

CDTC Public Participation Policy Update

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Purpose of the Policy:

- Create a seamless and integrated process of communicating with the public on transportation planning initiatives and providing continuous opportunities for the public to provide feedback.

What is CDTC's strategy?

- **Goal:** Establish a *thorough, inclusive* process that uses *creative* approaches to offer the public *continuous* opportunities to shape the region's transportation system.
- Measure progress
 - Quantity – number of events, press releases, meetings, etc.
 - Quality – reach, accessibility, and user-friendliness
- Develop and strategize public participation through an equity lens to improve planning process, decision-making, and resource allocation
 - Scan for EJ populations
 - Introduce questions into planning process to steer the focus on equity in both process and outcomes (examples of questions on p. 16)

What is in the Public Participation Toolkit?

- 20 different public engagement strategies / ideas (virtual & other)
- Guidance for integrating Virtual Public Involvement (VPI)
- Partner opportunities

Comprehensive list of ongoing CDTC communication initiatives

- Social media
- InMotion Newsletter
- Website
- Linkage Studies

CDTC's Public Participation Goals:



Establish a thorough, inclusive process that uses creative approaches to offer the public continuous opportunities to shape the region's transportation system.



CDTC Public Participation Policy Update

- Planning Committee, Policy Board, and Advisory Committee(s) and schedules
- Major MPO products

Changes from 2015 Public Participation Policy

- Prioritizes equity in development of scope and not as a separate, required assessment
- Defined goals
- Public Participation Toolkit

Next Steps

- Planning Committee approval of draft to be released to the public
- Policy Board (December) approval of draft to be released to the public
- Public Comment period (Dec. 3, 2020 – Jan. 18, 2021 (45 days))
- Present to Planning Committee for adoption (February 2, 2021)
- Present to Policy Board for adoption (March 4, 2021)

Summary of Public Comments

- Define “equity”

CDTC refers to equity in public participation exists when resources and opportunities for participation are distributed in a manner that responds to historic and ongoing disadvantages faced by marginalized groups. Equitable public engagement is mindful of power and privilege within engagement processes, institutions and broader systems. Page 16 of Public Participation Plan will be updated to include definition.

- How are minority and low-income areas defined?

CDTC staff has created demographic parameters using data from the 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS). Threshold values were assigned at the census tract level to identify geographic areas with significant populations of minority or low-income persons. Tracts with higher than the regional average percentage of low-income or minority residents are identified as Environmental Justice populations. Minority residents are defined as those who identify themselves as anything but white only, not Hispanic or Latino. Low-income residents are defined as those whose household income falls below the poverty line.

Category	Regional Rate
Low-income	12.5%
Minority	21.5%