

Chapter 3 - Public Involvement

The Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization and its public officials highly value citizen participation in public decision-making processes. The MRMPO Policy Committee adopted a Public Participation Plan in August 2014 which outlines the methods, strategies, and desired outcomes for public involvement regarding the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP):

“Updated every four years, the RTP is a long-range (20-year) plan that contains the region’s goals and policies, projects, funding forecasts, strategies, and projected demands on the transportation system. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) discussed the plan update over several meetings. The MRMPO hosted three open house sessions, a 30-day comment period and public hearing. Comments received will be responded to and included in the final document.

The draft RTP, and other research, as needed, is posted on the website and mailed to interested parties. Open house meetings are advertised in the newspaper, on the website and by mailing to individuals and organizations on transportation mail lists.

A. Continuous Outreach

Throughout the development of the Plan, members of the public were provided opportunities to comment at all meetings of the Policy Committee. All material (agendas, minutes of the meetings, draft documents, etc.) were made available on the MRMPO website.

B. Community Outreach

In addition to the continuous outreach effort, special outreach and public involvement opportunities were structured into the process. These included vision and goals workshops, open houses, and final public meetings.

1. Public Meetings

During the initial part of the planning process, three workshops were held to gather public input on the Plan’s Goals and Policies. Notices for each workshop were posted on the MPO website and were published in the *Grants Pass Courier and Rogue River Press* newspapers. Interested citizens and members of the area’s transportation related committees were emailed regarding notification of the events. Public input from the workshops helped to further refine the Plan’s Vision and Goals and identify transportation issues to be addressed by the Plan.

In January and February 2016, the MRMPO held three public workshops on the draft 2015-42 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), 2015-18 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and Air Quality Conformity Determination (AQCD). The workshops were held in Grants Pass, Rogue River and Gold Hill. In addition to the public workshops, the MRMPO hosted a virtual open house where interested parties could use the internet to access information about the RTP, TIP and AQCD and provide comments. All meetings were advertised and copies of the draft

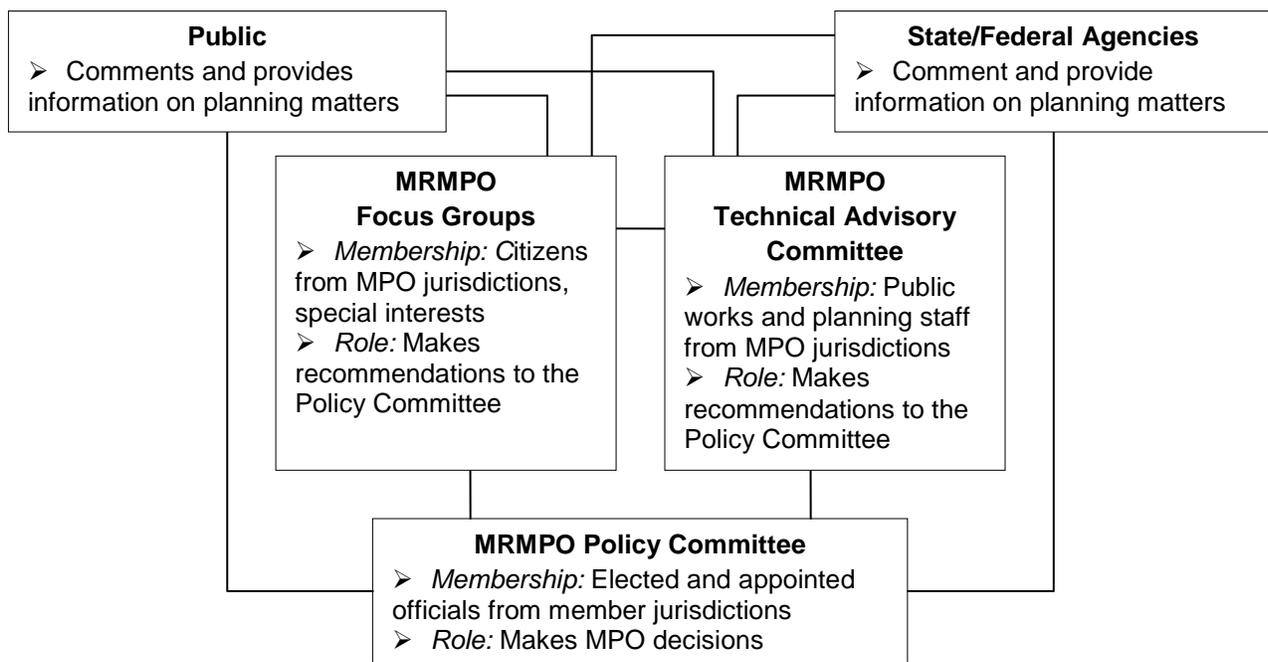
Transportation Plan, TIP, and AQCD were made available to the public. The public was informed of the anticipated adoption schedule and additional opportunities for providing comments.

2. Public Hearing

The MRMPO Policy Board held a public hearing on March 17, 2016 to receive public testimonies prior to deliberations on the RTP. A summary of written comments was provided to the Policy Committee. The public was also informed about the adoption schedule of the Transportation Plan.

The MRMPO organizational structure chart below, illustrates how the public may participate in decision-making.

Figure 3-1 MRMPO Organizational Structure



C. RTP Planning Process

Development of this RTP update occurred over a two-year period and involved close coordination with member jurisdictions at both the staff and policy level. Critical parts of the plan, including the forecasts, policy statements and project selection were developed in MRMPO TAC meetings, individual consultation with jurisdictions and public review and comment. Drafts of data and analysis were posted on the MRMPO web site. Meetings at which plan components were discussed were announced by email. Meetings also were advertised from time to time in the local news media. Activities were conducted according to standards and requirements of the MRMPO Public Participation Plan. The participation plan, adopted in 2014, establishes goals to provide citizens and interested parties with reasonable opportunities

to participate in the metropolitan transportation planning process. Beyond efforts to provide information to the public, this goal encompasses a wide range of strategies and activities to enable the public to be involved in a meaningful way in the MRMPO's decision-making process. Ultimately, efforts to bring more voices and wide-ranging interests to the table will yield better planning results.