



GET INVOLVED

"...it is the policy of the Florida Department of Transportation to promote public involvement opportunities and information exchange activities in all functional areas, using various techniques adapted to the local area conditions and project requirements."

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

INVOLVING THE PUBLIC

Public involvement is key to good transportation planning and decision making. The goal of public involvement programs is to ensure that concerns of everyone with a stake in transportation decisions, "stakeholders", are identified and addressed in the development of projects proposed in their communities.

WHO IS THE PUBLIC?

The public is anyone who lives, has an interest in, or does business in a given area potentially affected by transportation decisions. This includes individuals and organized groups. The public involvement program for any project should also



include private and public providers of transportation services: trucking and freight industries, rail passenger industry, taxicab operators and all transit and paratransit service operators.

WHAT IS THE MPO?

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are responsible for transportation planning and programming in urban areas (areas with a population of 50,000 or more). The MPO acts as a liaison between local communities, their citizens, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). MPOs guide how and where available state and federal dollars will be spent for transportation improvements.

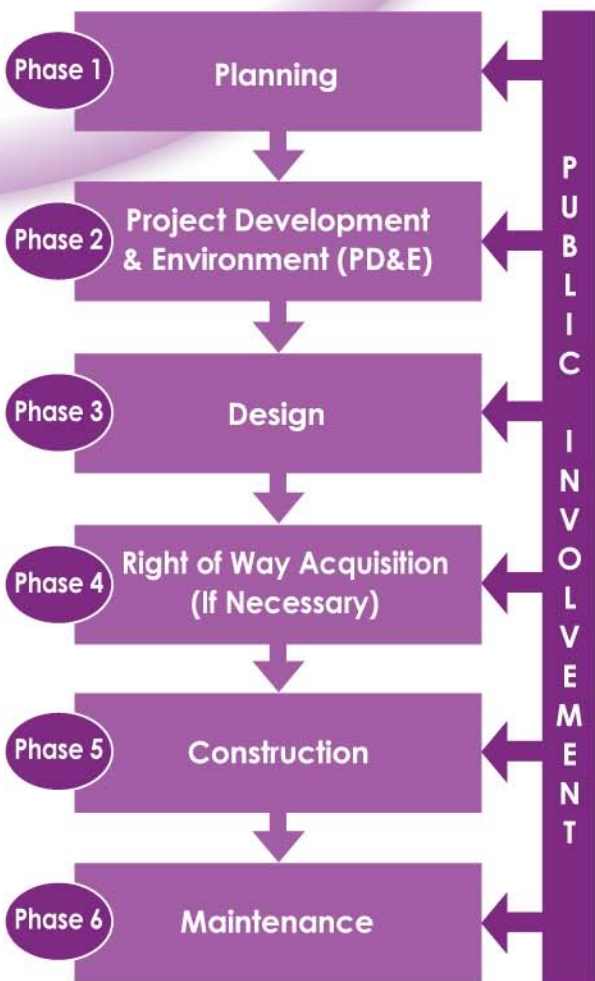
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Transportation helps shape an area's economic health and quality of life. Not only does the transportation system provide for the mobility of people and goods, it also influences patterns of growth and economic activity by providing access to land.



THE LIFE OF A TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

A transportation project begins at the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) where the project is planned and prioritized in the county's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Each year, the prioritized projects are submitted to FDOT for inclusion in the State's work program. Once programmed, the project goes through six phases, as illustrated below.



GET INVOLVED EARLY

Your role in the transportation process is very important. Without your input, state and local governments cannot develop a full understanding of your community's needs. You have insight into your community. You may know information that is more current than what is available to transportation professionals. You may also see things in a different way. That is why it is so important for you to get involved as early as possible.



HERE'S HOW

- ✓ **Put your name on a mailing** list to receive newsletters, updates and other information from FDOT and your MPO.
- ✓ **Attend meetings** of state and regional transportation boards.
- ✓ **Provide your input** on transportation plans and programs.
- ✓ **Volunteer to serve** on a focus group or advisory committee. Each MPO has a citizen's advisory committee. They are always looking for individuals or organizations interested in either serving on the committee or attending regularly scheduled meetings.
- ✓ **Find out** what specific public participation opportunities are available in your area by contacting FDOT, your MPO, transit agency and local government agency.

DEFINITIONS

Long Range Transportation Plan - L RTP

The L RTP is used by transportation officials and decision makers to guide the spending of transportation dollars for improvement projects, within a metropolitan area, over a 20-year period.



Transportation Improvement Program - TIP

The TIP is a list of local, county, state, and federally funded transportation projects, within a metropolitan area, that covers a 5-year period. The TIP is financially constrained, which means the transportation projects within it must either be funded or have identified future funding sources.

Statewide TIP - STIP

The STIP is a list of local, county, state, and federally funded transportation projects, encompassing the entire state.



Transit Development Plan - TDP

The TDP is a 5-year plan that addresses improvements for the transit system.

Sociocultural Effects - SCE

The FDOT has a proactive policy and philosophy regarding the identification of sociocultural effects in project planning and development. The Sociocultural Effects (SCE) evaluation includes social, economic, land use, mobility, aesthetic and relocation issues. This evaluation takes place as part of the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Process. See our brochure on the ETDM Process for more information.



RESOURCES

Additional resources are available to learn about the transportation process.

- Visit the FDOT website at: www.dot.state.fl.us
- Visit the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council website at: www.mpoac.org
- Visit your MPO website:
 - Broward County: www.broward.org/mpo
 - Palm Beach County: www.pbcgov.com/mpo
 - Martin County: www.martinmpo.com
 - St. Lucie County: www.stluciempo.org
 - Indian River County: www.irmpo.com
- Check out the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) publication "A Citizen's Guide to Transportation Decision Making"
www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/decisionmaking
- Check out our other brochures available at the District Four address below:
 - ETDM Process brochure
 - PD&E Study brochure
 - Traffic Noise brochure



MORE INFORMATION

For additional information regarding how to get involved, please contact the Florida Department of Transportation:



3400 West Commercial Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309-3421
Telephone: (954) 777-4601

Or call toll free at (866) 336-8435 ext. 4601