participation

Give people a chance to be involved in decisions regarding MPO plans and programs.

Outreach/Dissemination

<u>Approach</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Examples/Outcomes/Needs</u>
Media	Media releases post meeting dates and request public comments on MPO plans and programs.	<p>Ongoing practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•MPO news releases generated some media attention.•2008/2009 -- Comcast ad for Regional Transportation Plan update (English with Spanish subtitles).•2010 -- movie theater ads provided ozone season info and tips for fighting air pollution.

Outreach/Dissemination

<u>Approach</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Examples/Outcomes/Needs</u>
Web Site	<p>MPO posted publications, announcements and other information on its Web site.</p> <p>(Technical difficulties in the past year or so hindered this ability)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•New Web site, plus Facebook account•Sending links to the site for meetings and large documents.•Used an “e-mail blast” through the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce to publicize the 2011 TIP Tour. <p><i>The Internet could become a larger outreach tool as society extends further into the Digital Age.</i></p>

Outreach/Dissemination

<u>Approach</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Examples/Outcome/Needs</u>
Mailing list	Compile and maintain a mailing list of interested individuals, groups and agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Continuous effort.•Electronic mailing list
Maps and visual techniques	Visualization tools clarify projects, concepts and recommendations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Continuous effort•Maps are available on the Web, and hard copies are available upon request.•Photos in published versions of its studies, plans and programs.

Outreach/Dissemination

<u>Approach</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Examples/Results/Needs</u>
Newsletter	Quarterly newsletter published in hard copy and electronic formats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Continuous effort.•The MPO also publishes an annual booklet of transportation information and data.
Other	<p>Access to technical and policy information</p> <p>Records and reports available in keeping with the Freedom of Information Act</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Continuous effort•Records and reports available.

Outreach/Dissemination

<u>Approach</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Examples/Results/Needs</u>
Other	Minimize jargon and technical language in public documents intended for a broad audience In-person	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Continuous effort.•Staff interfaces with the public at local festivals and community events. <p><i>**This has always been an MPO practice, but has not been specifically listed in the Public Participation Plan.</i></p>

Expanding Constituency

<u>Approach</u>	<u>Action/Result/Need</u>
<p>Invite interested agencies and parties to join steering committees or working groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Continuous practice.<ul style="list-style-type: none">*Created the Regional Bicycle Plan working group, the Data and Demographics subcommittee.*The Dover Transit Center Neighborhood Plan charette included focus groups and public meetings for input on the plan.

Expanding Constituency

<u>Approach</u>	<u>Action/Result/Need</u>
<p>Every odd numbered year, the annual meeting will be devoted to review the Participation Plan.</p> <p>Even numbered years, the MPO staff, PAC and Council will review the MPO's plan and how the MPO is fulfilling its guidelines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•This review is in keeping with the guideline for the odd-numbered years. <p><i>Question: Should we review/revamp the Participation Plan all at one time or keep these arrangements?</i></p>

Expanding Constituency, cont'd.

<u>Approach</u>	<u>Action/Result/Need</u>
<p>MPO staff, council and committee members participate in organizations interested in the MPO's activities</p>	<p>This is a continuous practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•MPO staff participates in, among others:•DMV's Senior Driver Task Force•Delaware Bike Summit•State's Preliminary Land Use Service (PLUS)•Dover's Development Advisory Committee•Delaware Population Consortium

Expanding Constituency

<u>Approach</u>	<u>Action/Result/Need</u>
<p>MPO Staff attends civic and business association meetings, as requested, to provide information about the MPO and its activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Spoken at local Rotary club meetings regarding general MPO information and specific studies and programs.•Interface with the public one-on-one at community events.
<p>Perform an annual assessment of the metropolitan planning process to determine if additional agencies, individuals or interest groups should be involved.</p>	

Participation Opportunities

<u>Approach</u>	<u>Action/Result/Need</u>
MPO council and committee meetings are open to the public	Continuous practice.
Meeting locations are accessible to people with disabilities The MPO Council, its committees and staff shall consider all public comments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Accessibility is always a factor when searching for meeting locations.•When the situation arises, the MPO has summarized and relayed public comments.•Last year the MPO summarized public input regarding the Regional Bicycle Plan and included graphs of survey responses.

Participation Opportunities

Approach

Action/Result/Need

PAC meetings alternate locations in northern, central and southern Kent County that are accessible and affordable.

This is a continuous practice.

- *Should we should continue this practice?*

Anyone who wants to comment on a plan or program shall be given the opportunity.

Participation is encouraged

Participation Opportunities, cont'd.

<u>Approach</u>	<u>Action/Result/Need</u>
<p>If a revised document differs significantly from circulated drafts, or raises new issues, the MPO Council shall extend the period for public comment.</p>	<p>Continuous practice.</p>
<p>The MPO shall coordinate its public participation process with DeIDOT, the City of Dover and Kent County to reduce costs and redundancies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The MPO worked with the Downtown Dover Partnership on the Dover Transit Center Neighborhood Plan•MPO shared a booth with the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles and AARP at the 2011 55+ Expo to garner more visitors to our table and share cost.

Questions? Comments? Discussion?

