

Promoting Inclusive Public Participation

Goals of Promoting Inclusive Public Participation for the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization hereinafter referred to as LMPO:

- a. Partnerships-To identify, develop and maintain partnerships with citizens, stakeholders, and community and service organizations through the methods described within Promoting Inclusive Public Participation. This includes partnerships with groups and individuals who are identified within the Title VI Plan.
- b. Quality Input and Participation- To provide forums where comments received by LMPO are useful, relevant and constructive, contributing to better plans, projects, and strategies.
- c. Coordination-To continue participation in the metropolitan planning process with the various entities involved with the LMPO to ensure transit plans and projects meet the goals of the Long-Range Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- d. Clarity-To clearly identify the issues on which participants may comment and to communicate to participants how valuable their comments are to the outcome.
- e. Trust- To foster trust with citizens to provide information to improve LMPO.
- f. Diversity- To encourage participation from people representing different socioeconomic, ethnic, and cultural perspectives.

Objectives of Promoting Inclusive Public Participation for LMPO are:

- a. Inclusiveness-LMPO will inform low income, minority and LEP (Limited English Proficiency) populations regarding public meetings and plans that may impact them.
- b. Respect-All comments or recommendations from participants shall be given consideration.
- c. Understandable and Transparent-The information conveyed during the public engagement process will be accurate and will be provided in language that is easily understood.
- d. Accessibility-Meetings will be held in locations which are fully accessible to all Lawton Metropolitan Area participants.
- e. Timeliness-Participation methods will allow for early involvement and be ongoing.

Selection of Meeting Locations

When determining location and schedules for public meetings, LMPO will:

- Schedule meetings at times and locations that are convenient and accessible for minority and LEP communities;
- Coordinate with community organizations, educational institutions, and other organizations to implement public engagement strategies that reach out specifically to members of affected minority and/or LEP communities;

- Consider radio, TV, or newspaper ads that serve LEP populations;
- Provide opportunities for public participation through means other than written communication, such one-on-one interviews or the use of audio or video recording devices to capture oral comments.

LMPO Media (Bi-lingual)

- Print-newspaper and other periodicals
- Website- LMPO has a website that can have bi-lingual announcements
- Radio (if available and appropriate)
- Information public meetings
- Public Hearings with legal notice published prior to the hearing.

The Incorporation of Public Comments into Decisions

All comments and recommendations given through the public participation plan shall be given careful, thoughtful consideration. Because there are a number of ways the public can give input on a proposed fare or service change, all comments shall be assembled into to one package for presentation to the City Transit Trust for consideration before deliberating on any issue.

Identification of Stakeholders

Stakeholders are those who are either directly or indirectly affected by a plan or the recommendations of that plan. Those who may be adversely affected or who may be denied benefit of a plan(s) recommendation(s) are of particular interest in the identification of specific stakeholders. Stakeholders can come from a number of groups including general citizens/residents, minority and low-income persons, public agencies, and private organizations and businesses. Stakeholders may vary based on the plan or program being considered, LMPO will assemble a listing of stakeholders with whom we regularly communicate through email and direct mail.