

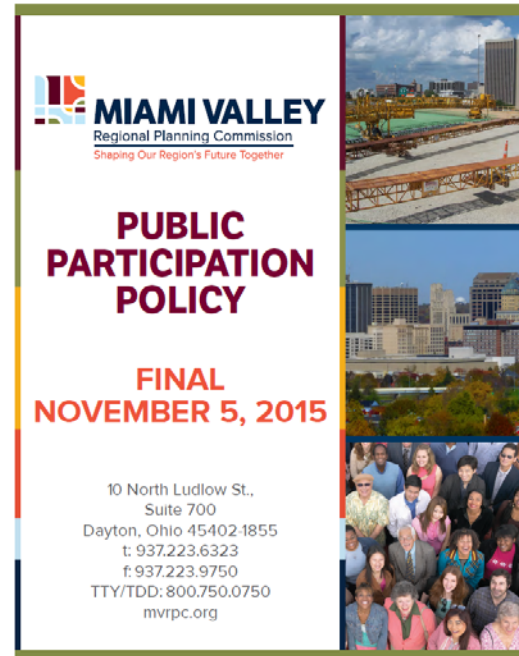
# CHAPTER 10

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION

### 10.1 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 TAC and 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 the FAST Act, 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. MVRPC last updated its *Public Participation Policy* in November 2015. The policy details the LRTP public participation requirements and complies with current planning regulations and the FAST Act 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 2040 LRTP update process. The policy's key items include an expanded public participation notification list, use of technology to enhance communication with the public (website applications and social media), and efforts to reach environmental justice populations.



### 10.2 Plan2040.mvrpc.org Webpage

For the May 2016 Update of the 2040 LRTP, MVRPC created a webpage solely dedicated to the update effort and promoted its use through public notices, advertising, and social media as a one stop shop for all items related to the Plan update. The webpage launched in August 2015 and was available throughout the update process and included the update timeline, information presented at various meetings, comment card, and an interactive map with the ability to comment on individual projects on the map. The website was also promoted by using an online photo contest. Figure 10.1 depicts the various webpage features including the ability to view website content in Spanish by using an online translator.

Figure 10.1 — Features and Content: plan2040.mvrpc.org

The screenshot displays the website's layout with several key features highlighted:

- Spanish translation feature:** A button at the top right allows users to toggle between English and Spanish (+ENGLISH +ESPAÑOL).
- Timeline:** A horizontal arrow shows the project schedule: August 2015 (Begin Plan Update), October 2015 (Proposed Transportation Projects), April 2016 (Draft Plan Developed), and May 2016 (Plan Adopted by MVRPC Board).
- Documents:** A section titled 'PLAN 2040 DOCUMENTS' lists various project maps and reports, including 'Draft Competition Management Projects Map' for various counties.
- Interactive Map:** A map of the Miami Valley region shows project locations. A pop-up window for 'LRTP Projects (proposed): I-75 / Needmore Road Interchange' provides details:
 

Project Number	676
Project Name	I-75 / Needmore Road Interchange
Description	Interchange modification to improve capacity of existing ramps; widen Needmore Road bridge over I-75 to 8 lanes.
County	MOT
Feasibility years	2036-2040
TIP Status	No
Cost	\$31.99
- Comment Section:** A 'PLAN 2040 COMMENT' section includes a form for public input, a contact information field, and a checkbox for receiving responses.

### 10.3 Public Participation Meetings

Beginning in August 2015, the public was involved in each step of 2040 LRTP update process through the use of various tools. Public participation meetings were held to present the latest information pertaining to the update and MVRPC staff was present at the meetings to answer questions. Comment cards were made available at the meetings to record residents' concerns and


comments. 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 2015 to provide transportation-related background information used in the development of the LRTP. The second phase included presenting the draft list of multimodal transportation projects in an open house format, at various locations throughout the Region in October 2015. In addition, on November 4, 2015 from 2 pm to 4 pm, MVRPC staff held a Twitter Chat Session to answer questions live on the Twitter Platform and give residents the opportunity to interact with staff without having to attend a physical meeting. Followers were asked to use the hashtag, #PlanMiamiValley to ask questions. During the 2 hour period, a total of 22 posts were made with facts related to the transportation system.

Finally, the last phase of public participation took place in April of 2016, through an open house format, to present the draft 2040 LRTP including the findings of various LRTP analyses. Comments received at each meeting were presented to the TAC and the Board of Directors prior to action on LRTP related items.


MVRPC’s 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan – Public Participation Summary report provides comprehensive information and documentation regarding the public participation process, including all the public outreach materials used to promote the meetings, a listing of information presented at the meetings, and all the comments received. Table 10.1 provides a brief summary of each meeting.

*Table 10.1 — Public Participation Meeting Summary*

Outreach	Contents	Attendance/Comments
<b>August 12, 2015 – 4 pm to 6 pm, MVRPC Offices</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Printing public notices in the Dayton Daily News and La Jornada Latina (English and Spanish)</li> <li>• Printing ¼ page ad in the Dayton City Paper</li> <li>• Submitting press releases to all local newspapers, television, and radio stations (165)</li> <li>• Sending letters to individuals / agencies who have requested to be notified about public participation meetings (600)</li> <li>• Sending letters and promotional posters to all the public libraries in Montgomery, Greene, and Miami Counties</li> <li>• Displaying promotional posters in English and Spanish at all the GDRTA Hubs and E-mailing promotional posters to Miami County Transit and Greene CATS</li> <li>• E-mailing promotional posters (English and Spanish versions) to the Latino Connection</li> <li>• Announcing the meeting on MVRPC’s website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update Overview</li> <li>• 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Projects</li> <li>• Safety and Congestion Conditions</li> <li>• Transportation System and Congestion Analysis</li> <li>• Alternative Transportation Modes (Passenger &amp; Freight)</li> <li>• Land Use and Socioeconomic Projections</li> <li>• Community Impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 people attended the meeting; one formal comment was received</li> </ul> 

Outreach	Contents	Attendance/Comments
and social media platforms	Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journey to Work Map</li> </ul>	
<b>October 20-22, 2015 – 4 pm to 6 pm, Miami, Montgomery, and Greene Counties</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Printing public notices in the Dayton Daily News and La Jornada Latina (English and Spanish)</li> <li>• Submitting press releases to all local newspapers, television, and radio stations (165)</li> <li>• Sending letters to individuals / agencies who have requested to be notified about public participation meetings (600)</li> <li>• Sending letters and promotional posters to all the public libraries in Montgomery, Greene, and Miami Counties</li> <li>• Displaying promotional posters in English and Spanish at all the GDRTA Hubs and E-mailing promotional posters to Miami County Transit and Greene CATS</li> <li>• E-mailing promotional posters (English and Spanish versions) to the Latino Connection</li> <li>• Printing ¼ page ads in the Dayton Daily News, La Jornada Latina, and the Dayton City Paper</li> <li>• Purchasing banner ads on Dayton Daily News and Dayton.com websites directing people to <a href="http://plan2040.mvrpc.org">plan2040.mvrpc.org</a></li> <li>• Announcing the meeting on MVRPC’s website and social media platforms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Congestion Management Projects List and Maps</li> <li>• Transit Service Long Range Plan Assumptions 2016-2040</li> <li>• Regional Bikeway &amp; Pedestrian Network Project List and Map</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Miami Co. October 20, 2015</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 people attended the meeting; no formal comment was received</li> </ul>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Montgomery Co. October 21, 2015</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 people attended the meeting; no formal comment was received</li> </ul>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Greene Co. October 22, 2015</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 people attended the meeting; one formal comment was received</li> </ul>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 additional comments were received via postal service and the online-comment card</li> </ul>



Outreach	Contents	Attendance/Comments
<b>April 6, 2016 – 4 pm to 6 pm, MVRPC Offices</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Printing public notices in the Dayton Daily News and La Jornada Latina (English and Spanish)</li> <li>• Printing ¼ page ad in the Dayton City Paper</li> <li>• Submitting press releases to all local newspapers, television, and radio stations (165)</li> <li>• Sending letters to individuals/ agencies who have requested to be notified about public participation meetings (600)</li> <li>• Sending letters and promotional posters to all the public libraries in Montgomery, Greene, and Miami Counties</li> <li>• Displaying promotional posters in English and Spanish at all the GDRTA Hubs and E-mailing promotional posters to Miami County Transit and Greene CATS</li> <li>• E-mailing promotional posters (English and Spanish versions) to the Latino Connection</li> <li>• Announcing the meeting on MVRPC’s website and social media platforms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update Overview</li> <li>• Air Quality Analysis</li> <li>• Fiscal Constraint Analysis</li> <li>• Safety and Performance Management</li> <li>• Transportation System and Congestion Analysis</li> <li>• Community Impact Assessment</li> <li>• Environmental Mitigation Analysis</li> <li>• Congestion Management Projects – Transit</li> <li>• Congestion Management Projects – Bikeway and Pedstrian</li> <li>• Congestion Management Projects - Roadway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 people attended the meeting; no formal comments were received.</li> </ul> 

## 10.4 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 9). 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 and other 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);
- Offering free parking passes for meetings at MVRPC offices in Downtown Dayton;
- Adapting advertising for ease of understanding, including special articles and flyers;
- Adapting public meeting times and locations for accessibility;
- Advertising at GDRTA Hubs;



- Purchasing public notices in *La Jornada Latina*, an English/Spanish publication, and the *Dayton City Paper*, a free distribution newspaper;
- Offering an English-to-Spanish translator on MVRPC's website; and
- Posting information about upcoming meetings on social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook.

## 10.5 Participation in Other Public Outreach Efforts

During the 2040 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. MVRPC staff were also able to answer any questions that arose in relation to MVRPC's planning activities and the 2040 LRTP.

The following is a partial list of public participation meetings/activities that MVRPC staff attended:

- I-75 Downtown Dayton Sub-Corridor Reconstruction;
- Corridor Upgrades — Montgomery County US 35 Corridor and Greene County US 35 Corridor;
- SR 444 Relocation;
- Comprehensive Bikeways Plan;
- Regional Land Use Initiative;
- GDRTA Strategic Plan;
- ODOT Access Ohio 2040;
- Statewide Managed Lanes Study;
- Various Transportation Safety Studies;
- Dayton Mall Area Master Plan;
- Greater Downtown Dayton Plan and Dayton Transportation Plan;
- Jefferson Township Future Land Use Strategic Planning; and
- Comprehensive Planning Efforts — City of Fairborn, City of Xenia, and Five Rivers MetroParks;

## **10.6 Consultation Requirements in the FAST Act**

The FAST Act 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 contact 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. A subset of these groups was also invited to the LRTP work group meetings (see Figure 5.2). All 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.

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