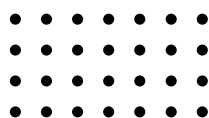




Acadiana
MPO

Public Participation Plan

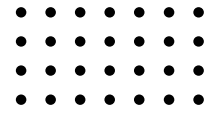
The guide to public participation in the
Acadiana MPO region



WWW.PLANACADIANA.ORG



Executive Summary



23 CFR § 450.316 requires the Metropolitan Planning Organizations develop and use a documented participation plan that allows for all interested parties to have reasonable opportunity to participate in the transportation planning process.

Main Topics



PUBLICATION
OF MATERIALS
AND MEETING
ACCESS



CONSULTATION
AND
COORDINATION



PUBLIC
COMMENT
PROCESS



MPO Composition and Member Entities

The Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a voluntary association of local governments that operates under an intergovernmental agreement and is hosted by the Acadiana Planning Commission (APC). The Acadiana Planning Commission is the designated Louisiana Planning District 4. The MPO serves a smaller planning area for Acadiana, primarily serving the urbanized areas of Acadiana through an agreement between the State of Louisiana and fourteen (14) local governments, including five parishes and nine cities.

MPO Members

Acadia Parish

Lafayette Consolidated
Government

City of Broussard

City of Carencro

City of Lafayette

City of Scott

City of Youngsville

Iberia Parish

City of New Iberia

St. Landry Parish

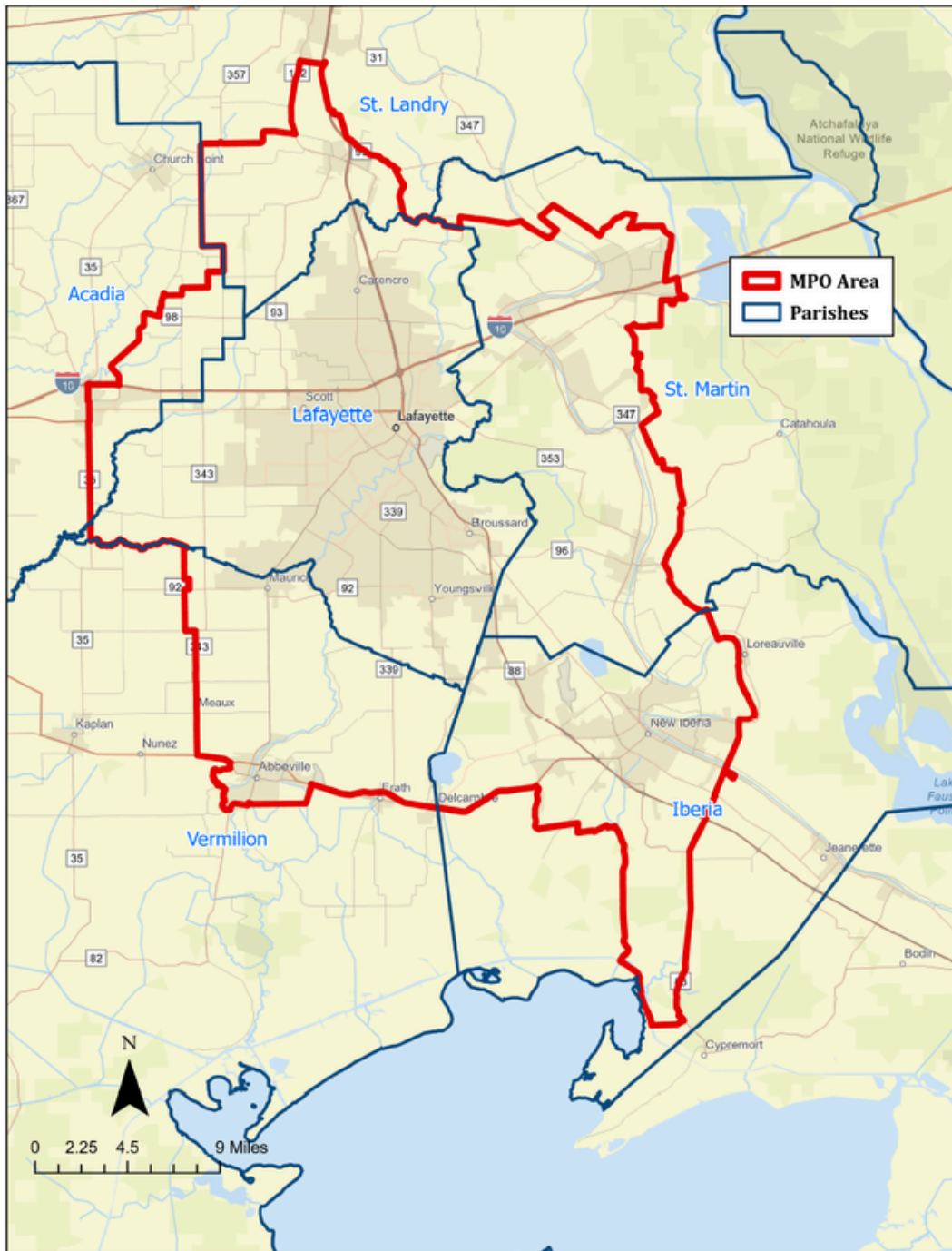
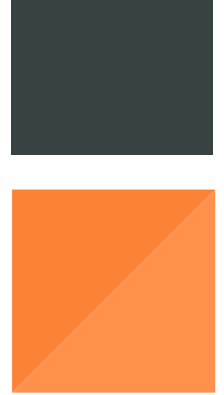
St. Martin Parish

City of Breaux Bridge

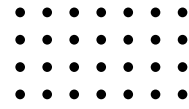
City of St. Martinville

Vermilion Parish

City of Abbeville



Publication of Materials



MPO Website

[APC MPO Website](#)

Social
Media

The MPO utilize two major web-based resources for publishing public information. The Acadiana Planning Commission's website is the repository for current and historical documents. The MPO circulates links to plans and programs undergoing public comment to the libraries in the region for them to post on their own website and print out for their patrons. The MPO also utilizes social media platforms to share up to date information on meetings and documents for public comment.

WEBSITE

The website is the archive for the MPO, and all meetings, agendas, plans, and programs are documented here. The website was updated in 2022 to be mobile-optimized and is easily accessible for all residents of the Acadiana region.

All meeting notices and agendas are posted at least one week before the actual meeting date on the website and social media.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The MPO utilizes Facebook and YouTube to provide documentation of meeting times and ways to participate, as well as notification of postings of plans and programs on the MPO's websites and ways to make a digital public comment.

Social media has the added benefit of opening access to vast swath of community members who would not be able to attend or participate in traditional meetings. Given the high penetration rate of smart phones in the community, in theory 91% of the residents could provide a comment or watch a meeting on their phone.

Visualization Techniques



Story Maps

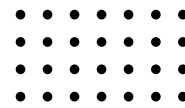
StoryMaps integrate the text of plans and programs with interactive maps, allowing the public and decision makers to conceptualize projects in a more comprehensive fashion. The MPO uses this product extensively in the transportation decision making process, from project evaluation and selection to more programmatic products such the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects and the Title VI Plan.



Google Earth

The MPO utilized Google Earth to show the extent of projects in the TIP for all amendments and modifications. This allows for the committee members to make evaluations on the impacts of projects based on the adjacent land use context. It also allows committee members and the public to review the existing roadway facility and understand how the proposed changes will affect the community.

Meeting Accessibility



Public Meeting Location

Rosa Parks Transportation Center



All meetings are held at the Rosa Parks Transportation Center, a multi-modal center that is a centrally located transit hub for the region. The Center serves as the hub of the Lafayette Transit System; all transit trips in the City of Lafayette originate and end at the hub. This allows for traditionally underserved community members to attend the meeting easily and affordably.

The Center also serves as the local facility for train (Amtrak) and bus (Greyhound) trips, which provides inter-city service between many of the major population centers in the Acadiana region. This includes New Iberia, the next largest city in the MPO area.

All meetings are held at 10 am on Wednesdays. The Transportation Technical Committee meets on the first Monday of the month, and the Transportation Policy Committee meets on the third Monday of the month.

Consulted Parties

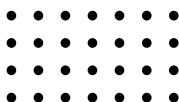
The MPO has two committees that hold meetings to review, comment, and ultimately approve all MPO products. They are the Transportation Technical Committee and the Transportation Policy Committee.

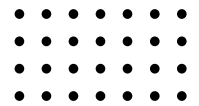
Committee Representative

Committee Membership

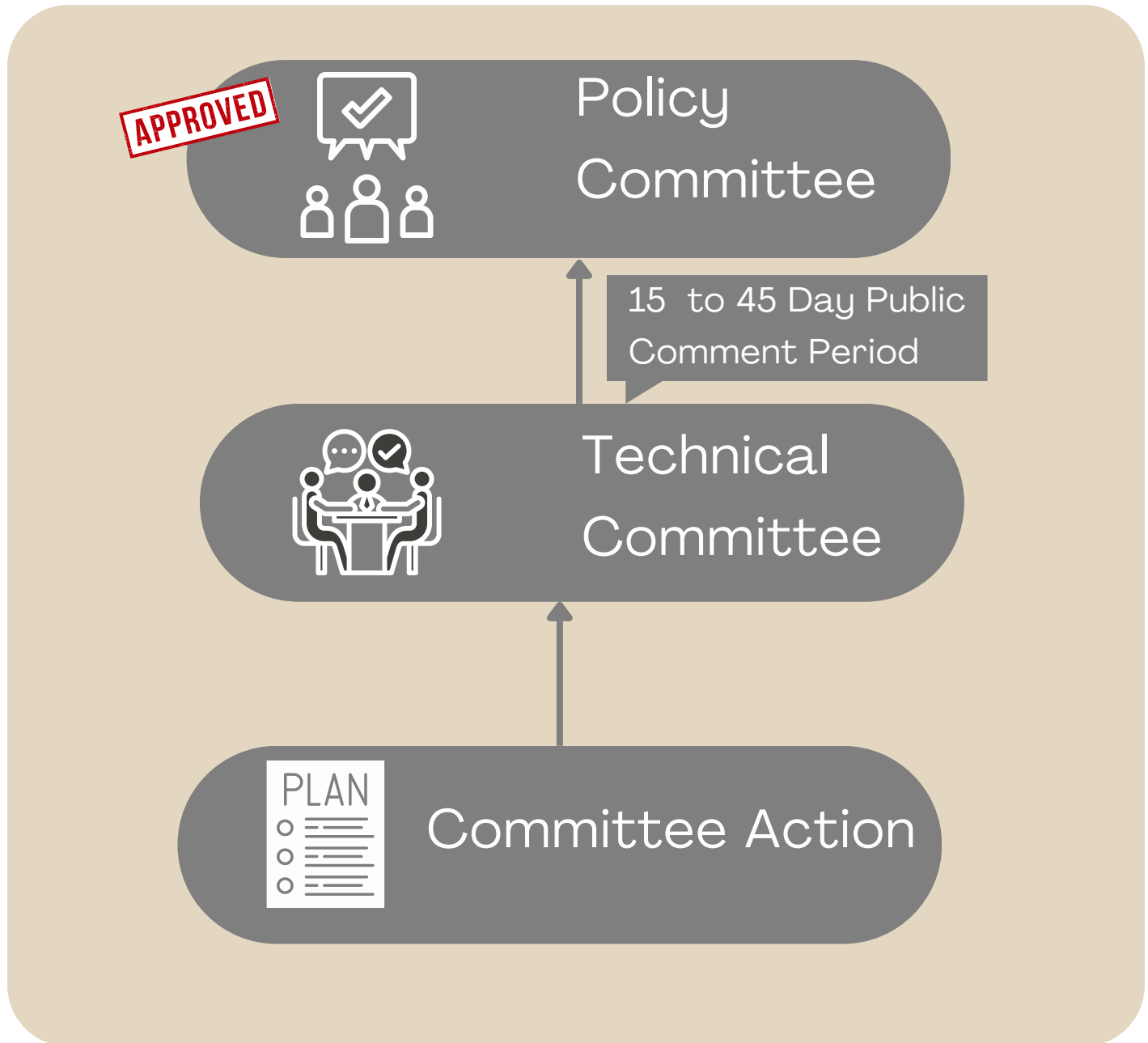
State Transportation Department Staff	TTC and TPC
Elected Officials	TPC
Local Government Public Works Staff	TTC and TPC
Community and Housing Development Staff	TTC
Transit Operators	TTC and TPC
Planning Department Staff	TTC
Freight Operators	TTC
Bike and Pedestrian Engineer	TTC
Airport Operators	TTC

During the meetings, public comment is accepted and documented for all agenda items. This allows for any interested party to provide feedback on MPO plans and programs.





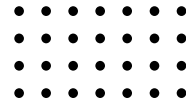
The Transportation Planning Process



In the event that the MPO products, primarily the Metropolitan Transportation Plan or Transportation Improvement Program, differs significantly from the version posted for public comment, the MPO will hold a second comment period and bring the MTP or TIP back on the next Policy Committee Agenda.

The Public Participation Plan is required to have a minimum public comment period of 45 days.

Public Notice Process



Website

The MPO posts all meeting information, planning products, and MPO documentation on the website www.planacadiana.org. The website provides a repository for historical planning documents and project information.

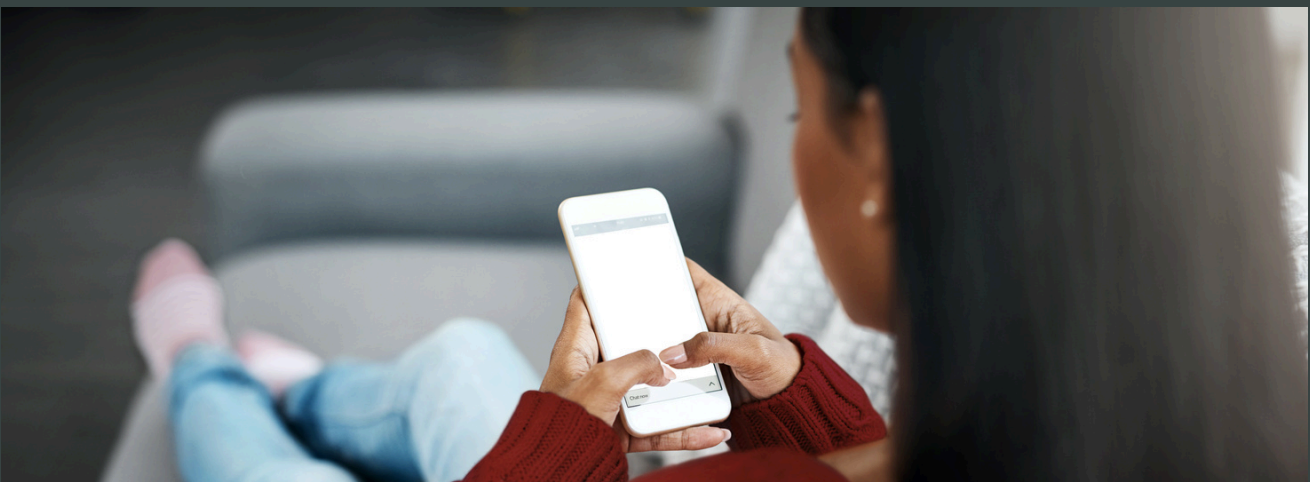
Social Media

The Acadiana Planning Commission maintains an active Facebook page and Youtube channel to provide notice of public comment periods and meeting recordings. Posts are made with links to the plans and the ability to make public comment via social media. These platforms are optimized for utilization via smartphones, which has a penetration rate of 91% of the population of the US*.

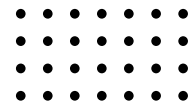
Libraries

The MPO distributes all plans and public comment notices to regional libraries for posting in their facilities. The MPO follows up with the librarians to see if any manual public comments were submitted by patrons.

* Demographics of Mobile Devices 2024, Pew Charitable Trust



Public Participation in MTP and the TIP



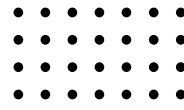
Transportation Improvement Program

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) adoption and amendment process follows the standard public participation procedure as for all MPO plans and programs. The draft TIP, amendments, and modifications are published on the MPO website at least 15 days prior to adoption at the Transportation Policy Committee. The MPO posts the links to the TIP and amendments on social media and provide a platform for community members to make comments on the proposed document. The Transportation Technical Committee also provides comments and guidance on the proposed TIP, and a visualization of the amendments in Google Earth is displayed at all meetings. All public and technical input is then forwarded to the Transportation Policy Committee for their consideration before final adoption.

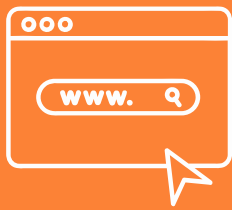
Metropolitan Transportation Plan

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan utilizes a comprehensive public engagement strategy to ensure maximum public input is received at every step in the plan development process. At the start of the development of the plan, a widespread public engagement survey is distributed online and advertised via targeted social media ads. The next step is detailed interviews with stakeholders from across all modes of government to ensure that their regional priorities are taken under consideration in the development of the plan. Several scenarios are then developed from this input, with refinement from the MPO committees and the public using tools such as Storymaps and online polling, until finally a consensus plan is developed and adopted by the Transportation Policy Committee.

Periodic Review of Strategies



Website



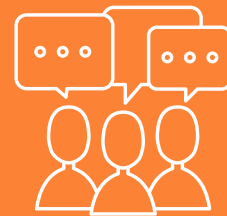
The MPO will annually measure hits to the website to gauge interest on MPO plans and programs.

Social Media



The MPO will annually measure engagement with MPO plans and programs on social media and viewings of meetings on the Youtube channel.

Meeting Attendance



The MPO will annually measure meeting attendance by the public and public comments submitted in order to make adjustments to ensure appropriate accommodations for maximum public engagement.



CFR 450.316 1 (x))

If a review finds a deficiency, the MPO will correct it and try a new strategy.





Statewide Transportation Planning and Consultation

The MPO engages with the statewide transportation planning process through the direction of the DOTD Planning Section, which manages the MPO contract for planning services and has final approval over all MPO plans and projects. The statewide planning engineer for DOTD also sits on the TTC.

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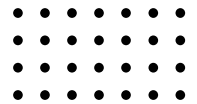
Other agencies are engaged through their seat on the TTC and TPC, including DOTD District 03, Lafayette Transit System, Lafayette Regional Airport, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and all local public agencies that are members of the MPO. In addition, the MPO regularly coordinates project information with LA DEQ, BSNF and Louisiana Delta rail lines, economic development advocates in the region, and the local Chamber of Commerce. The MPO also provides an update on planning activities to the regional Human Services Transportation Committee, which is hosted by the Acadiana Planning Commission.

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Public Participation

Adopted XXX

Revised XXX



FOR MORE INFORMATION



(337) 806-9368



www.planacadiana.org



Lafayette, LA