



Members of the public attend the 2020 Garden Steps kick-off

2. Public Participation

It is important to hear from the public about whether TPO plans and studies are on target to meet their needs. Public participation is not only an essential piece in guiding TPO decisions but required to ensure the TPO meets federal guidelines. Therefore, the TPO uses the following areas to measure the effectiveness of its public participation process:

- *Provide opportunities for involvement*
- *Be inclusive of constituencies*
- *Be responsive to participants*
- *Be creative and flexible*
- *Maximize exposure, minimize costs*

The TPO's evaluation also coincides with the PPP update. At the conclusion of the review of TPO performance in each of these areas, there is an opportunity to refine the PPP process by formal amendment. Other opportunities to enhance performance may occur as a result of ongoing feedback, periodic surveys, or with the update of the PPP that accompanies the launch of each LRTP update.

Public Participation Performance Areas: An In-Depth Look



Provide opportunities for involvement

We will be open, meaningful, and organized to encourage convenient public participation.

We will consider the needs of the public regarding accessibility, scheduling, location, format, and language of informational materials.

We will allow for informed, constructive exchanges with the public, using unfamiliar transportation terminology as infrequently as possible, and encouraging exploration of the many competing transportation objectives.



Be inclusive of constituencies

- We will identify stakeholders and other interested members of the public for studies and projects
- We will identify strategies to bring information about those studies and projects to identified groups
- We will include outreach to “Communities of Concern” that require special attention to facilitate their participation in the planning process per the TPO’s 2021 Nondiscrimination and Equity Plan.
- We will engage neighborhoods and groups which may be affected by proposed projects, exploring new and creative ways to better engage the community



Be responsive to participants

- We will facilitate public discussions while being respectful of everyone’s time.
- We will provide clear and concise informational materials, addressing participant concerns and allowing citizens to form and express their independent views.
- We will document and give full consideration to all public involvement activities in all TPO decision-making processes and convey these activities to implementing agencies for their consideration.



Public Participation Performance Areas: An In-Depth Look

Provide a transparent and predictable process

- We will be understandable and communicated to citizens well in advance of plan considerations.
- We will allow staff, citizens, and officials to plan their time and effectively apply their resources.

Be creative and flexible

- We will review the PPP periodically to ensure that it meets the needs of the public and the TPO.
- We will continue to evolve the PPP and include new avenues of communication to further augment TPO public outreach.

Maximize exposure, minimize costs

- We will coordinate the public participation process with local, federal, and statewide public involvement processes whenever possible.
- We will enhance public consideration of issues, plans, and programs while reducing redundancies and minimizing costs.

