

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN 2017 UPDATE



MIC & TAC

October 2017

Public Involvement Plan (PIP)

- ❖ FAST Act requirement for all MPOs
“to develop and use a documented public participation plan...that provides all interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process.”

PIP Update: Why Now?

- ❖ Ensure compliance with FAST Act
23 CFR 450.316 – Interested parties, participation, and consultation
- ❖ Prior to the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan (2018-19)

Public Involvement Plan (PIP)

- ❖ Make it useful for three audiences:
 - General public
 - MIC staff
 - MnDOT/FHWA staff
- ❖ Describe what needs to happen, when, how, and who needs to be involved

Public Involvement Objective

- ❖ To facilitate an effective public involvement process that actively seeks input...

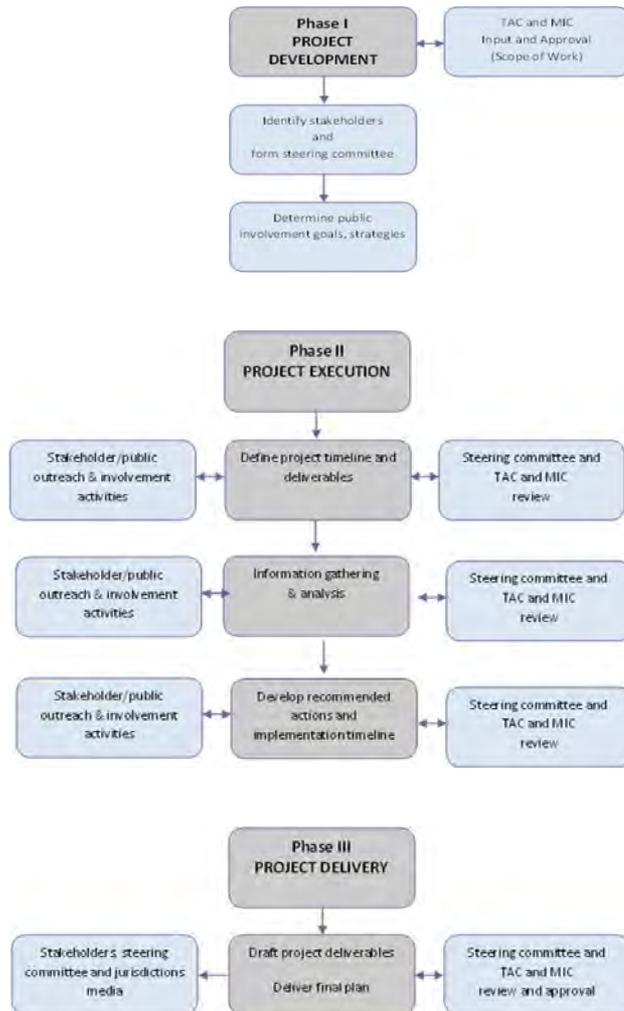


Public Involvement Objectives

- ❖ To facilitate an effective public involvement process that actively seeks input...
- ❖ **Early in the planning process, before key decisions are made and while there is ample opportunity to influence decisions.**



Public Involvement Plan



I - Project Development – Stakeholder identification, project scope

II - Project Execution – Data collection, draft recommendations

III - Project Delivery – Reporting final recommendations, implementation timeline

Public Involvement Plan

- ❖ “Timely notice and reasonable access to information about transportation issues and processes”
 - Meeting times and locations
 - Information available online
 - Employ visualization techniques



Public Involvement Plan

- ❖ TIP and LRTP processes are most prescriptive
- ❖ MPO can determine project-specific processes and strategies
 - MIC website
 - Survey tools



Public Involvement Plan

➤ In-person methods



Public Involvement Plan

- ❖ “To fully consider and document public input”
- Summarize input received and describe how it has been considered and/or incorporated into final recommendations.

Appendix B:
How was the MIC's Public Involvement Plan Developed?

Public involvement was an important component of developing the update of the MIC's Public Involvement Plan. This section provides a summary of the strategies and the input received from stakeholders with vested interests in how the MIC reaches out to the community about its transportation planning activities.

Much of this input was gathered through an online Public Involvement Preference survey that was conducted between July 2013 and September 2013 and is summarized on page 69. Comments were also received through a series of interviews with targeted stakeholders. This information was ultimately used to prioritize the list of public involvement opportunities listed on pages 11-16.

Outreach Strategy

Any MIC plan or study begins with a scoping process that includes formulating a strategy for how to achieve stakeholder outreach objectives. For this update of the MIC's Public Involvement Plan (PIP), public participation steps included:

- Identify stakeholders and inform them of the upcoming PIP update;
- Provide and advertise both online and in-person mechanisms for input at any time;
- Engage stakeholders in identifying specific issues and solutions.

⇒ Present information about the plan to internal stakeholders (MIC Policy Board and TAC members, MIC staff members) on a monthly basis.

⇒ Conduct a survey of public participation preferences to follow up with in-person interviews with selected stakeholder representatives.

- Make draft PIP available and advertise 45-day public comment period;
- Present final PIP for approval to TAC and MIC and make it available online via the MIC website and distribute printed copies;
- Provide copies of the approved PIP to MnDOT, WisDOT, FWA and FTA.

Who Did We Involve?

This update of the PIP identifies three primary stakeholders for this document: **members of the public**, the people who live and work in the Duluth Superior area as well as representatives local jurisdictions and organizations from whom we are seeking input; the **MIC's planning staff** whose job it is to conduct transportation planning studies and to get that input; and the **federal and state agencies** to which we are accountable.

We involved all three groups with the outreach activities described in the next section, in consultation with MnDOT, WisDOT, FTA and FWA contacts and with TAC and MIC approval.

What Outreach Activities Did We Provide?

To reach these audiences in the development of the plan, we engaged our stakeholders with the following initiatives:

Presentations

Feb - Sept, 2013: Six presentations about the PIP update were given in 2013 at regularly scheduled MIC, TAC, BPAAC

and HTAC meetings between February and September.

June 20, 2013: A presentation was also made to the AADC Board and Commission at its meeting in August. All included requests for comment and input.

Mar - August, 2013: Two staff meetings were held to review the planning process and specific information in the Staff Guide section of the draft PIP.

Focus on Transportation Newsletter

Mar - May, 2013: An article titled "Public Involvement - How Do YOU Connect?" was featured in the Spring 2013 edition of the MIC's Focus on Transportation newsletter, describing the project and inviting readers to take the online survey.

Oct - Dec, 2013: An article featuring information about the final PIP and public involvement in general is planned for publication in the Fall 2013 edition.

Consultations with State and Federal Agencies

July 27, 2013: Consultation about the status of the PIP Update was held with staff from MnDOT, WisDOT, FTA and FWA at the MIC's mid-year review on July 17, 2013.

August 7, 2013: Consultation about public involvement processes for the Superior Area TIP was held by the MIC's Deputy Director with staff from WisDOT and the information was relayed for inclusion in the Draft PIP.

September 4, 2013: Consultation about public involvement processes for the Duluth Area TIP was held by MIC staff members with staff from MnDOT Central Office and MnDOT District One staff for inclusion in the Draft PIP.

September 5, 2013: The revised TIP sections were distributed

ed by email to MnDOT staff and TAC members for review and comment.

September 17, 2013: A presentation on the specialized processes for TIP public involvement was given to the TAC at its September meeting.

Public Involvement Preference Survey

July 19, 2013: Links to an online survey about people's preferred forms and methods of communication about the MIC's plans and studies were emailed to members of the MIC, TAC, BPAAC and HTAC. (See Survey Results section, below.)

Survey responses were compiled and can be read in full in Appendix B on page 73.

In-Person Interviews

July-Sept, 2013: In-person interviews were conducted with representatives from public agencies in this area who regularly need to engage the public as part of their work with a focus on the manner in which their organization seeks input from traditionally underserved populations such as minority, elderly, low income, and mobility limited people and households.

Main messages were the need to schedule meetings at locations that are accessible by people with disabilities and near transit lines; recommendation to serve refreshments and to advertise all the above information; consider childcare depending on the stakeholders we are trying to reach; and to use traditional media sources (quarterly television and radio and also the Duluth News Tribune).

See Appendix C on page 77 for more information about the in-person interviews.

Public Involvement Plan

- ❖ Various transportation interest groups including “citizens, public transportation agencies, freight shippers, private transportation providers” (safety and enforcement agencies, public officials, environmental groups)
- ❖ Modal representatives “including users of public transportation, pedestrian walkways and bicycle facilities” (rail, harbor, airport)

Public Involvement Plan

- ❖ “Traditionally underserved, including households with low income, minorities and people with disabilities;”



Public Involvement for the PIP

- ❖ Minimum public comment period of forty five (45) days before the PIP is adopted, revised, or updated
- ❖ Will be distributing the draft document directly to TAC & MIC by email for comment
- ❖ Consultation and review by state and fed agencies, transportation interest groups



Action Requested:

Motion to approve start of 45-day public review period for draft Public Involvement Plan

Comments? Questions?