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PUBLIC INPUT

Collecting public input is a crucial step in all RPA 8 planning activities including the LRTP. Public participation is an integral part of the transportation planning process. The information and perspectives provided through public participation assist decision-makers and lead to a more meaningful and comprehensive planning process. Good public participation techniques allow planners to identify issues and understand aspects of the transportation system that may be missed when considering a project from a purely technical or political point of view. Effective transportation planning must include the participation of those whose everyday lives are affected by how they are able to get to work, home, school, stores, and services.

RPA 8 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

The RPA 8 Public Involvement Plan (PIP) guides the public participation in the regional transportation planning process. The plan outlines recommended methods to engage the public during the transportation planning & decision making process and informs members of the public how they can be involved.

In keeping with the spirit of public involvement and participation, RPA 8 follows a systematic approach that allows the public to become involved in the transportation planning process. RPA 8 consistently adheres to established guidelines as a means of heightening public involvement. This includes the Title VI population, persons with a disability, the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) population, the Environmental Justice (EJ – low income and high minority) zone populations, and other traditionally underserved groups.

Utilizing various techniques to solicit public involvement has proven to be the most effective means by which to attract citizen involvement. RPA 8 remains committed to using a variety of resources to reach out to the public and attempt to encourage public participation. Figure 9.1 lists available participation methods.

Figure 9.1 Ways to Participate

	Public Meetings Attend and contribute at open public meetings (committees and community outreach events)
	Call us Call us at 563-556-4166 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday - Friday
	Write to us Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study 7600 Commerce Park, Dubuque, IA 52002
	Review documents Carnegie Stout Library, Dubuque County library and East Central Intergovernmental Association
	Email us cravada@ecia.org dfox@ecia.org
	Visit our website www.eciatrans.org
	Visit us on socialmedia Twitter.com/ECIATransport Facebook.com/ECIATransportation

RPA 8 is committed to the concept of public participation and will work to ensure that the public plays an active role in transportation planning. The hope is that public participation will reduce unfavorable public opinions of transportation projects by incorporating public sentiment into the planning process.

RPA 8 is required to prepare and update periodically a long-range plan for its planning area. It is an extensive plan that outlines the current 20-year planning horizon for the RPA 8. The LRTP is a living document in that it is constantly under revision and being updated to reflect the area's needs for transportation planning.

The RPA 8 is required by federal regulations to provide citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, private providers of transportation, and other interested parties with reasonable opportunity to comment on the LRTP and then publish the plan thereby making it readily available to the public for review.

One or more Public input meetings will be held to gather information during the planning process and one public input meeting will be held for draft plan approval and one for final plan approval.

In the event of revisions, developments and updates to LRTP, there will be a 45-day comment period for the general public to voice any comments pertaining to the proposed changes.

RPA 8 LRTP INPUT

The RPA 8 area is made up of distinct communities containing diverse populations that require different public services. To adequately serve the needs of these unique communities, and to ensure that all communities are represented in the LRTP, RPA 8 created a public input strategy where RPA 8 staff attended meetings of a variety of community groups including city councils and county boards of supervisors. Staff gave a short presentation on the LRTP and engaged in discussions with members of the group. City and County staff and elected officials attended several of the meetings and contributed to the discussion.

Staff provided meeting attendees with a one page handout that included basic information about RPA 8 and the LRTP, and directed people to additional sources of information including: staff email addresses, the RPA 8 website, and RPA 8 social media accounts.

In all, RPA 8 staff collected input at nine meetings during the winter and spring 2017. Figure 9.2 includes a list of the meetings attended. Appendix C includes detailed information from each meeting along with any other input collected on the LRTP.

Figure 9.2 Meetings

Date	Meeting	Areas Covered
2/6/2017	Clinton County Board of Supervisors	Rural areas and small cities in Clinton County
2/9/2017	Parks to People	Communities in Jackson and Dubuque Counties
2/13/2017	Dubuque County Board of Supervisors	Rural areas and small cities in Dubuque County
2/13/2017	Delaware County Board of Supervisors	Rural areas and small cities in Delaware County
2/13/2017	Manchester City Council	City of Manchester
2/14/2017	Jackson County Supervisors	Rural areas and small cities in Jackson County
2/20/2017	DeWitt City Council	City of DeWitt
2/28/2017	Clinton City Council	City of Clinton
3/20/2017	Maquoketa City Council	City of Maquoketa

CONCLUSION

Public participation is an integral part of the transportation planning process. The information and perspectives provided through public participation assist decision-makers and lead to a more meaningful and comprehensive planning process. Input collected through the planning process was integrated into the LRTP's Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations.