



Members of the public attend a hearing for the 2001 Long Range Transportation Plan

1. Historical Perspective

Every two years, the Hillsborough County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) updates its Public Participation Plan (PPP). Formerly called the Public Involvement Plan, the PPP outlines a proactive public participation process for the TPO's transportation planning initiatives. Established in 1998, the PPP includes public notices, complete access and input to important decisions, and support of community involvement. The TPO also evaluates its effectiveness, coinciding this evaluation with the PPP update.

Categories to Measure the Effectiveness of Public Participation



Visibility & Productivity

Visibility corresponds to the initiatives and products the TPO produces to increase the agency's engagement with the public. Productivity is the output of the TPO's tasks.



Participation Opportunities

Participation opportunities are the full extent of options the public has to interact with the TPO. Opportunities range from in-person and virtual meetings to online surveys. The TPO measures the effectiveness not just in availability, but in whether participation opportunities are accessible, time-sensitive, understandable, and meaningful.



Public Interest & Feedback

Public interest and feedback is collected through surveys, comment cards, emails, phone calls, walk-ins, and other forms intended to provide a range of options for inclusion. To seize new opportunities to receive public input, the TPO has also successfully engaged the public over social media and in event-specific chatrooms.



Input Results

Input results are the direct and indirect impacts that public feedback has on the TPO's reports, plans, and other activities.

Furthermore, the TPO measures its public participation with minorities, low-income individuals, and the transportation disadvantaged. The measures continue to be intertwined into four major categories, such as tracking the number of notices published in non-English newspapers and recording the number of events held in Environmental Justice areas.



Visit Appendix 1 to view the major areas of evaluation for the public participation program and the corresponding metrics from Public Participation Measures of Effectiveness.

A Timeline of the TPO's Measures of Effectiveness Report

2010

The TPO updated the PPP to more clearly define procedures for notification and public participation. This update included new acronyms, an expanded toolbox, and a new Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan. Amended in 2012, the PPP was adopted by the TPO along with an updated LEP Plan.

2014

The TPO amended the PPP to incorporate recommendations of its 2013 federal certification review which called for simplifying the document, its downloading process, and agency website.

2015

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) updated its MPO Program Management Handbook, incorporating principles of Environmental Justice (EJ) in programs and policies to ensure and document meaningful involvement by minority and low-income communities and scrutinize demographic data to ensure that planning activities will not have disproportionately high or adverse impacts on underserved communities,

2018

The TPO adopted a Nondiscrimination Plan, which addressed requirements under a presidential EJ executive order, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act and several other statutes. Collectively, these protected populations are called "Communities of Concern."

2018

The TPO updated its Public Participation Plan (PPP) in June 2018. The plan clarified the requirements, notices, procedures, and strategies that the TPO undertakes in its public participation initiatives. In refining the PPP process, the TPO recognized and integrated the components of the 2018 Title VI/Nondiscrimination Plan Update, which included guidance for engaging with Communities of Concern, Environmental Justice, and Limited English Proficiency populations to enhance the PPP. This allowed for the exploration of some engagement technologies and tools that were suggested.



The Hillsborough TPO has been and continues to be fully compliant with federal and state requirements pertaining to public participation, including: §450.316, §450.322, §450.324, and §450.326 in Chapter 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Limited English Proficiency Executive Order 13166; Florida Statute 339.175; and Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law.