



Central Indian River County Greenways Plan

Tech Memo #1: Public Involvement Plan

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Purpose:

This document outlines the public involvement process for the Central Indian River Greenways Plan. The purpose of this Plan is to develop a Greenways system for the Vero Beach/Central Indian River County area. The Plan will serve as a guide to the County for selecting appropriate areas for greenways, prioritizing the greenways selections, and funding, constructing, and maintaining the greenways. The plan will define a system of greenways within Indian River County that will enhance multi-modal transportation, connect urban and rural areas, and increase recreation and conservation opportunities in the County.

The scope of services for the Central Indian River Greenways Plan calls for a public involvement plan as follows:

“The CONSULTANT shall develop a public involvement plan to be utilized throughout the development of the Greenways Plan. The proposed public involvement plan shall be consistent with, but not limited to, the MPO’s adopted Public Involvement Plan and the requirements of this scope of services. The CONSULTANT shall outline suggested meeting formats and describe how public feedback and comments will be utilized throughout the duration of the project. The public involvement plan shall also identify specific outreach efforts to involve the traditionally underserved (minority and low income populations) in this project.”

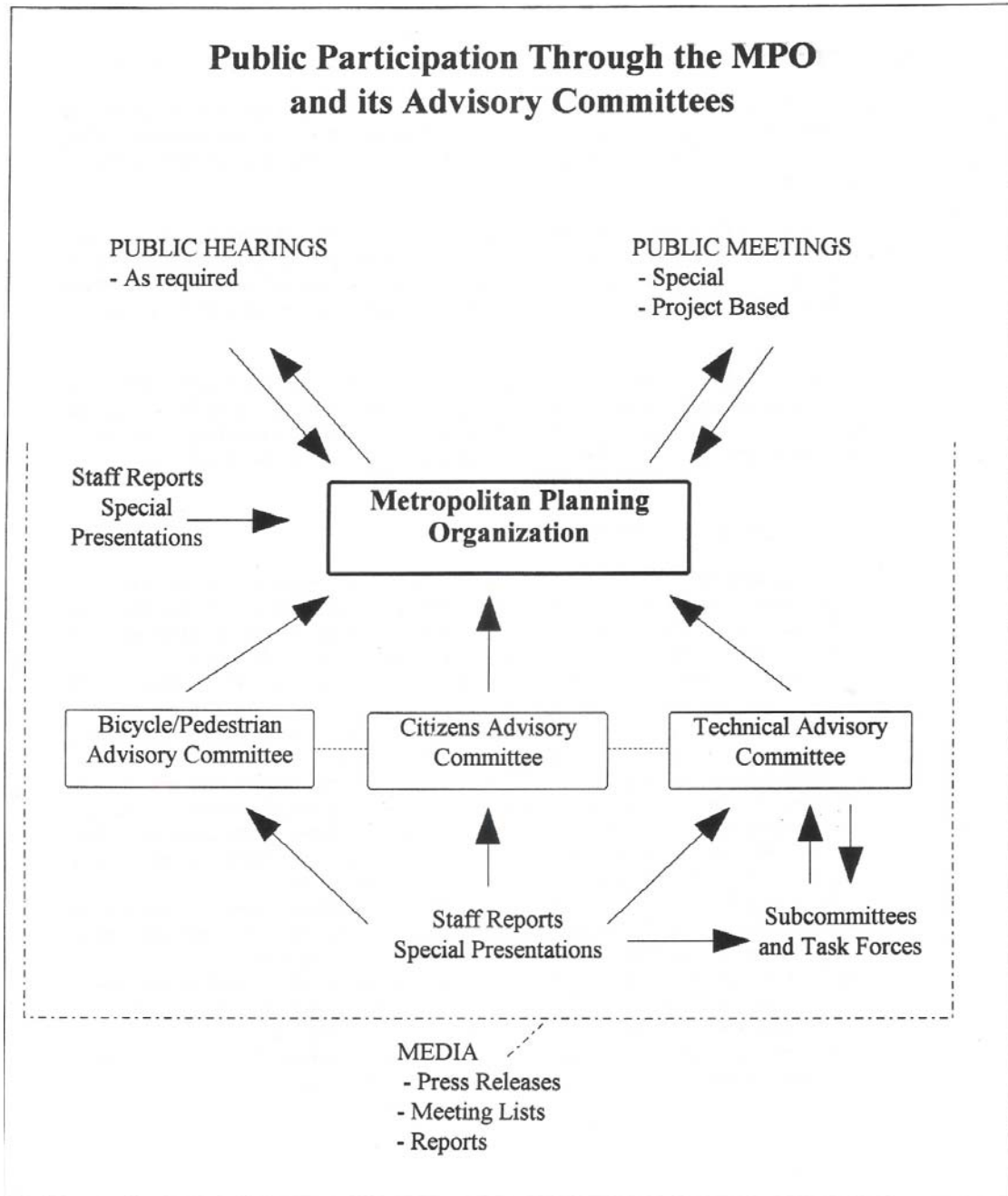
This public involvement plan is based on the principles outlined in the *Public Involvement Plan for the Indian River Metropolitan Planning Organization*. The MPO public involvement plan makes the following statements:

“To ensure that the public is afforded adequate opportunity for public input into MPO matters, the advisory committees represent the fundamental means for the public to become involved. In addition to citizens, others interested in or affected by transportation planning may become involved through attendance in committee meetings and review of committee activities.”

The MPO public involvement process is shown in the diagram on the following page.

Efforts will be made to address special needs populations, utilizing the 2004 IRC MPO *Community Outreach / Development of Communities Profiles*. This document lists GIS and data resources for each community in the county. It is important to note that a public survey conducted during development of the 2004 profiles ranked bicycle and pedestrian improvements as the #2 transportation issue (Summary Report, fig. 7, p.16). The survey also showed that 70% of respondents do not think that their community has safe areas for walking and bicycling (fig. 8, p.17), and that a similar amount believe that traffic congestion is negatively impacting the quality of life in Indian River County. It is also worth noting that only 20% of those surveyed said that they had not heard of the IRC MPO, and that only 9% had attended a public workshp. These data will inform the public process of the IRC MPO Greenways Plan.

Based on the project scope and the MPO public involvement plan, the following components will comprise the public involvement activities for the Greenways plan. Sections of the approved project scope are provided in *italics* in the following text.



The IRC MPO Public Involvement Process, as described in the MPO's Public Involvement Plan. (Source: IRC MPO).

Public Involvement Goal:

The public involvement process for the Greenways Plan will ensure that the public is informed and has a meaningful opportunity for input in the planning process in accordance with the MPO's Public Involvement Plan.

Objective: The project team will provide the public involvement services identified in the project's scope and within the proposed project schedule.

Strategy 1: Establish a Project Steering Committee (PSC)

“The CONSULTANT, based on input and guidance from the MPO, will identify members of the County staff, state and local governments and the public to serve on the committee...The committee will participate in the review process throughout the development of the Plan.”

The PSC will meet four times during the project. The PSC will include the following representatives:

- Phil Matson - Indian River County MPO, Project Manager
- Libby Harrow - Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Bob Keating - Indian River County
- Chris Mora - Indian River County
- Jim Davis - Indian River County
- Mike Nixon - Indian River County
- Cliff Crawford - Indian River County
- Monte Falls - City of Vero Beach
- Tim McGarry - City of Vero Beach
- Eric Menger - City of Vero Beach
- Rob Slezak - City of Vero Beach

The PSC will meet four times during the project. A representative from the Indian River Farms Water Control District will be included in the planning process.

Strategy 2: Solicit Public Input on Draft and Final Greenways Plan Work Products

“The CONSULTANT shall solicit public input regarding the Greenways Plan and the prioritization of the greenways projects. The consultant shall organize and sponsor a public participation forum that allows citizens to provide input and comments on the Greenways Plan. Aerial photographs, maps and other visual aids deemed necessary will be provided by the CONSULTANT to facilitate this process. The CONSULTANT shall determine the most effective public forum at which the aforementioned information can be presented. Owners of large tracts of property that are located near a proposed greenway route shall be identified and invited to participate in the development of the Greenways Plan.”

The project request for proposals called for the following meetings as part of the public involvement process:

- (1) Public Workshop
- (2) Two Briefings to MPO Advisory Committees (Bicycle, Citizens, Technical)
- (2) MPO Presentations

These meetings will be conducted in a participatory format, with sessions conducted in “Green Weeks” to efficiently utilize the project team and encourage participation by the range of groups involved. The scheduling of these weeks will coincide with project field work and the production of project deliverables. Each “Green Week” will include a meeting of the PSC, along with appropriate meetings with the MPO, local agencies and the public. The proposed schedule for these meetings will be as follows:

PSC: First Thursday of the Month: August, October, December, February

Green Week #1: October 4 - 6

Data Collection

PSC Meeting (Potential Corridors), Field Work, Meeting with Water Control District

Green Week #2: December 13-15

Draft Greenways Plan

PSC Meeting (Prioritization Session), Briefing for MPO Committees, MPO Presentation

Public Workshop

Green Week #3: February 7 - 9

Greenways Plan Presentations

PSC Meeting, PSC Meeting, Briefing for MPO Committees, MPO Presentation

The Public Workshop will be designed as an active, participatory session intended to provide the public with the opportunity to be a part of the planning process. The Workshop will be located in an accessible, public location. A meeting announcement flyer and media release will be developed as a .pdf file in both English and Spanish, and will be circulated through the PSC and MPO contact lists. Owners of large tracts of property that are located near proposed greenway corridors will be invited to participate. The Workshop will be held in an open house format, with a short powerpoint slideshow to provide an overview of the Plan, and workstations with maps and displays of key issues for people to mark up with their ideas and comments.

Strategy 3. Project Website and Media Outreach

A project website will be developed and maintained during the planning process. This site will include an overview of the project, .pdf files of project documents, announcements of upcoming meetings, and copies of presentation materials.

The project website will be linked to the Indian River MPO “work in progress” web page: <http://www.irccdd.com/MPO/WIP.htm>

Media releases, flyers and a project overview article will be drafted for the public workshop by the consultant and provided to the following media sources:

- Community access TV
- Local Newspaper
- MPO newsletter
- Neighborhood Associations
- Schools / PTA's
- Religious and Civic Organizations
- Public Health Agencies
- Libraries and Community Centers

Strategy 4. Integrate Public Involvement into the Greenways Plan

Comments received at the public workshop and committee meetings will be integrated into the draft and final Greenway Plans during the planning process. Comments will be summarized and included as an appendix of the final plan document. The MPO's summary of public involvement form will be incorporated into the final report

Strategy 5: Increase participation in the Greenways plan by transportation disadvantaged and minority communities.

The consultant team will utilize the IRC MPO's Community Outreach Profiles to identify communities with limited access to private automobiles and potential for increased use of bicycling and walking. Community organizations in these locations will be added to the project mailing list, and bi-lingual project information will be provided as appropriate.

Strategy 6: Post-project Public Involvement:

The development of the Greenway plan will integrate concepts for ongoing public involvement as an integral part of the proposed system. These will include potential ideas for a future public workshops on greenway design, themes, and landscaping; incorporating public art initiatives; development of user maps / brochures, sponsorship of sections of the greenway, "adopt a trail" maintenance partnerships and promotion of sections of the greenway with nearby landowners (Los Angeles Dodgers, Piper Aviation, Indian River Memorial Hospital) and other partners.