

FRM

**Fayette Raleigh Metropolitan
Planning Organization**

Public Participation Plan

Adopted April 26, 2021

Introduction

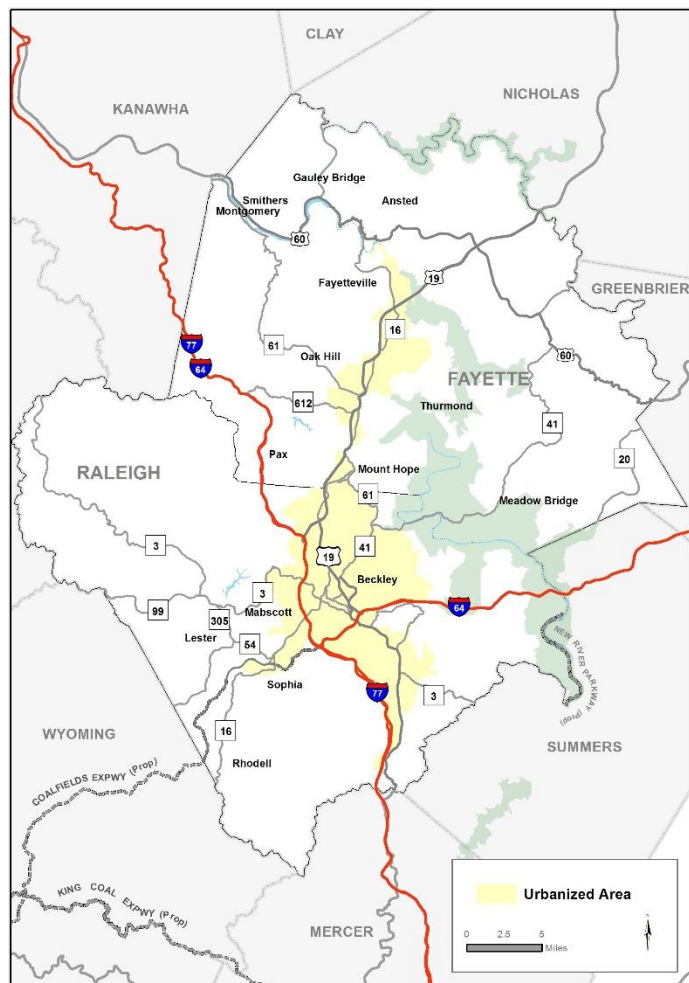
The Fayette/Raleigh Metropolitan Planning Organization (FRM) provides transportation planning services for the West Virginia counties of Fayette and Raleigh. While FRM places heavy emphasis on the Greater Beckley urbanized area that encompasses the municipalities of Fayetteville, Oak Hill and Mount Hope in Fayette County and Beckley, Mabscott and Sophia in Raleigh County, the planning area does extend to the two county lines.

As a part of the transportation planning process, FRM is committed to providing a proactive, open and transparent public involvement process that actively seeks engagement from stakeholders and the public at large.

The purpose of FRM’s Public Participation Plan is to lay the foundation for the organization’s public participation efforts so that outreach mechanisms are adequately accomplished and are achieved in a consistent fashion.

In serving the population of the two counties, the FRM’s Policy Board and Technical Advisory Committee play an integral role in shaping the policies of the organization.

The Policy Board is governing the Board of the organization and its voting membership includes one representative of each the aforementioned municipalities in the urbanized area, as well as one representative from each of the following: both county governments (Fayette and Raleigh) both respective Planning and Development Council (PDCs 1 and 4), New River Transit Authority and the West Virginia Department of Transportation.



The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is a standing committee of the organization whose purpose is to consider items such as, but not limited to, short and long range

transportation plans, corridor studies, multimodal transportation plans, unified planning work programs, grant applications, transportation improvement programs and other matters of relevance. The TAC meets prior to Policy Board meetings to consider relevant issues in order to make recommendations regarding how to proceed.

Policy Board & TAC Meetings

Both the Policy Board and TAC meet regularly on a quarterly schedule to discuss regular business, as well as planning initiatives and other items of interest.

Notice of these meetings are advertised as class one legal ads in the Beckley Register-Herald at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.

Meeting agendas are posted on the doors of each the Region 1 and 4 PDCs at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting. Meeting information is also accessible on FRM's website at www.reg4wv.org.

These meetings are open to the public and public participation is encouraged. To protect the health and safety of all meeting participants meetings can be held virtually.

At each meeting the public is provided an opportunity to address MPO committees on relevant issues.

While comment is solicited, time constraints may necessitate that comment be limited to five minutes per person.

Participants may also request time on the agenda. Such requests should be made no later than five days prior to the meeting. See page 6 for input mechanisms.

Long Range Transportation Plan Adoption & Amendment

The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is one of the two cornerstone documents of the organization. The LRTP is a 25-year planning document that serves as the blueprint for transportation investments in the region to the year 2045. The plan is multi-modal, meaning it addresses travel by all modes on the transportation system including streets and highways, bikeways and walkways, public transportation, rail and aviation.

Adoption

The plan is to be updated every five years. The following mechanisms will be utilized to pursue public participation:

- Public notice of intent to update/develop the LRTP.
- Establishment of a Steering Committee to include Policy Board members, TAC members, special interest groups and members of the public at large.

- At a minimum the development of the Plan will include two public forums and at least two Steering Committee meetings where public comments may be received. The first forum is intended to focus on the area's existing conditions, while the second will focus on recommendations for the Plan. The Steering Committee will be tasked with reviewing the results from the public forums and providing further comment.
- The Steering Committee will release the Plan for a public comment period of forty-five (45) days prior to presenting it to the Policy Board. The notice will be published in the Beckley Register-Herald and made available to the MPO's stakeholders list.
- The Board will be presented with a summary of all comment received during the planning process for consideration prior to the adoption of the Plan. This summary will be included as an appendix to the Plan.

Amendment

Amendments to the LRTP will require a thirty (30) day public notification for any significant changes to the Plan. Minor amendments will require a fifteen (15) day public notice to be advertised in the Beckley Register-Herald and made available to those listed on MPO's stakeholders list.

Transportation Improvement Program Adoption & Amendment

The primary purpose of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is to provide a mechanism for enabling local input into the use of federal funds for surface transportation projects, determine regional transportation priorities and demonstrate a short-range transportation vision for the region.

Adoption

Thirty (30) days prior to the preparation of the TIP notice will be advertised informing the public that the Plan is being developed and soliciting public comment regarding projects that should be included. This notice will be advertised in the Beckley Register-Herald and also made available to those listed on the MPO's stakeholder list.

All comments received will be presented to the MPO's committees for consideration of inclusion in the final draft.

Upon completion of the notification period the draft Plan will first be presented to the TAC who will make recommendation to the Policy Board regarding approval. Upon the Policy Board's approval of the draft, an additional public notification will be released indicating a final public comment period of fifteen (15) days. The Policy Board will approve the final Plan at their following regularly scheduled meeting.

Amendment

The TIP may be amended at the request of the West Virginia Department of Transportation, the MPO, New River Transit Authority and the MPO's member jurisdictions. Proposed amendments must be advertised fifteen (15) days in advance of consideration of the MPO's Policy Board meeting at which time said amendments will be approved. Amendments to the Plan will be subject to the recommendation of the TAC, except in cases of emergency (to be determined by the Executive Director of the MPO). Administrative adjustments to the TIP will be made in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth in the Plan.

Unified Planning Work Program

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) of the MPO is designed to set forth the details of transportation work tasks to be performed within the Fiscal Year running July 1 to June 30. The objective of this work program is to ensure that a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive approach for short and long range transportation planning is established and maintained for the metropolitan area, with proper coordination with neighboring jurisdictions and the Department of Transportation for the State of West Virginia.

The MPO will begin soliciting input from the TAC and Policy Board at its January meetings. Further comment will be solicited from the MPO's identified stakeholders and other appropriate planning and transportation agencies.

The Plan will be made available to the public no less than fifteen (15) days before it adopted. Adoption of the Plan is scheduled for consideration at the regularly held April meeting. The Plan will first endure the review of the TAC, who will make recommendation to Policy Board. All public comment received will be summarized and presented to both committees.

Title VI

The MPO is sensitive to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.

As also described in the MPO's Title VI Plan, efforts to meet the standards Title VI include the following:

- FRM invites participation of a cross section of the populace from social, economic and ethnic groups in the planning process by disseminating written program information to existing minority media and ethnic organizations, and providing public service announcements for all local media, when forming citizen advisory committees or planning board, and requesting involvement.

- Ensure access to public meetings, evening meetings will be conducted in a variety of community buildings throughout FRM, including those along transit routes, ensure translation services are available if anticipated, and ensure public meetings are held in predominantly minority communities when transportation projects will specifically impact those communities. To protect the health and safety of all participants meetings can be offered virtually.
- FRM regularly conducts an analysis of how the benefits and burdens of the long-range plan are distributed among low-income, minority and disabled populations versus the general population. The analysis utilizes available demographic profiles. FRM is responsible for informing all staff members and consultants of all federal Title VI policies, including any changes and updates. In addition, FRM is responsible for informing all staff members and consultants of the following, where applicable: FRM's Title VI plan, including the LEP plan, public involvement plan, environmental justice policy, and ADA policy, as well as any updates and changes.

Public Involvement for Other Planning Activities

In addition to the LRTP and TIP, the MPO prepares various planning studies and documents meant to further the develop or modify the recommendations within the LRTP. The MPO is committed to the availability of timely and complete information and to ongoing public involvement throughout the transportation planning process. For each individual planning activity, the MPO will consider the level of public involvement required to facilitate a fair and comprehensive planning product and will develop its outreach methods accordingly.

Public Involvement for Transit Projects

New River Transit Authority (NRT) relies on the public participation process for the transportation improvement Plan (TIP) for public involvement for its projects. Relying on the TIP process satisfies Section 5307 public involvement requirements for the Program of Projects (POP).

Input Mechanisms

The MPO accepts input and comments from the public through a variety of channels.

Members of the public may make comments verbally by calling the FRMPO at (304) 872- 4970 ext. 301.

Written comments may be submitted via methods below:

1. Faxed to the FRMPO at (304) 872-1012

2. Mailed to the Fayette/Raleigh MPO, 885 Broad Street, Suite 100, Summersville, WV 26651
3. Submitted on the Fayette/Raleigh MPO website www.frmpo.org

Each Policy Board and TAC Committee meeting includes time for public comment to be made in person or via the virtual meeting platform.