

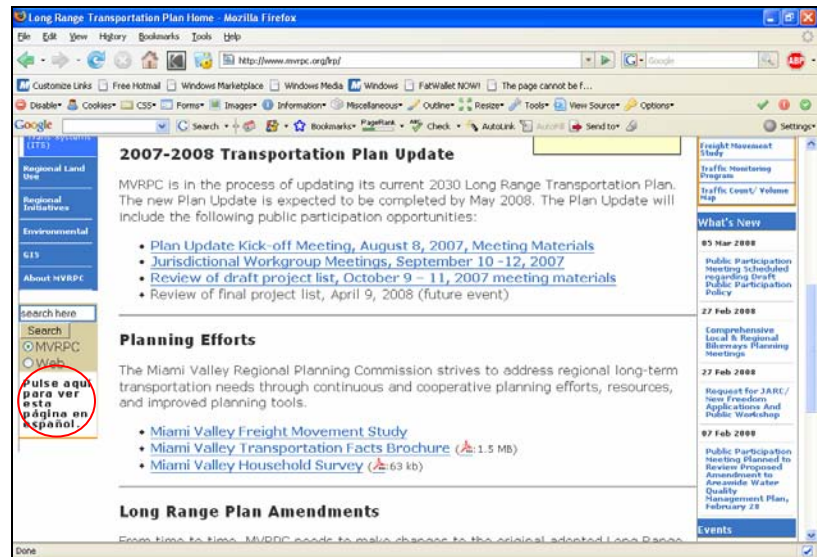
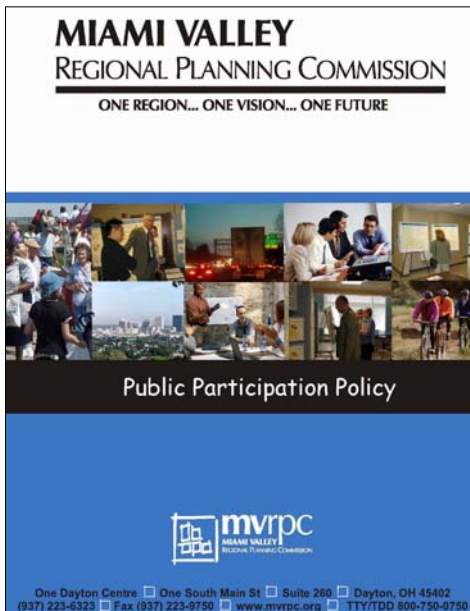
CHAPTER XI

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION

A. OVERVIEW

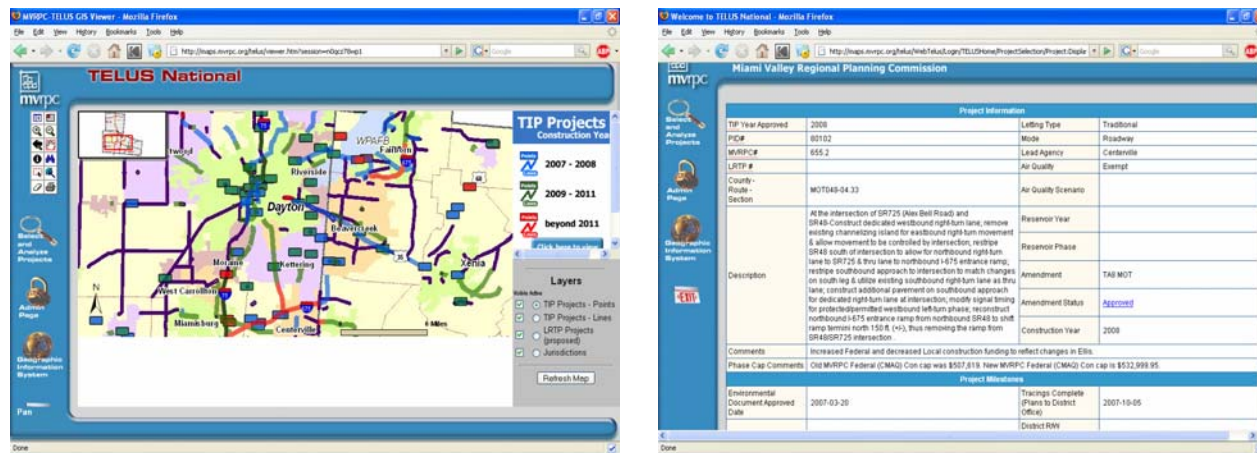
MVRPC's integration of a more proactive approach in transportation planning is accomplished through the public participation process. The process is made up of multiple components, including consultation with the CAC, TAC, MVRPC Board of Directors, the LRTP Work Groups, and general outreach to the public. Additionally, community outreach efforts were expanded in an attempt to reach disadvantaged populations.

As per SAFETEA-LU, a MPO needs to develop and use a documented public participation plan that defines a process for providing citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, etc. with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process. In the Fall of 2006, MVRPC updated the *Public Participation Policy for Transportation Planning*; the updated policy was adopted by the MVRPC Board of Directors on January 4, 2007 and is fully compliant with SAFETEA-LU. The policy details the LRTP public participation requirements and complies with current planning requirements and SAFETEA-LU Statutory Provisions. MVRPC made an extensive public outreach effort to solicit input from the general public and special interest groups in order to increase public participation in the 2030 LRTP update process, following the *Public Participation Policy*. The policy's key items include an expanded public participation notification list, use of technology to enhance communication with the public (website applications), and efforts to reach environmental justice populations. An example of website technology implemented in 2006 to facilitate information dissemination is the ability to view website content in Spanish through the use of an online translator.



MVRPC is also in the forefront of utilizing visualization techniques. In 2005, Web-TELUS was launched as a fully integrated web-based information-management and decision-support system that MVRPC uses to maintain its TIP project data. Web-TELUS allows users or visitors to query and view the TIP on a 24/7

basis. Web-TELUS also includes an online mapping component that allows visitors to see TIP project locations and link to project data. MVRPC has been using Web-TELUS to expand its public participation efforts and public comments can now be collected via online forms. In late 2006, MVRPC added the congestion management project list to the Web-TELUS map including the capability of linking Plan projects in the TIP to the more detailed TIP database.



Beginning in August 2007, the public was involved in each step of 2030 LRTP update process through the use of various tools and methods. Public participation meetings were held to present the latest information pertaining to the update, with MVRPC staff present at the meetings to answer questions. Comment cards with postage-paid reply stamps were made available at the meetings to record citizens concerns and comments. Further, MVRPC's website was updated frequently to provide the latest information and an online version of the comment card was made available to receive comments 24/7 on any of the information provided. The same information was also made available at MVRPC's offices prior to each meeting.

The first phase of the public participation process involved hosting an open house public participation meeting in August 2007 to provide transportation-related background information used in the LRTP update process. The second phase of public participation included presenting the draft list of multimodal transportation projects identified as a result of the 2030 LRTP project solicitation, in an open house format, at various locations throughout the Region in October 2007. Finally, the last phase of public participation took place in April 2008, through an open house public participation meeting, to present the draft 2030 LRTP including the findings of various LRTP analyses.

MVRPC's *2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Public Participation Summary* report provides more comprehensive information regarding public participation, including all of the public outreach materials used to promote public participation meetings, a listing of information presented at the meetings, and all of the comments received.

B. AUGUST 8, 2007 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING

The first public participation open house meeting was held on Wednesday, August 8, 2007 at GDRTA Wright Stop Plaza, Cooper Room, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to present background information on existing transportation conditions and future transportation goals and to solicit input from the general public and special interest groups. In order to promote this meeting, the following outreach efforts were implemented:

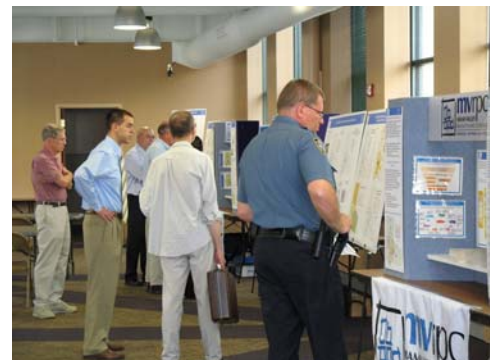
- Sending a press release to all TV, radio, and newspapers in the Greene, Miami, Montgomery, and northern Warren County MPO area, approximately 165 media outlets;
- Printing a public notice in the *Dayton Daily News*, *Troy Daily News*, *Xenia Daily Gazette*, and *Dayton Weekly* newspapers;
- Sending letters and promotional posters to all the public libraries in Montgomery, Greene, and Miami Counties;
- Displaying promotional posters at all the GDRTA Hubs;
- E-mailing promotional posters to Miami County Transit and Greene CATS;
- Distributing promotional posters (English and Spanish versions) to all the TAC members and MVRPC Board members encouraging them to display them in their jurisdictions' offices;
- E-mailing promotional posters (English and Spanish versions) to the Latino Connection for distribution;
- Sending announcement letters to nearly 600 agencies and individuals on the MVRPC "public participation" mailing list;
- Placing a notice announcing the meeting on MVRPC's website; and
- Posting the information to be presented at the meeting on MVRPC's website, along with an online comment card.

The following is a summary of information prepared and presented at the meeting. For a more comprehensive list of information presented at the August 8, 2007 meeting, please refer to the *2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Public Participation Summary* report.



- Transportation Planning Activities at MVRPC;
- 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan;
- SFY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Plan;
- SAFETEA-LU Compliance;
- Congestion Management Process;
- Census 2000;
- Land Use;
- Alternative Transportation Mode Facilities; and
- Community Impact Assessment – 2000 Census.

A total of 18 people attended this meeting. MVRPC staff members were available at the meeting to answer their questions. In addition, comment cards with postage-paid reply stamps were made available during the meeting and comments were accepted until September 14, 2007. Eleven formal written comments were received.



C. OCTOBER 9, 10 AND 11, 2007 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETINGS

Three open house public participation meetings were held on October 9, 10, and 11, 2007 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the following locations.

- Tuesday, October 9, 2007, at Miami County Safety Building, 201 West Main Street in Troy;
- Wednesday, October 10, 2007, at GDRTA Wright Stop Plaza, 4 South Main Street in Dayton;

- Thursday, October 11, 2007 at Greene County Public Library, 76 East Market Street in Xenia.

The meetings were designed to present the Draft Lists of Transportation Projects and to solicit input from the general public and special interest groups. The projects were submitted to MVRPC by local jurisdictions located in the Region. The Draft List of Projects was presented at the meetings, with detailed descriptions about each project. In addition, some of the information showing existing transportation system conditions was also available. In anticipation of the October 2007 cycle of public participation, MVRPC conducted the following additional outreach efforts to publicize the meetings:



- Establishing three meeting dates/times – one meeting in each county (Montgomery, Greene, and Miami) to increase the possibility of attendance;
- Printing public notices in the *Dayton Daily News*, *Xenia Daily Gazette*, *Troy Daily News*, and *Dayton Weekly* newspapers announcing the meetings;
- Submitting press releases to all local newspapers, television, and radio stations - approximately 165 media outlets;
- Sending letters to individuals and agencies who have requested to be notified about public participation meetings – approximately 600 individuals/agencies;
- Sending letters and promotional posters to all the public libraries in Montgomery, Greene, and Miami Counties;
- Displaying promotional posters at all the GDRTA Hubs;
- E-mailing promotional posters to Miami County Transit and Greene CATS;
- Distributing promotional posters (English and Spanish versions) to all the TAC members and MVRPC Board members encouraging them to display them in their jurisdictions' offices;
- E-mailing promotional posters (English and Spanish versions) to the Latino Connection for distribution;
- Airing 179 radio ads on seven different radio stations encouraging people to attend the meetings;
- Announcing the meeting on MVRPC's website; and
- Posting the information that was to be presented at the meetings on MVRPC's website, along with an online comment card.

The following is a summary of information prepared and presented at the meetings. For a more comprehensive list of information presented at the October meetings, please refer to the *2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Public Participation Summary* report.

- Transportation Planning Activities at MVRPC;
- Congestion Management Process;
- Draft Congestion Management Process Projects;
- Draft Regional Bikeway and Pedestrian Projects;
- Draft Transit Projects;
- Draft Transportation Enhancement Projects; and
- Alternative Transportation Modes Overview.



Overall 35 persons attended the meetings. Attendance by County was as follows: Greene (23), Miami (11), and Montgomery (1). MVRPC staff members attended the

meetings and were available to answer questions.

Participants were encouraged to give their comments on draft projects through comment cards. Comment cards, which included postage-paid reply stamps, were also made available to encourage public input on any project and were accepted until November 12, 2007.



A total of nine comments were received related to the Draft 2030 LRTP Projects through comment cards at the meeting and online comment cards from MVRPC's website. Comments received were reviewed by MVRPC staff and forwarded to the appropriate project sponsor for their review when applicable. Also, comments received were presented at the TAC and MVRPC Board meetings. As a result of public comments, details of some of the projects in the draft project list were modified. For a complete list of comments received, please refer to the *2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Public Participation Summary* report.

D. APRIL 9, 2008 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING

The last public participation open house meeting was held on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at the GDRTA Wright Stop Plaza, located in downtown Dayton, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to present the Draft 2030 LRTP, including multimodal projects, programs, and strategies; various analyses being conducted as part of the update; and to solicit comments from the general public and special interest groups. Outlined below is a recap of public outreach efforts to promote this meeting:

- Establishing a centralized and accessible meeting location at the GDRTA Downtown Dayton Transit Hub;
- Printing public notices in the *Dayton Daily News*, the *Xenia Daily Gazette*, the *Troy Daily News*, *La Jornada Latina* (English and Spanish), and *Dayton Weekly* newspapers announcing the meetings;
- Distributing promotional posters at the Technical Advisory Committee and Board of Directors meetings to encourage members to display them in their jurisdictions and organizations;
- Printing 1/8 page ads in the *Dayton Daily News*, the *Xenia Daily Gazette*, the *Troy Daily News*, and *Dayton Weekly* newspapers encouraging people to attend the meetings;
- Submitting press releases to all local newspapers, television and radio stations – approximately 165 media outlets;
- Sending letters to individuals and agencies who have requested to be notified about public participation meetings as well as additional agencies/interested parties identified in the SAFETEA-LU legislation – approximately 600 individuals/agencies;
- Sending letters to CAC members (13) announcing the meeting;
- Sending letters and promotional posters to all the public libraries in Montgomery, Greene and Miami Counties (58 Libraries);
- Displaying promotional posters in English and Spanish at the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority hubs;
- Announcing the meeting on the MVRPC's website; and
- Posting the information, which was to be presented at the meetings, on MVRPC's website along with an online comment card.

A summary of information prepared and presented at the meeting is listed below. Please refer to the *2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Public Participation Summary* report for a more comprehensive list of information presented at the April 9, 2008 meeting.

- Background Information on MVRPC;
- Long Range Plan Overview and Update Process;
- Project Evaluation System;
- Financial Revenue Forecast;
- Final Draft Long Range Transportation Project Lists and Illustrative Maps;
 - Congestion Management Projects (fiscally-constrained),
 - Transit Projects,
 - Regional Bikeway and Pedestrian Projects, and
 - Transportation Enhancement Projects.
- Alternative Transportation Modes Overview;
- Regional Transportation Studies Summary;
- Community Impact Assessment Overview and Technical Analyses;
- Congestion Management Process Overview;
- Level of Service Analyses;
- Environmental Mitigation Analyses;
- 2000 Census and Socioeconomic Projections Analyses;
- Land Use Analyses; and
- Air Quality Conformity Analysis.



A total of 23 people attended the meeting including one CAC member. MVRPC staff members were present at the meeting to answer questions from the public. Participants were encouraged to give their comments on draft projects through comment cards. Comment cards, which included postage-paid reply stamps, were also made available to encourage public input on the Draft Plan and were accepted until April 18, 2008.

Comments received regarding the Draft 2030 LRTP are included in the *2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Public Participation Summary* report.

E. COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, MVRPC has expanded its public participation to incorporate the regulations required by this order (see Chapter X). Although MVRPC has historically made efforts towards the requirements of Environmental Justice (EJ), a concerted effort was made to further seek input from traditionally disadvantaged populations or otherwise EJ-target groups and to include them in the public participation process. These efforts included:

- Expanding the mailing list to include EJ-target populations (low-income, minority, elderly and disabled);



- Adapting advertising for ease of understanding, including special articles and flyers;
- Adapting public meeting times and locations for accessibility;
- Advertising at GDRTA Hubs;
- Advertising directed toward minority-marketed newspapers and radio stations; and
- Distributing wipe boards at “listener lunch” events promoting the complete public participation schedule for the 2008 LRTP update along with information about the Plan and the transportation planning process.

F. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS

During the 2030 LRTP Update cycle, MVRPC staff actively participated and/or attended numerous public participation meetings pertaining to studies and projects on progress throughout the Region. These meetings ranged from public participation meetings to public hearings related to various transportation studies, as well as Comprehensive and/or Land Use Plans being developed by member jurisdictions. By attending the meetings, staff members were able to gain a better understanding of the projects and studies and to listen to any concerns that the general public might have regarding the project or study. Further, MVRPC staff were able to answer any questions that arose in relation to MVRPC’s planning activities and the 2030 LRTP.

Following is a partial list of public participation meetings/activities that MVRPC attended:

- Western Montgomery County Transportation and Land Use Study;
- I-75 Downtown Dayton Sub-Corridor Reconstruction (Various Phases);
- New Interchange Construction — I-75 at Austin Road;
- Interchange Modification Study — I-75 South Dixie Highway and Central Avenue;
- Corridor Upgrade — Montgomery County US 35 Corridor and Greene County US 35 Corridor
- US 42/Bickett Road Study;
- Downtown Dayton Street Conversion;
- Comprehensive Bikeways Plan;
- Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan;
- Regional Land Use Initiative; and
- Comprehensive Planning Efforts — City of Piqua, West Carrollton, Riverside and Centerville/Washington Township.

G. CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS IN SAFETEA-LU

SAFETEA-LU mandates that the MPO consult, as appropriate, with State and local agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, and historic preservation concerning the development of the transportation plan. MVRPC’s Public Participation list has been expanded to include agencies with an interest in the areas of land use management, environmental resources, environmental protection, conservation, and historic preservation. As a result the list now includes nearly 600 agencies and individuals. Contacts are notified and given the opportunity to comment on any transportation program that requires action by the MVRPC Board of Directors such as the Long Range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program. The complete *Public Participation Policy* is available on MVRPC’s website — <http://www.mvrpc.org/admin/ppp.php> .

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