

2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Public Outreach Activities

Introduction

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) for the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization was adopted on April 15, 2018, which directed the public involvement activities for the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The Public Comment Period began March 13, 2018 and ended on April 11, 2018.

MAP-21, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (P.L. 112-141), requires that “The MPO shall develop and use a documented 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, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process. (23 CFR 450.316)”

MAP-21 places emphasis on extensive stakeholder participation. Highlights of the MAP-21 requirements for public participation include the following:

- Providing adequate public notice of public participation activities and time for public review and comment at key decision points;
- Employing visual techniques;
- Making information accessible in various formats and means;
- Holding public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times;
- Seeking out and considering needs of traditionally underserved populations;
- Coordinating with statewide transportation planning public participation and consultation processes; and
- Periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies in the Participation Plan.

With public involvement being a key study element in the success of the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) committed itself to pursue a pro-active public outreach effort throughout the development of the Plan.

Outreach Activities

FAMPO developed an outreach plan to effectively reach both the general population and also to target those specific populations within the resources available. Public outreach efforts focused on soliciting community involvement in order to maximize awareness and provide a forum for public participation in order to build support and gain public input for the Plan. It provided early and ongoing opportunities to share information, bring together varied points of view, and obtained input from diverse stakeholders. Critical points in the study were identified to allow focused public input and gauge support for study recommendations.

As part of the effort to ensure environmental justice, special attention was given to encourage participation from a wide array of stakeholders, including representation from traditionally underserved, low-income, and minority communities with the FAMPO area. Similarly, the MPO strives to include the elderly and disabled population in planning efforts in the FAMPO Region. Input from all segments of the population and all neighborhoods in the community are critical to effective transportation planning. The specific efforts developed and implemented as part of the LRTP outreach plan are detailed below.

Contact Database

The contact database contains over 2,000 individuals and organizations contacts throughout the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (FAMPO) Region which consists of the counties of Stafford, Spotsylvania, Caroline, King George and the City of Fredericksburg. The database included representation from all segments of the populations. The contact database also includes State and Federal contacts and Title VI leaders in our Region.

Compilation Methodology

The objective of the database was to be inclusive as possible. Existing databases such as the following were compiled and expanded:

- Business organizations and councils;
- County and City planning boards, board of commissioners;
- County and City diversified mailing lists; and
- Cultural, business, and advocacy organizations

Research Techniques

A variety of local, state and federal organizations, agencies, alliances, and advocacy groups were identified using web-based searches, existing database membership lists and personal contacts within the FAMPO area. Some of the information sources include:

- Websites;
- Local mainstream newspapers;
- Chamber of Commerce;
- Ethnic grocery store;; and

- Business alliances.

Database Structure

The database features a form for easy entry and allows for a number of queries that include, but not limited to the following:

- Business, civic and community groups; and
- Environmental Justice and traditionally under-served contacts.

Future Use

The purpose of the database is not only to meet FAMPO's immediate needs, but also to serve as a foundation for an evolving and expanding database for any FAMPO activity including future LRTP updates.

Public Meeting

A public meeting was held on Thursday, March 15, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the GWRC/FAMPO office located at 406 Princess Anne Street in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The attendees were given the opportunity to review the key transportation improvements, ask questions, review visual displays and express their opinions.

PowerPoint Presentation

A PowerPoint presentation was developed to highlight the planning process and to graphically depict the deficiencies at selected locations where transportation improvements were proposed. The presentation was used during the FAMPO Committee Meetings, Public Meeting and Speakers Bureau. The presentation included the following topics:

- The Current Situation
- Plan Overview and Current Conditions
- Historic Growth and Development
- Future Growth and Development
- Land Use and Transportation
- Regional Needs Plan
- Highway Needs
- Top Highway Needs
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Needs
- Local and Commuter Transit Needs
- Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Needs

- Forecasted Needs Plan Outcomes
- Financially Constrained Plan
- Constrained Highway and Bicycle & Pedestrian Plans
- Forecasted Constrained Highway Plan Outcomes
- Constrained Transit and TDM Projects
- Get Involved

Handout: A Summary of Public Draft

The 2045 LRTP Summary of Public Draft was handed out to each attendee who attended the public meeting as well as to all members during the FAMPO Committee meetings.

Demographic Survey

The Demographic Survey was used for statistical purposes only and was treated as an anonymous survey. At the Public Meeting, a demographic questionnaire was distributed to all attendees.

Media Outreach

The local news media was contacted to help disseminate information.

Newspaper Public Notices

The public comment period, public meeting and public hearing Public Notice were advertised in both English and Spanish in the following newspapers.

Publication	Dates
Quantico Sentry	March 8, 2018
Stafford Sun	March 9, 2018
Free Lance Star	March 13, 2018

Press Release

A Press Release was developed and sent on March 13, 2018 to newspapers and radio stations.

- Thunder 104.5/WGRQ 95.9
- INSIDENOVA
- Caroline Progress
- Quantico Sentry
- Fredericksburg Today

- 99.3 The Vibe
- B101.5
- Free Lance Star

Newspaper Articles

Two newspaper articles were published by the Free Lance Star.

Date	Article
March 13, 2018	Road projects underway in Fredericksburg area total \$1 billion. Officials say that isn't nearly enough.
March 15, 2018	GETTING THERE: Sinkholes reroute thousands

Public & Government Access Channels

Public Notices were aired on three of the following public access channels throughout the comment period.

Stafford County	Spotsylvania County	City of Fredericksburg
Cox Channel 24	Comcast Channel 23	Comcast Channel 24
Comcast Channel 23	Cox Channel 24	Verizon Channel 42
Verizon Channel 39	Verizon Channel 35	

Public Information and Communications Officers Outreach

All regional and military Public Information Offices were contacted via an email on March 11, 2018 requesting that the LRTP information be disseminated. The following Public Information and Communication Officers were contacted:

- City of Fredericksburg
- Stafford County
- Spotsylvania County
- King George County
- Caroline County
- Quantico Sentry
- Fort A. P. Hill

Flyers

Packages of over 1000 flyers were distributed to key interest groups and locations. These flyers were printed in both English and Spanish. The flyers were also attached electronically to the mass email that was sent as well as attached to the Draft LRTP webpage.

- Regional Libraries
- Senior/Community Centers
- Persons with Disabilities
- Hispanic Markets
- Recreation Centers
- Public Information Officers
- Title VI Community Resources Directory

Electronic Email Notifications

Approximately 300 emails were sent to the FAMPO mailing list. The emails directed the recipients to the draft LRTP webpage for ways to provide comments and to make note of the public comment period and upcoming public hearing.

Websites

The FAMPO website is the hub of FAMPO information. A dedicated webpage was made which included the draft document, ways to provide comments, and electronic comment form, video of the Draft of the Summary, a GIS Storybook presentation of the Draft of the Summary, an Interactive Maps of Projects, thirty (30) Maps in pdf format, project lists, and information is the public needed assistance during the public meeting and hearing. News was blasted one the front page, public notices page and a various points on the website. The George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) website also housed the public notice.

Social Media

FAMPO utilized the facebook and Twitter to disseminate the information. The facebook posts were shared by various organizations.

Involvement of Minorities and the Traditionally Underserved Groups

The transportation underserved are those that have greater difficulty getting to places in their community, such as jobs, schools, recreation and shopping that the population at large. Examples of the traditionally underserved include persons with disabilities, low income, minority groups and the older adult population. As part of the PPP, a Title VI Community Resources Directory has been incorporated as a significant outreach tool for FAMPO. This Directory includes regional Title VI Community leaders of our which included persons with limited English proficiency. The draft information was sent to over 101 Title VI recipients and mailed to four (4) of whom did not have an email address.

Concerted attempts were made to actively engage these residents to include the following:

- Preparing and distributing meeting notifications in Spanish
- Printing and distributing Executive Summaries in Spanish
- Posting slides in Spanish on the Local Government Access Channels

Speakers Bureau

FAMPO partnered with the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce on March 13, 2018 at Gari Melcher's Belmont. A distinctive panel included the FAMPO Administrator, Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Representative, and the Stafford County Board of Supervisor Chairman. Approximately 100 people were in attendance.

Agency Letters

Agency letters were sent to thirty-eight (38) Federal and State agencies to request comment. FAMPO received two with comments.

Public Hearing

The public hearing was held during the Policy Committee meeting on Monday, April 16, 2018. There were not comments received by the public.

Public Comments

FAMPO staff received four (4) public comments of which each recipient received a Thank-you letter.