Title VI Program Update

Public Participation in Transportation Planning

May 9, 2022 – 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Union County Government Center or Videoconference/Teleconference
WHY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT

The SEDA-COG MPO spends public dollars on regional transportation planning and abides by federal polices for public participation and non-discrimination.

These policies prescribe a transportation planning process and primary decision-making documents:

- the region’s 20-year Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
- the 4-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- the Coordinated Public Transit–Human Services Transportation Plan
- the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

The SEDA-COG MPO offers opportunities for the public to participate in updates to each plan or program, according to its Public Participation Plan and supporting Limited English Proficiency Plan.

May 9, 2022
WHY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT

More importantly, the MPO aims to serve all citizens of the region and therefore needs to know its population generally:

- Population distribution
- Population change
- Employment distribution
- Commuting patterns
- Employment by industry

and specifically population segments that have traditionally been underrepresented in transportation planning,

so that all citizens are fairly considered in future transportation planning.
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MUST BE FAIR

The SEDA-COG MPO must ensure that all outreach strategies, communications, and public involvement efforts comply with Title VI, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other federal and state requirements.

Therefore, the SEDA-COG MPO makes concerted efforts to involve members of all socioeconomic and demographic groups in the public involvement process, including the following special populations.

- Minority Populations
- Low-Income Persons
- Limited English Proficiency Individuals
- Disabled Individuals
- Zero-Car Households
- Senior Citizens
These efforts are established in the MPO’s Public Participation Plan and Limited English Proficiency Plan. The Public Participation Plan is maintained—now updated every three years—to address ongoing changes in regional demographics and socioeconomics, communication methods and preferences, and regulatory requirements.
“The public” is different from year to year.

There are population changes in demographics, like race and ethnicity.

Compare these locations of higher Hispanic and Latino concentrations in ACS 2007-2011, circled in blue, ...
“The public” is different from year to year.

There are population changes in demographics, like race and ethnicity.

...to these locations in ACS 2015-2019.
“The public” is different from year to year.

There are population changes in demographics, like race and ethnicity.

There are socio-economic changes, like income and poverty levels.
“The public” is different from year to year.

There are population changes in demographics, like race and ethnicity.

There are socio-economic changes, like income and poverty levels.

...to these locations in ACS 2015-2019.
"The public" is different from year to year.

There are population changes in demographics, like race and ethnicity.

There are socio-economic changes, like income and poverty levels.

There are changes in the distribution of seniors, age 65 and over.
“The public” is different from year to year.

There are population changes in demographics, like race and ethnicity.

There are socio-economic changes, like income and poverty levels.

There are changes in the distribution of seniors, age 65 and over.
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TAKES PLANNING

Changes in Communications Technology

Pre-2000
- Newspaper, Radio
- In-person Meetings and Surveys
- Paper copies

2010
- E-Newsletters
- In-person Meetings
- Online Surveys
- Websites

2020
- Social Media
- Real-time Virtual Meeting Platforms
- Digital translation services

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN, 2022

SEDA-COG MPO’s Public Participation Plan is guided by six goals that set the framework for outreach and involvement in the MPO’s transportation decision-making processes.

1. Extend the reach of the participation program.
2. Encourage diversity of participants.
3. Increase the impact of participation.
4. Increase participant satisfaction.
5. Realize opportunities for education.
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION STRATEGIES

• Communication by mail, phone, fax, e-mail, or person-to-person contact
• Public meetings, workshops, open houses, and hearings that are held at convenient and accessible locations and times
• Distribution of public notices and press releases
• Distribution of reports, fact sheets, maps, and other documents for planning efforts
• SEDA-COG’s website for documents, meeting schedules, agendas, minutes, news, etc.
• Paper copies of draft plans placed at county, municipal, and agency offices
• Distribution of an MPO e-newsletter
• Dissemination of public surveys and comment forms
• Posts and announcements through SEDA-COG’s social media accounts

Continued
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION STRATEGIES

• Posts and announcements through SEDA-COG’s social media accounts
• Partnering with community, civic, non-profit, and business groups to share information and host public input sessions
• Consulting with agencies and officials working with traditionally underserved populations or responsible for planning activities affected by transportation
• Publicizing that translation, interpretation, or other auxiliary services are available to the public
• Visualization aids to help the public understand transportation plans and/or programs
• Cross-promoting and working with data from state agency public surveys
PRIMARY CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Updates


2. The **Interested Parties Distribution Lists**.

3. The **Public Meeting Comment Form** used to collect LEP information and evaluations of meetings.

Additions

1. **A Title VI Compliance statement and funding source disclaimer.**

2. **Language Taglines**, translating “ATTENTION: If you speak another language, language assistance is available to you FREE OF CHARGE. Call 570-524-4491 (TTY: 711)” into **Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, German**.

3. **Further emphasis that the MPO will make all reasonable modifications** to policies, programs, and documents to ensure that people with disabilities and those with Limited English Proficiency have an equal opportunity to participate in all the MPO programs, services, and activities.
4. Regularly scheduled MPO Committee meetings accommodate in-person and virtual participation. One caveat: if an in-person public meeting is not feasible or advisable (e.g., public health or other emergency), the SEDA-COG MPO may offer a solely virtual meeting.

5. Details and descriptions for public participation strategies and techniques, including:
   - new virtual meeting formats,
   - MPO newsletter,
   - social media posts,
   - document translation request form on website,
   - YouTube channel for recordings of meetings,
   - SurveyMonkey,
   - ArcGIS Online and ArcGIS Hub sites.
6. Proposed tools for enhanced visualization techniques such as photo simulations, 3-D images, videos, animations, aerial footage, etc.

7. Descriptions for virtual public involvement techniques deployed since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and for their continued use to augment public participation options.

8. Major future efforts:
   - further consulting with interested parties;
   - seeking out EJ/LEP organizations, resources, and points of contact;
   - reviewing ADA accessibility features for meeting spaces;
   - coordinating with disability advocates and IT experts to make electronic materials and website content easier to access; and
   - investigating the formation of a Public Participation Panel.

9. Option for a special meeting to consider TIP amendment approval votes in between regularly scheduled MPO meetings under the TIP Amendments Process Checklist.
PRIMARY CHANGES
TO THE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

Updates
1. **Demographic data and maps** to reflect 2015-2019 American Community Survey Estimates.
2. The Appendix items for **Notice of Language Services, Title VI Notice to the Public, Title VI Complaint Form, and Title VI Complaint Procedures**. These will also be translated into **Spanish**.
3. The **Language Assistance Services content** to reflect that SEDA-COG now uses LinguaLinx for on-demand phone-based interpretation services and included LinguaLinx procedures and tip sheets as appendix items.
4. **Human Translation & Interpretation Service Providers Appendix** item.
5. **Community & Agency Contacts Appendix** item.

Additions
1. **References to the document translation request form** on SEDA-COG website.
2. The Public Participation Plan will be reviewed every three years.
3. **Language Taglines** as an Appendix.

May 9, 2022
TITLE VI PROGRAM

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination mandates apply to all MPO programs and activities.

The SEDA-COG MPO’s Title VI Program comprises a series of documents that demonstrate compliance with these nondiscrimination policies.

A. Title VI Notice to the Public, including a list of locations where the notice is posted
B. Title VI Complaint Procedures
C. Title VI Complaint Form
D. List of transit-related Title VI investigations, complaints, and lawsuits
E. Public Participation Plan
F. Language Assistance Plan for providing language assistance to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP)
G. A table depicting the membership of non-elected committees and councils, the membership of which is selected by the recipient, broken down by race, and a description of the process the agency uses to encourage participation of minorities on such committees

H. A description of how the agency monitors its subrecipients for compliance with Title VI, and a schedule of subrecipient Title VI Program submissions

I. A Title VI equity analysis if the recipient has constructed a facility, such as a vehicle storage facility, maintenance facility, operation center, etc.

J. A copy of the board meeting minutes or resolution showing the board of directors reviewed and approved the Title VI Program

K. Demographic profile of the metropolitan area

L. A description of the procedures by which the mobility needs of minority populations are identified and considered within the planning process

M. Demographic maps that show the impacts of the distribution of State and Federal funds in the aggregate for public transportation projects

N. Analysis of the MPO’s transportation system investments that identifies and addresses any disparate impacts
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Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

Thank you for attending tonight!