

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING IN THE DAVENPORT-MOLINE-ROCK ISLAND URBANIZED AREA

In compliance with the provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)*, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Committee for the Davenport, Iowa-Illinois Urbanized Area has approved the following public participation plan to engage interested parties and resource agencies in the transportation planning process.

The transportation planning process takes place at local, regional, tribal, state and federal levels. It is based on comprehensive, continuing and coordinated activities that work together to identify, prioritize and meet transportation needs at these various levels. Public participation in this process begins with finding what opportunities are available and expressing interest or concern.

Bi-State Regional Commission is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) designated to cooperatively facilitate public participation in the transportation planning process with Quad Cities Metropolitan Planning Area communities and counties, and state/federal Departments of Transportation, and among the various modes of transportation. The MPO is charged with carrying out metropolitan transportation planning that provides early and on-going opportunities for involvement, timely information, reasonable access to information, adequate notification, diverse participation and periodic review and evaluation of the participation process. This public participation plan outlines the parameters for conducting these requirements.

Public Notification

All meeting announcements and agendas of the Transportation Technical Committee and Policy Committee shall be sent to local news media and the Regional Transportation Advisory Group (RTAG) prior to the actual meeting date no less than 48 hours in advance. It is common practice to send meeting announcements and agendas one week in advance of a meeting. Agendas of these committees are posted at Bi-State Regional Commission offices and on the Bi-State Regional Commission website (www.bistateonline.org), while minutes are web-posted following approval by these committees. In addition, proposed amendments to the annual Transportation Improvement Program or Transportation Planning Work Program shall be sent to the same local media and RTAG, as well as local jurisdictions within the Davenport, Iowa-Illinois Urbanized Area, as part of the Policy Committee agenda. Other transportation related advisory committees may be posted on this website to provide added transportation related information, such as the Bi-State Regional Trails Committee and Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force meetings. Notice of public hearings will be published in local newspapers of general circulation and posted on the Bi-State Regional Commission website per the time period noted in "Public Hearings" of this plan.

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

The intent of the federal transportation legislation is to provide a special effort for an early and continuing public involvement process that seeks out and considers the transportation needs of a diverse public, including the traditionally underserved populations (Executive Order 12898 – Federal Action to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations, 1994) as well as providing an opportunity for consultation with resource agencies as defined in the current transportation act. The Regional Transportation Advisory Group (RTAG) will fulfill that role. Involvement in the RTAG is open to any interested party, business, organization, or interested citizen within the Davenport, Iowa-Illinois Urbanized Area wanting to be involved in the transportation planning process. RTAG serves as the diverse, multi-modal advisory committee to the Transportation Technical Committee. Members will receive all meeting notices, as noted in "Public Notices" above, for the Technical and Policy Committee meetings. In addition, members will receive notification of proposed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments, Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program and Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) submittal notices, and proposed changes to the Public Participation Plan, Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Architecture Plan, Regional Transit Development Plan (TDP) or the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Annual TIP Project Request Notifications

Individual jurisdictions, members of RTAG, and the media shall be informed as to when projects are being sought for inclusion in the annual Transportation Improvement Program through an announcement requesting Transportation Improvement Program annual element additions, modifications, or deletions for the proposed fiscal years, as part of an annual document update cycle, typically thirty (30) days prior to a draft document review

by the Technical Committee.

Public Comment/Notification

The general public shall be afforded the opportunity to provide comments via the Technical and Policy Committee meetings on the annual Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) activities, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Regional ITS Architecture Plan, Regional Transit Development Plan, Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and the Public Involvement Plan (PPP), through the process outlined under “Public Notification” above. This process satisfies Program of Projects (POP) public participation requirements for Bettendorf Transit, Davenport CitiBus, River Bend Transit, and the Rock Island County Metropolitan Mass Transit District (MetroLINK). In the case of the Public Participation Plan, a minimum of a forty-five (45) day comment period shall be provided prior to action by the Transportation Policy Committee as required by the current transportation act. The LRTP will require a minimum of a thirty (30) day comment period prior to action by Bi-State Regional Commission. The prioritization process of both the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program and the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program will require a minimum of a thirty (30) day comment/notification period to be provided prior to action by the Transportation Policy Committee. In matters involving adoption or amendments to the Transportation Planning Work Program, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Regional Transit Development Plan, Congestion Management Process, and Regional ITS Architecture Plan, a minimum of 48 hours, but typically seven (7) day comment period shall be utilized prior to approval by the Transportation Policy Committee. Additional notice may be provided through meetings of the Transportation Technical Committee in advance of action by the Policy Committee.

Publications

The MPO shall publish or otherwise make available for public review at a minimum the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in an electronically accessible format and means (to the maximum extent practicable), such as the World Wide Web. The LRTP and TIP publications developed by the MPO will be placed on the Bi-State Regional Commission website, www.bistateonline.org. Other transportation planning publications may be posted to allow for interested parties to review and access additional MPO transportation planning information. Within these publications, the MPO shall employ visualization techniques to help clarify transportation planning issues and/or activities. At a minimum, visualization techniques shall be applied to the LRTP and TIP. Visualization techniques may include maps, graphs, charts, tables, diagrams or other methods. The LRTP will include a specific public participation outline during the update process that will be reviewed by the Technical and Policy Committees, and the results will be documented in the LRTP.

Public Hearings

Prior to approval of the final Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Transportation Policy Committee shall hold a public hearing on all the projects being considered for approval in the TIP. The Transportation Policy Committee shall also hold public hearings, as deemed necessary, for TIP amendments and prior to the approval of the Long Range Transportation Plan by Bi-State Regional Commission. At least fourteen (14) days prior notice will be given for all public hearings. No other documents noted will require a public hearing but shall afford public comment opportunities, as noted under “Public Comment/Notification.”

Data

As part of non-discrimination requirements, Bi-State Regional Commission will maintain information on protected class (race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability) and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations within the Metropolitan Planning Area, including demographics and identification of potential barriers (language, mobility, temporal or other) that may prevent underserved persons from effectively participating in the metropolitan transportation planning process. This information is contained in the Bi-State Regional Commission Title VI Program and Non-Discrimination Policy.

Accommodation

Persons requiring special material or presentation formats will be asked within a public notice for advanced request of at least one week prior to a public hearing prior to consideration of adoption or approval by the Policy Committee. Reasonable accommodations to provide documents in an accessible format, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Executive Order 13166 (Improving Access for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, 2000), will be made when requested by the public. For meeting notices and agendas, requests at least one working day in advance of the meeting is requested for reasonable accommodation. Persons requesting

assistance will be referred to the appropriate Bi-State Regional Commission staff who will make reasonable accommodations for translation services or other accommodations based on the request. Meetings will be held at convenient and accessible locations and times with emphasis to engage minority, low-income and LEP populations. Receipt of public input will be taken in a variety of formats - written, oral or other means- where accommodations are requested and reasonable.

Approval of Revisions/Amendments March 26, 2019

*Technical Correction March 31, 2023 (Revised reference to new transportation act)