

CHAPTER ELEVEN - PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

The following chapter details the public involvement process for the Metropolitan/Regional Transportation Plan (M/RTP) 2012 revisions. Public involvement information for the 2011 Plan is contained in Appendix J.

JURISDICTIONAL REVIEWS

In compliance with 23 CFR Section 450.316(b), the BFCG in July 1994 adopted "Public Involvement Procedures for Transportation Planning" (last updated in 2008). The proactive process for development of plans and programs affords opportunity for participation by public agencies and officials, private citizens, special interest groups, community groups and organizations, minority groups, and private transportation providers.

Each regional agency/jurisdiction had the opportunity to review and comment on the draft revisions made to the M/RTP throughout the development of the revisions. Simultaneous reviews were made by WSDOT (region and Olympia), the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, and agencies responsible for environmental protection, wildlife management, land management, and historic preservation.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Paid advertisements were published in the Tri-City Herald. The advertisements announced the public meeting held at the BFCG office on Monday, April 16th and the availability of the draft M/RTP revisions for public review on the BFCG website (www.bfcog.us). Requests by individuals for a printed copy could be sent via USPS.

The public meeting included displays of maps and a Power Point presentation with printed copies of the document for review.

A general notice was mailed to local media, state and federal legislators, federal agencies, regional associations, schools, public and private transportation providers, chambers of commerce, minority group organizations, freight-reliant businesses, emergency service providers, bicycle groups and advocates, human service agencies, private industry, and unions. The written notification invited interested parties to sign up for public meeting notification via email at transportation@bfcog.us.

Additional detail and discussion of the public outreach process is available in Appendix J, which contains comments made regarding the revisions to the M/RTP during the public review period beginning April 2, 2012 and ending April 30, 2012.

2010 TRANSPORTATION SURVEY

During the summer of 2009, the BFCG transportation staff requested input from the Tri-MATS committees regarding the public involvement process and how it might be improved. A review of past public involvement efforts and possible new strategies were discussed.

Tri-MATS recommended the following elements be part of public involvement for the update of the M/RTP:

- Transportation Survey
- Focus Group (Several attempts were made to meet with the young professionals of the Community Round Table. Scheduling became a challenge that could not be worked out.)
- Public Meetings

BFCG and Tri-MATS agreed that all public involvement for the M/RTP would be prepared “in-house” using existing resources.

The 2010 Transportation Survey was developed and then approved through the Tri-MATS and BFCG Board.

The survey was web-based using Survey Monkey (www.surveymonkey.com) as the internet location to post the survey and collect responses. The survey was open to the public beginning in February 2010 and closed July 2010. The survey link was emailed to various distribution lists and publicized in the BFCG Newsletter.

The 2010 Transportation Survey titled “*It’s Your Turn*” ran concurrently with the web-based survey for the Columbia River Crossing Study -Tri-Cities. Because of that, BFCG staff chose not to spend resources to publicize the M/RTP Transportation Survey any further in order for the river crossing study to be at the public forefront and there be no confusion between the two surveys.

BENTON - FRANKLIN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

PARTICIPATE IN TRANSPORTATION SURVEY 2010

IT’S YOUR TURN 

10 minute survey at www.bfcog.us

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

- ✓ Modes of travel
- ✓ Top priority improvements
- ✓ Financial solutions
- ✓ And more

PLEASE HELP US PLAN FOR THE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS OF THE FUTURE.

Direct comments and questions to transportation@bfcog.us or call 943-9185

The 2010 Transportation Survey received a total of 224 responses. Results of the survey are considered a random, non-stratified sample. The survey does not represent a reliable slice of regional demographics. Taking that into consideration the 2010 Transportation Survey did offer more comments/input from the public than traditional open house meetings have provided in the past.

The 2010 Transportation Survey was seen as a worthwhile exercise and BFCG staff suggests repeating a web-based survey in the future. The survey indicated that public participation increased using an opinion poll and if efforts are made to collect responses from a valid and

reliable cross section of regional demographics the BFCG could acquire useful input from the public.

Surveys in the future will not run concurrently with any other high profile regional transportation topics that are requesting comment.

Additional detail and discussion of the 2010 Transportation Survey is available in Appendix K.

2012 M/RTP ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE FOR REVISIONS

DATE	ACTIVITY	GROUP(S)
4/2/12	Draft M/RTP sent for review	TAC/PAC/BFCG Board
4/2/12	Draft M/RTP sent for review	Regional Planners
4/2/12	Draft M/RTP sent for review	WSDOT Planning - Olympia
4/2/12	Draft M/RTP sent for review	FHWA/FTA - Jack Lord/Sid Stecker/Ned Conroy
4/2/12	Draft M/RTP sent for review	Public Involvement List
4/2/12	Post to BFCG website	General Public
4/4 - 4/9	Legal Ad for Open House@ BFCG	General Public
COMMENTS ON DRAFT FROM FHWA AND WSDOT BY APRIL 12		
4/2/ thru 4/13	Complete materials for M/RTP Open House	General Public, TAC, PAC, Board
4/6 and 5/4	BFCG Newsletter Article	Mailing list
4/9/12	Draft M/ RTP to Libraries	Mid Columbia
<u>FINAL</u> COMMENTS ON DRAFT FROM FHWA AND WSDOT BY APRIL 23		
May Agendas	Tri-MATS/Board Final Review Draft M/RTP	TAC/PAC/BFCG Board
May Tri-MATS	M/RTP Recommendation	TAC/PAC
04/16/12	M/RTP Open House	Public
04/30/12	Written Public Comments due to BFCG	
May 18th	M/RTP Approval	BFCG Board
5/21/2012	Print/Mail M/RTP Final Copies	WSDOT/FHWA/FTA