

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Public Involvement Plan Objectives

The purpose of the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is to educate and inform as many members of the public as possible about the South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan 2011-2040 (LRTP). The key objectives of the PIP are:

- To obtain input on important transportation issues, needs, projects and priorities from key stakeholders during the development of the plan;
- To provide the public the opportunity to learn about the metropolitan transportation planning process, and to review and provide input on the plan;
- To provide the opportunity for the TTAG and MPO to review and comment on the draft plan and to approve the draft plan for public review; and
- To comply with federal requirements regarding public participation in the development of the long range transportation plan.

Public involvement will be an ongoing process that takes high priority throughout the planning process of the LRTP. A variety of media will be used in order to provide maximum opportunity for public input, including (1) media releases in the region's newspapers, (2) public information sessions, (3) the availability of the Draft Plan at the main branches of town libraries, and at SWRPA offices, and (4) the posting of the Draft Plan on the SWRPA website. As soon as the final Plan is adopted, a media release will be issued to notify the public and the final document will be made available on the SWRPA website.

Technical and Policy Committees Outreach

The Transportation Technical Advisory Group (TTAG) and the South Western Region MPO (SWRMPO) will be consulted throughout the development of the LRTP Update. The LRTP Update will be an agenda item at regularly scheduled TTAG and MPO meetings, at which public input opportunities are always provided. Media releases have been and will continue to be issued, as follows:

Meeting	Date	Location
TTAG	May 12, 2010	SWRPA Offices
TTAG	September 8, 2010	SWRPA Offices
MPO	September 23, 2010	Norwalk Transit District
MPO	October 28, 2010	Norwalk Transit District
TTAG	November 17, 2010	SWRPA Offices
TTAG	February 16, 2011	SWRPA Offices
TTAG	March 9, 2011	Darien Town Hall
MPO	March 24, 2011	SWRPA Offices
TTAG	April 6, 2011	Darien Town Hall
MPO	April 28, 2011	Norwalk Transit District

The full agendas and summaries for these meetings are available at <http://www.swrpa.org/Default.aspx?Meetings=52>.

General Public Outreach

In addition to the above-mentioned MPO and TTAG meetings, an extensive effort to engage the public will be undertaken for the LRTP Update. This will include meetings and public information sessions with the Region's town planners, appropriate boards and commissions, elected officials, the business community, and various community, neighborhood and faith-based organizations and groups. These public information sessions will include a PowerPoint presentation that summarizes key elements of the plan.

The Draft LRTP will be made available for a 30 day public review and comment period. As soon as a Draft Plan is available for review, a media release will be issued to the Region's newspapers. The media release will include the dates and locations of all scheduled public information sessions and information on how to provide comments. Individual media releases will also be issued for each public information session and posted on the SWRPA website. In addition, copies of the Draft Plan will be available for review at the main branch of each town library and at SWRPA offices. The draft Plan will also be available for review on the SWRPA web site www.swrpa.org.

All comments received during the 30 day public review period will be acknowledged and included as an appendix to the final document, along with a summary of public involvement opportunities. If at the end of the public review period, no significant changes are warranted the document will be endorsed by the MPO. However if at the end of the public substantive changes are necessary, changes will be made the revised document will be re-issued for a 30 public review and comment period.

With Spanish identified as the second most common language spoken in the Region, public involvement for the LRTP will include additional efforts to engage the Spanish speaking community. The Executive Summary of the LRTP Update will be translated into Spanish and made available online. LRTP-related media releases will be translated into Spanish, and issued to the Spanish Language Media serving the Region. Additional effort will be made to engage the Spanish speaking community, building on existing partnerships and outreach efforts currently underway in the Region's municipalities.

LRTP Website

SWRPA will develop, host, maintain and update a LRTP website at www.swrpa.org. The website will contain the latest study developments including notice of upcoming public meetings, summaries of past meetings, the draft Plan, and study team contact information. The website will also provide a way for interested parties to join a stakeholders group to receive advance notice of upcoming public information sessions. SWRPA will consider ways to incorporate web-based interactive tools such as Facebook, Twitter and See-Click-Fix to promote public participation. The website also will be used to display, and make available for download

all draft and final study products in a timely manner, including translated summaries and media releases. In addition, the SWRPA website includes a link to translate web pages and documents, using Google translate, which can be used to for translation from English into more than 50 languages.

**South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan 2011-2040
Schedule**

Date	Action
1/14/11	MPO Draft AQ Plan (draft list of projects) submitted to CTDOT
1/17/11	AQ Conformity Analysis
February 2011	Draft LRTP is prepared – sent to TTAG week of 2/28 for review (summary, milestones, changes since 2007 plan)
3/9/11	TTAG meeting to recommend that MPO release draft LRTP for public review
3/10/11	Media Release regarding MPO meeting, including mention of LRTP document release and public review period
3/24/11	MPO meeting and approval to release draft LRTP for 30-day public review
3/25/11	AQ Conformity Analysis Complete
3/25/11	Transmittal of AQ Conformity documents
3/25/11	Media release issued indicating commencement of 30-day public review period of LRTP and AQ conformity plan and dates of all public info sessions to be held and point of contact information
3/28/11	30-day public review of LRTP and air quality conformity begins
4/5/11	Public information session #1: 1-3 p.m. @ SWRPA - copies of LRTP available at SWRPA, Town libraries, and posted on SWRPA website.
4/6/11	Public information session #2: TTAG meeting 10 a.m. Darien Town Hall and to recommend that MPO endorse draft LRTP and air quality conformity resolution
4/14/11	Public information session #3: 10-12 p.m. @ SWRPA
4/14/11	Public information session #4: 5-7 p.m. @ SWRPA
4/15/11	Media Release regarding MPO meeting and LRTP endorsement
4/26/11	Public Information Session #5: 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. – City of Norwalk Public Library, 1 Belden Ave., Norwalk
4/26/11	Public Information Session #6: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Town of Westport – Library Plaza, 20 Jesup Road, Westport (weather-permitting)
4/28/11	Public Meeting #7: MPO meeting at 8:15 a.m. to review and endorse Final LRTP and air quality conformity resolution
4/28/11	30-day public review period completed. Public involvement report and response

Date	Action
	summary prepared; draft LRTP revised as needed, and posted on SWRPA website.
4/29/11	Notify CTDOT, FHWA, FTA and other stakeholders of LRTP and air quality conformity endorsement
4/29/11	Media release issued regarding 45-day public review of LRTP for Federal conformity review
4/29/11	45-day public review period begins for Federal conformity review.
4/29/11	Post endorsed LRTP on SWRPA website
4/29/11	Send out media releases of endorsed LRTP
6/13/11	45-day public review period ends. Public involvement report and response summary prepared if necessary; Final LRTP revised if necessary, and posted on SWRPA website.
June 2011	Federal Conformity Finding Issued. (6/29/11 – latest possible date for Federal conformity finding)
June 2011	Federal Conformity Finding to be incorporated into LRTP
June 2011	Final LRTP posted on SWRPA website and published in papers