

CHAPTER 11

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION

11.1 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 sponsors and stakeholders, 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 June 2020. 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 2050 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.

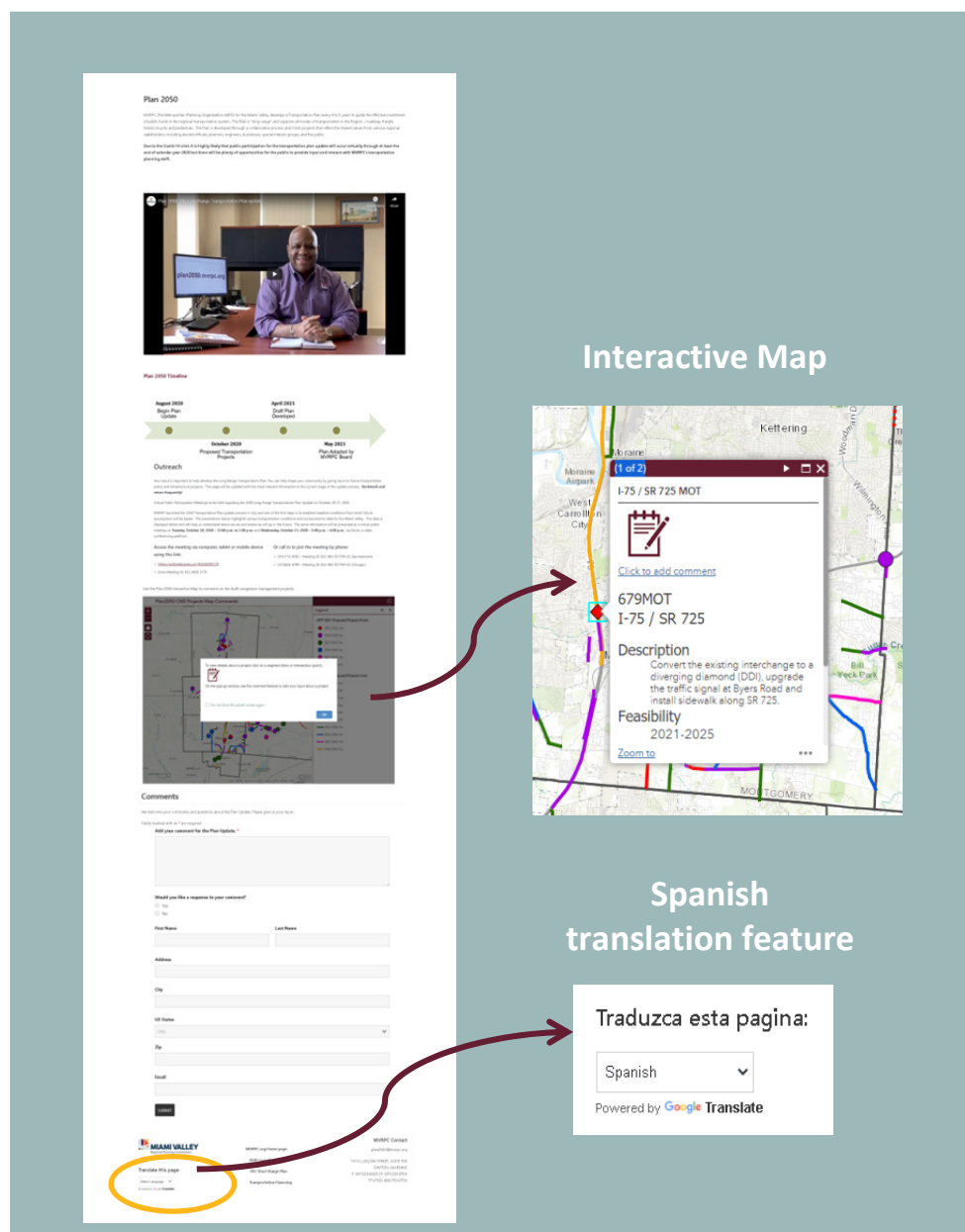
It is also important to note that the Plan update took place during the Covid-19 pandemic, as such public participation was primarily conducted in a virtual environment by using Zoom meetings and relying on plan2050.mvrpc.org to communicate information. However, recognizing that not every person has access or is proficient with the internet, other methods such as reviewing information at the MVRPC offices and the use of postage-paid mail back comments cards were also employed.



11.2 Plan2050.mvrpc.org Webpage

For the May 2021 Update of the 2050 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 June 2020 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. Figure 11.1 depicts the various webpage features including the ability to view website content in Spanish by using an online translator.

Figure 11.1 — Features and Content: plan2050.mvrpc.org



11.3 Public Participation Meetings

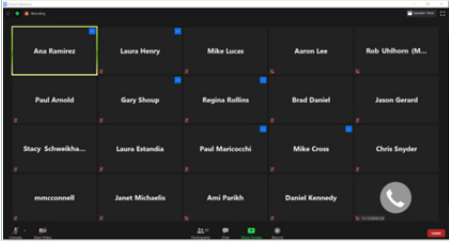
Beginning in August 2020, the public was involved in each step of the 2050 LRTP update process through the use of various tools. Virtual public participation meetings were held to present the latest information pertaining to the update and MVRPC staff was available at the meetings to answer questions. Comments received at the meetings were recorded and reference was made to the online comment cards. 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 during the comment period for each meeting.

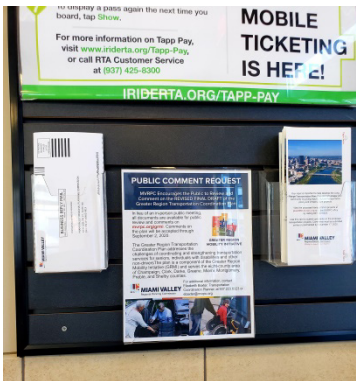
The first phase of the public participation process involved hosting a virtual public participation meeting in August 2020 to provide transportation-related background information used in the development of the LRTP, most notably related to expanding the plan horizon to 2050. The second phase included presenting the draft list of multimodal transportation projects in two virtual participation meetings in October 2020.


Finally, the last phase of public participation took place in April of 2021, through a virtual public meeting format, to present the final draft 2050 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 2050 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 11.1 provides a brief summary of each meeting.

Table 11.1 — Public Participation Meeting Summary

Outreach	Contents	Attendance/Comments
August 19, 2020 – 5 to 6 PM, via Zoom		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Printing public notices in the Dayton Daily News and ¼ page ads in La Mega Nota (English and Spanish) and Dayton Weekly, a minority focus newspaper, announcing the meeting. Submitting press releases to all local newspapers, television and radio stations – approximately 89 media outlets. Sending e-mails/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 FAST Act legislation – over 700 individuals/agencies. Sending letters and promotional posters to all the public libraries in Montgomery, Greene and Miami Counties. Displaying promotional posters in English and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoom meeting instructions 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Update Overview 2050 Long Range Transportation Goals Safety and Congestion Conditions Alternative Transportation Modes (Passenger & Freight) Community Impact Assessment 2050 Land Use and Socioeconomic Projections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 people attended the meeting. 13 comments were received by various platforms. 

Outreach	Contents	Attendance/Comments
<p>Spanish at the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority hubs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-mailing promotional posters to Miami County Transit and Greene CATS. E-mailing promotional posters (English and Spanish versions) to the Latino Connection for distribution. Announcing the meeting on MVRPC's website. Promoting the meeting using Twitter and Facebook, including 3 boosted posts. Posting the information, which was to be presented at the meeting, on plan2050.mvrpc.org along with an online comment card. Conducting a survey to gauge the Region's satisfaction with the availability and condition of the existing transportation infrastructure and to set priorities for the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessibility Analysis for Basic Services Transportation Performance Management Smart Mobility 	
October 20, 2020 – 5 to 6 PM and October 21, 2020 – 12 to 1 PM, via Zoom		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Printing public notices in the Dayton Daily News and ¼ page ads in La Mega Nota (English and Spanish) and Dayton Weekly, a minority focus newspaper, announcing the meeting. Purchasing ads on WDTN, WHIO, Spectrum News, and Spotify. Submitting press releases to all local newspapers, television and radio stations — approximately 89 media outlets. Sending e-mails/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 FAST Act legislation – over 700 individuals/agencies. Sending letters and promotional posters to all the public libraries in Montgomery, Greene and Miami Counties. Displaying promotional posters in English and Spanish at the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority hubs. E-mailing promotional poster to Miami County Transit and Greene CATS. E-mailing promotional posters (English and Spanish versions) to the Latino Connection for distribution. Announcing the meeting on MVRPC's website. Promoting the meeting using Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram including 3 boosted posts. Posting the information, which was to be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoom meeting instructions Overview of online project map and online comment card Draft Congestion Management Projects List and Maps Transit Service Long Range Plan Assumptions 2021-2050 Regional Bikeway & Pedestrian Network Project List and Map 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 people attended the meetings. 21 comments were received by various platforms. 

Outreach	Contents	Attendance/Comments
<p>presented at the meeting, on plan2050.mvrpc.org along with an online comment card.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributing postage-paid comment cards at all Dayton Metro Library locations and GDRTA hubs–625 cards total. 		
April 14, 2021 – 5 to 6 PM, via Zoom		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Printing public notices in the Dayton Daily News and ¼ page ads in La Mega Nota (English and Spanish) and Dayton Weekly, a minority focus newspaper, announcing the meeting. Printing ¼ page ad in the Dayton Daily News. Purchasing ads on YouTube. Submitting press releases to all local newspapers, television and radio stations – approximately 89 media outlets. Sending e-mails/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 FAST Act legislation – over 700 individuals/agencies. Sending letters and promotional posters to all the public libraries in Montgomery, Greene and Miami Counties. Displaying promotional posters in English and Spanish at the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority hubs. E-mailing promotional poster to Miami County Transit and Greene CATS. E-mailing promotional posters (English and Spanish versions) to the Latino Connection for distribution. Announcing the meeting on MVRPC’s website. Promoting the meeting using Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram including 4 boosted posts. Posting the information, which was to be presented at the meeting, on plan2050.mvrpc.org along with an online comment card. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Update Overview Air Quality Fiscal Constraint Analysis Safety and Performance Management Transportation System and Congestion Analysis Community Impact Assessment Environmental Mitigation Analysis Congestion Management Projects – Transit Congestion Management Projects – Bikeway and Pedestrian Congestion Management Projects – Roadway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 people attended the meeting; numerous comments were received at the meeting and through the online comment tools. 

11.4 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 10). 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 and other traditionally disadvantaged populations (low-income, minority, elderly, and disabled);
- Adapting advertising for ease of understanding, including special articles and flyers;
- Expanding advertising to online platforms (e.g. YouTube, Spotify) to reach a more diverse population;
- Adapting public meeting times and locations for accessibility;
- Advertising at GDRTA Hubs and public libraries;
- Purchasing public notices in *La Mega Nota*, an English/Spanish publication, and Dayton Weekly, a minority distribution newspaper;
- Sending public notices to the Latino Connection and East End Community Services Corporation that is then forwarded by email to their membership;
- 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.
- Publicizing that parking ticket validation is available for public meetings at the MVRPC offices.

11.5 Participation in Other Public Outreach Efforts

During the 2050 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 stakeholder 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 2050 LRTP.

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

- Corridor Upgrades — Montgomery County US 35 Corridor and Greene County US 35 Corridor;
- IR70/75 Logistics Improvement;
- SR 725 Interchange Improvement;
- North Main Street Safety Study;
- GDRTA Strategic Plan;
- Dayton Airport Master Plan;
- ODOT Access Ohio 2045;
- Walk.Bike.Ohio;
- Drive Ohio;

- Numerous Transportation Safety Studies and Road Safety Audits;
- Greene County Thoroughfare Plan;
- Greene County Trails Master Plan;
- Village of Yellow Springs Active Transportation Plan;
- Dayton Transportation Plan;
- Dayton Large School District Safe Routes to School Plan;
- Dayton Children’s Community Health Needs Assessment;
- Alternative Fuel Corridor Designation and Plan;
- Complete Streets Assistance — City of Troy and Village of Yellow Springs; and
- Comprehensive Planning Efforts — City of Bellbrook Downtown Assessment Study, City of Clayton, City of Dayton Choice Neighborhood Plan, City of Dayton Huffman Neighborhood Plan, City of Fairborn Housing Strategy Study, City of Miamisburg Siebert Neighborhood Plan, Dayton Riverfront Plan, City of Troy Downtown Riverfront Strategic Development Plan, Greene County Land Use Plan, Harrison Twp. Forest Park Area Plan, and Miami Twp. Comprehensive Plan.

11.6 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 700 agencies and individuals. A subset of individuals representing these groups was also invited to participate in a survey to gauge the Region’s satisfaction with the availability and condition of the existing transportation infrastructure and to set priorities for the future at the onset the update process. The results of the survey can be found in the Public Participation Summary.

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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