

Action Item for the June, 2020 PAC and TAC Meetings

Subject: Public Participation Plan (PPP) Amendment

Background: The D/KC MPO conducts bi-monthly Public Advisory Committee (PAC), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and MPO Council meetings to review and make recommendations on actions items (the D/KC MPO Council votes to dis-approve, modify, or approve actions items). From the middle of February 2020, a new norovirus called Covid-19 affected many states in the Nation causing serious respiratory illnesses. On March 13, 2020, Delaware Governor Carney enacted a State of Emergency declaration which prohibited the number of persons able to gather and meet and required non-essential personnel to “stay-at-home”. This declaration was not to expire until May 15, 2020 or until otherwise lifted by Governor Carney. The previously scheduled April PAC and TAC meetings had to be cancelled as well as the MPO Council meeting schedule in May. Like many other local and state government agencies, the D/KC MPO staff adapted to Governor Carney’s emergency declaration by subscribing and using computer video software (i.e. gotomeeting, etc...) to conduct staff and MPO partner meetings. On April 20, 2020, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recommended MPOs update their Public Participation Plans to include the use of virtual meetings (https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/coronavirus/process_mpo.cfm).

Action Item: On page #10 in the most currently approved D/KC MPO PPP, modify the “Meetings” section by adding a sub-bullet under the first bullet to read:

- Conduct meetings, workshops, open houses, and events at various times in various locations.
 - **Virtual meetings and workshops may be used to substitute the traditional in-person PAC, TAC, and/or MPO Council meetings should a Local, State, and/or Federal emergency declaration prohibit or limit the number of persons able to conduct in-person meetings. Virtual meetings will be advertised on the MPO website, the MPO social media platforms, and, when possible, in the paper. The public will continue to be encouraged to attend.**