

Appendix D: Public Participation Plan and supporting documents

This Regional Mobility Plan update development and review followed the guidelines adopted in the TPO's Public Participation Plan. Most of the discussion on the methods used to involve the public and seek participation is in Chapter 2 of this document. The consultation process is outlined here.

Consultation with Interested Parties

The TPO will provide notice of upcoming public review meetings or review periods being held on the draft and final LRMP and the draft and final TIP. Notice will be provided to known interested parties:

- public transportation employees
- freight shippers
- providers of freight transportation services
- private providers of transportation
- users of public transportation
- users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle facilities
- disabled
- elderly
- low-income
- limited English-speaking populations
- providers of non-emergency transportation services receiving financial assistance from a source other than title 49, U.S.C., Chapter 53.

Amendments to the LRMP or TIP requiring an air quality conformity analysis (e.g., addition of a regionally significant project) shall also require consultation with interested parties and other appropriate public review activities.

Consultation with Federal, State and Local Agencies

In developing the LRMP and TIP, the TPO shall consult, as appropriate, with local and regional agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities within the Knoxville area. This consultation shall include, as appropriate, contacts with regional, local and private agencies responsible for planned growth, economic

development, environmental protection, airport operations, freight movements, land use management, natural resources, conservation and historic preservation.

An increased emphasis is placed on consultation with resource agencies responsible for natural resource management and historic preservation. The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) took the lead in establishing consultation procedures, and the TPO will contact federal and state agencies using the agreed upon process. Formal coordination with these agencies will help to identify effective mitigation strategies for potential impacts of projects included in the TPO's Long Range Mobility Plan (LRMP).

TDOT's Consultation Procedure

Each state and federal agency identified by TDOT and listed in the Public Participation Plan document was sent a letter asking them to supply TDOT with all available conservation plans, maps and inventories of natural and historic resources, as well as a list of potential areas in which to carry out environmental mitigation activities, if available and appropriate. Appropriate mitigation strategies for these areas were also requested. Additionally, each agency was also asked to provide TDOT copies of any ongoing updates and additions to those materials.

The TPO will compare proposed transportation improvements in their area to the agencies' plans, maps, inventories, etc. to assess potential environmental impacts. The assessments will be included in the draft Mobility Plan document, to be circulated to the public and to the environmental agencies for at least 30 days prior to adoption.

The LRMP and TIP shall be developed with due consideration of other related planning activities within the Knoxville area, including the design and delivery of

transportation services within the area that are provided by:

- recipients of assistance under title 49, U.S.C., Chapter 53;
- governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations (including representatives of the agencies and organizations) that receive federal assistance from a source other than the U.S. Department of Transportation to provide non-emergency transportation service; and
- recipients of assistance under 23 U.S.C. 204.

Interagency agreements will be maintained between the TPO and other local and regional agencies such as the Lakeway MPO, East Tennessee North Rural Planning Organization (RPO), East Tennessee South RPO and the East Tennessee Development District. The agreements will describe the TPO's role and responsibility in relation to the other agencies' work