



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (PPP)

Adopted: November 7, 2012

Amended: May 1, 2019



**Staunton Augusta
Waynesboro**
Metropolitan Planning
Organization

112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401
Phone (540) 885-5174
Fax (540) 885-2687
SAWMPO.org

2019

SAWMPO Public Participation Plan

Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO)

Policy Board

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Doug Wolfe – Augusta County

Mack Frost – Federal Highway Administration (non-voting)

Michael Fulcher, Virginia Department of Transportation (non-voting)

Nancy Gourley – Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (non-voting)

Susan Newbrough – Virginia Regional Transit (non-voting)

Terry Short, Virginia Department of Transportation (non-voting)

Phil Thompson – Virginia Regional Transit (non-voting)



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Report Contact and Documentation

Contact Information

Citizens, stakeholders, and interested parties may contact the following for information regarding the PPP, the Title VI Plan, SAWMPO documents, and other public records. Submit oral and/or written comments about any advertised plan, and/or about the SAWMPO and its planning efforts to:

- SAWMPO Secretary/Treasurer
Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC)
112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, Virginia, 24401
Phone: (540) 885-5174
Fax: (540) 885-2687
Email: cspdc@cspdc.org
Website: www.sawmpo.org

Title VI Manager and Additional Assistance

Please submit any inquiries or comments for the SAWMPO Title VI Manager to CSPDC staff at the above contact information. Hearing and voice assistance are available from:

- Virginia Relay for Hearing and Voice Impaired: 7-1-1
- Outside Virginia: Voice 800-828-1140 | Hearing 800-828-1120

Title

Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Public Participation Plan

Authors

Ann Cundy, Transportation Program Manager
Zach Beard, Transportation Planner

Plan Date

2019

Granting/Sponsoring Agencies

Federal Highway Administration
Federal Transit Administration
Virginia Department of Transportation
Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit
Local Funds



112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401

Phone (540) 885-5174
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Abstract

The Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) Public Participation Plan (PPP) describes the SAWMPO's responsibilities, goals, and strategies for engaging the public in its transportation planning work. The original PPP adopted by the SAWMPO on November 7, 2012. The May ___, 2019 amendment ensures that the document is consistent with the SAWMPO's Title VI Plan and the federal fairness and equity requirements outlined in Federal Regulation Code 450.316 under the Federal Highway Administration. This and other SAWMPO documents are on repository at: Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, Virginia, 24401.

Acknowledgements

This Plan was prepared on behalf of the SAWMPO through a cooperative process involving the City of Staunton, City of Waynesboro, County of Augusta, Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration. Administrative support and technical assistance was provided by the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC).

The preparation of this Plan was financially aided through grants from the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

Disclaimer

The SAWMPO ensures non-discrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you have questions or concerns about your civil rights regarding this document, or if you need special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the SAWMPO. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see <http://sawmpo.org/public-participation-title-vi> or call (540) 885-5174.

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RESOLUTION



**Staunton Augusta
Waynesboro**
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112 MacTanly Place
Staunton, VA 24401

Phone (540) 885-5174
Fax (540) 885-2687

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE STAUNTON-AUGUSTA-WAYNESBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION APPROVING THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

WHEREAS, public involvement and participation is an essential part of the metropolitan transportation planning process; and

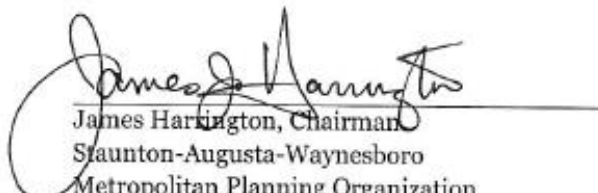
WHEREAS, Title VI and other Federal regulations require an ongoing public involvement process that documents outreach to disadvantaged, low income and minority communities and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, this Public Participation Plan has been developed in consultation with representatives from agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities within the MPO that are affected by transportation, and stakeholders including but not limited to the traditionally underserved and disadvantaged and minority communities; generators and users of freight; representatives of users of public transportation, bikeways, greenways, etc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board does hereby approve and adopt the amended Public Participation Plan on this, the 1st day of May 2019 and in so doing, repeals the Public Involvement Plan approved on November 2, 2012.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:


James Harrington, Chairman
Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro
Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Board



Bonnie S. Riedesel, Secretary/Treasurer
Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro
Metropolitan Planning Organization
Policy Board

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Section 1: Introduction

The Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAWMPO) was established as a result of the designation of the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Urbanized Area (UZA) by the U.S. Census on March 26, 2012. Federal legislation requires that any urbanized area with a population greater than 50,000 have an MPO comprised of representatives of the local jurisdictions as well as state and federal transportation officials. The SAWMPO, comprised of a Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), has the responsibility for transportation policy-making in the urbanized area.

The Policy Board leads the SAWMPO transportation decision-making process in the SAWMPO region to ensure all possible solutions are examined and interests are addressed. The Policy Board is supported by SAWMPO staff, with guidance and technical assistance provided by the SAWMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which is comprised of staff from the SAWMPO's member jurisdictions, BRITE transit, and state and federal agencies. The SAWMPO ensures that current and future expenditures for transportation projects are based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (three-C) planning process that includes local priorities and mutually agreed upon goals informed by public input.

1.1 PPP Requirements

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) outlines the SAWMPO public participation process and reflects the public participation requirements contained in Federal Regulation Code 450.316. The PPP identifies the various methods and ways the SAWMPO works to ensure that the public is properly notified of its activities, and that opportunities to participate in the SAWMPO's short- and long-range planning activities are available to all residents.

Furthermore, this plan describes the standard legal procedures for the development, adoption, and amendment of the SAWMPO's three major MPO transportation planning documents: the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the Unified Planning and Work Program (UPWP), and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

1.2 Relation to the SAWMPO Title VI Plan

Federal regulations require the PPP to be consistent with other federal, state, and regional transportation planning documents. This includes the SAWMPO Title VI Plan, which was developed to ensure SAWMPO follows Title VI and subsequent nondiscrimination regulations, specifically regarding Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice and Executive Order 13166 on Limited English Proficiency (LEP). The Title VI Plan contains environmental justice strategies for minority, low-income, and LEP populations that inform the public participation goals and outreach strategies in the PPP. Both the PPP and Title VI Plan contribute to the overall planning process of the SAWMPO's main plans (see Figure 1).

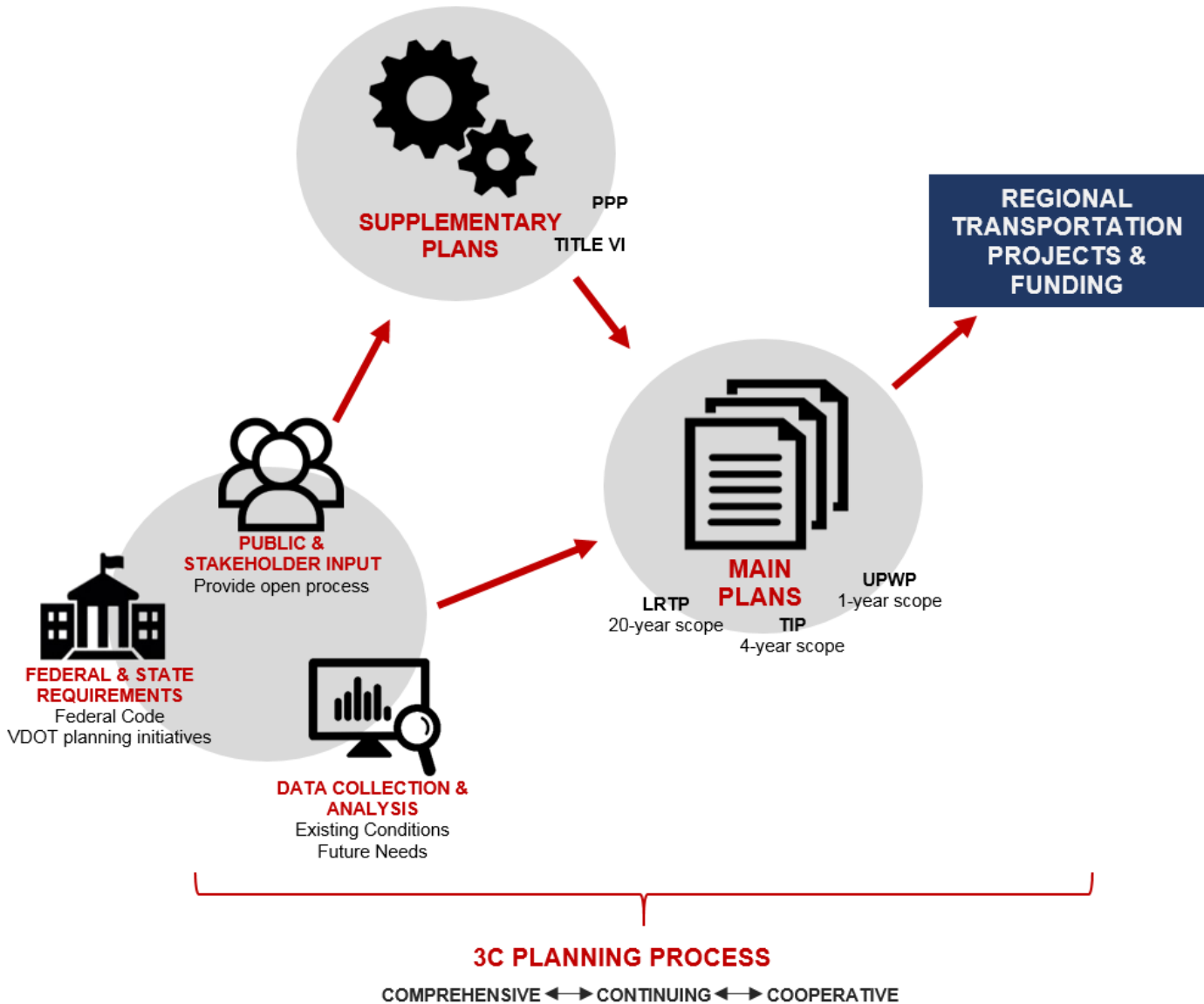
1.3 Periodic Review and Amendment of the PPP

The SAWMPO will review and consider revisions to its PPP on a bi-annual basis to ensure that it remains a dynamic and effective document. Review and amendment of the PPP will be done in consultation with various stakeholders as outlined in Section 2.

2019

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Figure 1: Relationship of SAWMPO Documents



Section 2: Purpose

The SAWMPO values and welcomes public participation in its transportation planning and programming efforts, initiatives, and decision-making processes. The purpose of the SAWMPO PPP is to provide a meaningful planning process that seeks a range of representation in public input from different points of view, different needs, and different backgrounds. Points of view that should be represented are demographics (including race, ethnicity, age, income, disability, LEP, gender, and sexual orientation), economic and environmental impact, education and health backgrounds, all modes of transportation, and geography.

2.1 SAWMPO will include the following stakeholders in the planning process:

- Citizens
- Affected public agencies
- Representatives of public transportation providers
- Freight shippers and providers of freight transportation services
- Private providers of transportation
- Representatives of users of public transportation
- Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities
- Representatives of minority groups, including low-income, disabled, persons with mobility impairments, and LEP populations

Section 3: Goals, Desired Outcomes, and Measures

3.1 The goals of the SAWMPO relative to the public participation process are as follows:

- 3.1.1 Provide complete information on the SAWMPO activities to the public to ensure a full and open participation process; and
- 3.1.2 Provide adequate public notice for public review, input, participation, and comment on key decisions regarding the LRTP, TIP, UPWP, Title VI Plan, amendments to the PPP, and transportation planning initiatives and programs of significance; and
- 3.1.3 Utilize multiple means of public notice to ensure that transportation planning information reaches the broadest possible audience; and
- 3.1.4 Conduct meetings at convenient times and accessible locations; and

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- 3.1.5 Seek out and consider the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income, minority, disabled, seniors, and LEP households who may face challenges accessing employment and other services; and
- 3.1.6 Ensure that federal environmental justice and LEP requirements, and the equity initiatives outlined in SAWMPO Title VI Plan, are always followed
- 3.1.7 Use visualization techniques where appropriate to help describe transportation plans and the TIP; and
- 3.1.8 Demonstrate explicit consideration and thoughtful response to public input received during the development of the LRTP and the TIP and other planning initiatives; and
- 3.1.9 Periodically review the effectiveness of this plan and its procedures and strategies to ensure a full and open participation process.

3.2 The desired outcomes of the SAWMPO relative the public participation process are as follows:

- 3.2.1 An engaged and well-informed citizenry and stakeholders that provides thoughtful and meaningful input and participation to the metropolitan planning process; and
- 3.2.2 A meaningful and effective partnership between citizens, stakeholders, and the SAWMPO Policy Board and TAC; and
- 3.2.3 An effective LRTP and other transportation related plans and programs that address the needs and interests of the community.

3.3 Performance measures to be used by SAWMPO in helping access its effectiveness in achieving its PPP goals and desired outcomes are as follows:

3.3.1 Product and Service Results

- 3.3.1.1 Turnaround Time in Responding to Request for Information for Advertised Plans: SAWMPO staff will respond to a request for information regarding plans advertised for public comment within three (3) working days of receiving a request.
- 3.3.1.2 Turnaround Time in Responding to Request for General Information: SAWMPO staff will respond to a request for information within five (5) working days after such request has been made.
- 3.3.1.3 100% Percent Compliance Findings Resolved: Any compliance findings relative to the PPP will be resolved in a timely fashion.

3.3.2 Employee Training Results

- 3.3.2.1 Title VI Compliance Training: SAWMPO employees will attend Title VI Compliance training as it is available.

- 3.3.2.2 Compliance Training: SAWMPO employees will attend training on the current Federal Transportation Law and other regulatory compliance training as it is available.

3.3.3 *Organizational Effectiveness Results*

Key Plans Receive State and Federal Approval: All key transportation plans (LRTP, TIP, UPWP, and PPP) will receive the appropriate State and Federal approvals.

3.3.4 *Leadership Results*

- 3.3.4.1 Ethical Behavior. The SAWMPO Policy Board, TAC, and Staff will perform their duties and responsibilities in a professional, ethical manner. The target is for zero ethical violations.
- 3.3.4.2 Regulatory Compliance. SAWMPO will strive to achieve 100% compliance with Title VI and other regulations governing the SAWMPO.
- 3.3.4.3 Audit Findings. The SAWMPO's target is to receive an unqualified audit opinion each year.
- 3.3.4.4 SAWMPO Policy Board and TAC Training. Policy and TAC leadership will receive Title VI training as it is available.

Section 4: Public Meeting Location, Notice, and Procedures

The SAWMPO will take a proactive approach to providing an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to be involved in all phases of the transportation planning process and operate in a manner consistent with Title VI Regulations. This section outlines the procedures of all regular SAWMPO meetings and requirements for publication of legal notices. Section 5 provides an overview of public communication, education, and outreach initiatives.

4.1 **Public Meeting Location and Guidelines**

4.1.1 *Location of Regular SAWMPO Policy Board and TAC Meetings*

The location for regular SAWMPO Policy Board and TAC meetings will be held at: CSPDC, 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, Virginia 24401. This facility is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and public transit accessible.

4.1.2 *Location of Public Information Meetings*

Public information meetings will be held at various locations in the Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro County area to inform the public of the planning process and to solicit ideas, input and feedback. Public hearings and public information meetings will be held at locations accessible to and at times convenient to minority and disabled residents. To the extent feasible, meeting locations held within the community will be ADA and public transportation accessible.

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4.1.3 *Public Comment Opportunity*

All regular and special meetings of the SAWMPO Policy Board and TAC, and any other SAWMPO appointed committee, will provide a public comment period after the meeting is called to order and the minutes of the prior meeting have been approved. This comment period may be used by citizens to address their concerns, provide input, etc. to matters on the agenda or of a general nature as long as they relate to metropolitan transportation planning. Additionally, when major plans as articulated in Section 4 are placed on the agenda, public comment time shall be provided as part of the Board's or TAC's discussion of that item. Public comment may also be received about an item or items to be discussed at a meeting via e-mail, mail, etc. prior to the meeting. In these cases, copies shall be provided to the Board and/or TAC members and noted for the public record during the meeting. Explicit attention to and consideration of public comments will be given and responses, when appropriate, provided to questions asked.

4.1.4 *ADA Accessibility and Interpreter Availability*

Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate individuals with disabilities who wish to participate in the public process. Meeting facilities are ADA and public transit accessible. All public hearings will be held in facilities fully accessible to individuals with disabilities and mobility impairments. All written material will be available in accessible formats for the visually impaired (i.e. large print, Braille, and/or audio tapes), or personnel will be available for readings upon request.

Accessible formats for the visually impaired will be provided if needed and requested at least seven working days in advance of a regular and or/special scheduled meeting. Sign language for the hearing impaired and/or LEP interpreters will be provided if needed and requested at least seven working days in advance of a regular and/or special scheduled meeting. Requests for both visually impaired and language services should be made with the SAWMPO Staff identified in the contact section of this Plan.

4.2 **Notice of Public Participation Activities**

Public notice shall be provided for all public participation activities. Public participation activities include:

- 4.2.1 SAWMPO Policy Board meetings, both regular and special
- 4.2.2 TAC meetings, both regular and special
- 4.2.3 Any citizen advisory, ad-hoc or other formal committees that may be established by the Policy Board
- 4.2.4 Other meetings of the SAWMPO Policy Board and/or TAC that are designed to solicit community comment and information on metropolitan transportation planning efforts and/or plans
- 4.2.5 Any approval of the LRTP, TIP, UPWP, PPP, or any other major programs and/or plans; and
- 4.2.6 Any amendment to the LRTP, TIP, PPP; and
- 4.2.7 Any substantive amendment to the UPWP and any other major programs and/or plans.

4.3 **Advisory Committees and Coordination with Federal, State, and Local Agencies**

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4.3.1 *Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)*

The TAC is a permanent committee that is composed of technical, planning, and/or managerial staff representatives from each of the participating agencies of the SAWMPO. Subcommittees of the TAC may be utilized to study issue areas not requiring the full TAC participation.

4.3.2 *Other Advisory Committees*

Other Advisory Committees may be appointed by the SAWMPO Policy Board as it deems appropriate.

4.3.3 *The TAC and other SAWMPO appointed Committee(s)*

These committees will also solicit input and recommendations from other citizen groups and interested stakeholders when reviewing various transportation plans and programs.

4.3.4 *Coordination with Statewide Transportation Planning Process*

The Virginia Department of Transportation Staunton District Civil Rights Manager and District Planner will work with the Committee(s) to provide information and offer assistance on various issues. SAWMPO will actively coordinate and participate with the Commonwealth on the statewide transportation planning process as requested and as appropriate.

4.3.5 *Coordination with Federal, State, and Local Agencies*

SAWMPO will prepare its major transportation plans and programs in consultation with federal, state, and local agencies, including those responsible for land use regulation, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, and historic preservation.

4.4 **Public Notice Requirements for Meetings**

4.4.1 *Regularly Scheduled Meetings*

Public notification for regularly scheduled SAWMPO Policy Board and/or TAC meetings shall be published after the last regular meeting of each year. The notification will include a meeting schedule providing the date, time, and location of meetings and shall be published once in both local newspapers and posted continuously on the SAWMPO website.

4.4.2 *Special Meetings or Rescheduled Meetings*

Public notification for special meetings or rescheduled regular meetings of the SAWMPO Policy Board and/or TAC advising the public of the date, time, and location of the special meeting or rescheduled regular meeting shall be published once in both local newspapers and posted to the SAWMPO website not less than seven calendar days prior to the meeting.

4.4.3 *Special Meetings for the Public*

Public notification for special meetings held within the community for the purpose of presenting plans, gathering public input, and participation shall be published once in local newspapers and posted to the SAWMPO website not less than fourteen calendar days prior to the meeting.

4.5 **Public Notice Requirements for Approval and/or Amendment of Plans**

4.5.1 *Approval of LRTP, TIP, UPWP, Title VI Plan, and Other Major Plans*

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Approval of the LRTP, TIP, UPWP, Title VI Plan, and other major plans shall be subject to public comment. A notice of such plan's consideration, solicitation of public comment, and an invitation to the meeting at which it will be considered for final adoption shall be published once in both local newspapers. Plans will be available for review for a period of not less than 21 calendar days.

4.5.2 *Amendments to LRTP, TIP, Title VI Plan, and Other Major Plans*

Amendments to the LRTP, TIP, Title VI Plan, and other major plans shall be subject to public comment. A notice of such plan's proposed amendment, a solicitation of public comment, and an invitation to the meeting at which it will be considered for final adoption shall be published once in both local newspapers. Plans will be available for review for a period of not less than 21 calendar days.

4.5.3 *Amendments to UPWP*

Substantive amendments to the UPWP that change the scope of work shall be subject to public comment. This includes adding or deleting work plans, but not programs de-programmed in order to be carried forward into the subsequent fiscal year. A notice of such plan's amendment, solicitation of public comment, and an invitation to the meeting at which it will be considered for final adoption shall be published once in both local newspapers. Plan amendments will be available for review for a period of not less than 21 calendar days.

4.5.4 *Approval and Amendment to PPP*

Approval of and/or amendments to the PPP shall be done in consultation with the various interested citizens and representatives of interested parties as identified in Section 1 and shall be subject to public comment. A notice of the PPP's proposed adoption and/or amendment, solicitation of public comment, and an invitation to the meeting at which it will be considered for final adoption shall be published once in local newspapers. The Plan will be available for review for a period of not less than 45 calendar days.

4.6 **Approval of Major Plans**

The Policy Board of the SAWMPO will hold the final public hearing and/or meetings, as appropriate and required, on the transportation plans as noted above. After due consideration of all public comments received in writing and/or presented in person at the meeting/hearing, the Policy Board will deliberate upon all information that it has received and make a decision, via Resolution, on the transportation plan in question. However, an additional period of public comment will be provided to stakeholders if the final LRTP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment and raises new material issues which interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts.

4.7 **Public Notice Requirements for Property Owners Impacted by Future SAWMPO Projects**

All adjacent property owners, as well as those property owners within such project study corridors, potentially impacted by future SAWMPO projects shall be notified by direct mailing of the public notice and project location map of the public meeting a minimum of 30 days prior to the meeting. A direct post card mailing to the community/individuals affected by the project may be distributed.

4.8 **Public Notice Methodology for Approval and/or Amendment of Plans & Special Meetings**

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4.8.1 *Newspapers*

Public notice shall be published in the non-legal section of the newspaper. Yearly schedules of meetings will be published in major newspapers within the SAWMPO area, foreign language newspapers, and other media sources as deemed appropriate to reach minority populations. Such notice shall state the date, time, and location of the meetings and where information about the meeting or plan to be considered can be reviewed.

4.8.2 *SAWMPO Website*

All public notices shall be posted on the website under the “Events” tab. Such notice shall state the date, time, and location of the meetings and where information, plans, etc., about the meeting or plan to be considered can be reviewed. The information, in a digital format, shall be posted to the website and linked to the public notice.

4.8.3 *E-Mail/Direct Mail Notification*

A list of interested persons, stakeholders and/or organizations that have requested to receive notification of meetings, copies of agendas, notice when key plans and decisions are to be made shall be maintained by the SAWMPO staff. Notifications as required and articulated in Section 4 shall be sent to those on the notification list. Hard copies will not be sent if those on the list have e-mail.

4.8.4 *Public Agencies*

All interested and affected public agencies, State, Federal, regional and local, shall receive notification as required and articulated in Section 4. Hard copies will not be sent if these agencies have e-mail capability.

Section 5: Public Communication, Education, and Outreach

SAWMPO is committed to providing citizens, stakeholders and interested parties with access to its public records, plans, meetings, and activities. It is also committed to educating the public about metropolitan transportation planning and how it can affect their lives and businesses. The type of public communication and outreach for a project will be determined on the project’s scale and significance. Localized projects may require more specialized outreach within the project area, while others may require extensive outreach efforts throughout the entire SAWMPO region, including traditionally underserved areas.

5.1 **Access to Information**

SAWMPO will provide the public with reasonable and timely access to technical and policy information relating to the data or content used in the development of transportation plans, programs and projects. Documents will be available for public inspection at the office of the SAWMPO staff (Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission) located at 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, Virginia during normal working hours. To the extent feasible, documents will be digitized and made available on the SAWMPO website.

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Copies of draft plans and programs for public review will also be placed at the following locations:

- Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, 112 MacTanly Place, Staunton, VA
- Augusta County Government Center, 18 Government Center Lane, Verona, VA
- Staunton City Hall, 116 W Beverley Street, Staunton, VA
- Waynesboro City Hall, 503 W Main Street, Waynesboro, VA

5.2 Response to Public Input

- 5.2.1 Responses to questions and comments from the public concerning the public participation process, draft transportation plans, programs, or public agency consultation process will be made directly to the individual by email, letter, telephone call, or some other appropriate means.
- 5.2.2 When significant written and oral comments are received on the draft LRTP, TIP, and UPWP as a result of the participation process outlined in the PPP or the interagency consultation process, a summary and analysis of the comments and a report on the disposition of the comments shall be made as part of the final LRTP and TIP.

5.3 Public Education and Outreach

5.3.1 *SAWMPO Website*

SAWMPO Staff will perform routine maintenance and updating and posting of materials on the SAWMPO website, to include but not be limited to: public notices for procurement, public comment, public meetings, policy documents of the SAWMPO, meeting schedules, SAWMPO events and activities calendar, major transportation plans including the LRTP, TIP, UPWP, PPP, etc., agendas and minutes of meetings for the Policy Board and TAC, etc.

5.3.2 *Presentations*

SAWMPO officials, staff and volunteers will make presentations as requested by citizen groups, public agencies, or local governmental bodies.

5.3.3 *Public Meetings*

SAWMPO officials, staff, and volunteers will attend public meetings sponsored by member jurisdictions as deemed necessary and appropriate by those jurisdictions and their staff.

5.3.4 *Public Service Announcements*

SAWMPO Staff will provide, as appropriate, public service announcements and interviews on radio and cable television local community channels to explain the subject matter and promote public participation.

5.3.5 *News Articles and Press Releases*

Articles and Press Releases will be provided to local media.

5.3.6 *Open Houses, Roundtables, and Community Forums*

SAWMPO Staff/Officials will provide information presentations at regional sites, open houses, round tables, or other community forums as requested and/or appropriate.

5.3.7 Direct Mailings

Mailings will be provided to select individuals, groups, or organizations that have expressed interest or made comments at meetings when appropriate.

5.3.8 Flyers

Informational flyers will be distributed on public transit buses as appropriate.

5.4 Communication with Public and Community Organizations

- 5.4.1 The SAWMPO will coordinate with the statewide transportation planning public involvement and consultation process, as appropriate.
- 5.4.2 The SAWMPO will identify and communicate with populations traditionally underserved by the transportation network, such as those with disabilities, persons with mobility impairments, LEP, and low-income persons through organizations and media outlets known to serve these populations.
- 5.4.3 The SAWMPO has identified locations of underserved communities using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and has included this mapping data in the Title VI Plan. The SAWMPO will also seek input from these communities throughout the planning phase, and specifically for the TIP and the LRTP updates.

Section 6: Transit and Public Participation

The Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro BRITE public transit program chooses to integrate coordination with the SAWMPO and gives formal public notice in this PPP that the SAWMPO's TIP development process is being used to satisfy BRITE's public participation and public hearing requirements of Section 5307(c).

All public transportation providers in the region may utilize the SAWMPO as an entity to augment their public participation process. To that end, the SAWMPO will comply with transit planning requirements. Each public notice will state that "public notice of public involvement activities and time established for the public review and comments on the TIP will satisfy the Program of Projects requirements," as presented in joint Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Administration environmental regulations "Environmental Impact and Related Procedures" 23 C.F.R. Part 771. A project that requires an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement will involve additional public involvement.