

Appendix K

Public Involvement Plan

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Southern Maine Corridors Committee

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to assist MaineDOT in improving public outreach and to develop a Southern Maine Regional Transportation Assessment. The plan includes tools and techniques for involving people in the transportation planning process and identifying public opinion on important transportation issues in the region.

Objectives: The following objectives identify ways to reach out to the general public:

- Involve as diverse a range of voices in the community as possible.
- Provide opportunities for public participation and input during the development of the Regional Transportation Assessment.
- Educate and inform people on transportation issues and major projects to ensure meaningful public participation and community input.
- Improve information dissemination and public access to technical and policy information used in the development of the assessment

Elements of Public Involvement

1. Identification of stakeholders
2. Notification of meetings and distribution of meeting agendas and minutes
3. Press Releases
4. Open Houses
5. Workshops
6. Public Meetings
7. Public opinion surveys
8. Web-based outreach
9. Dissemination of draft and final Regional Transportation Assessment documents

1. Stakeholders: Stakeholders include any interested individual or organization that is or may be affected by transportation projects and plans. The following stakeholders will be identified throughout the planning process and will be included on distribution lists for notices of future events and meetings.

- General Public
- Planner/Land Use Advocates
- Environmental/Conservation Agencies
- Economic Development Groups
- Transportation Organizations and Providers
- Historical Preservation Agencies
- Senior and Elderly
- Persons with Disabilities, ADA

Southern Maine Corridors Steering Committee: The Committee will be formed by volunteers from the stakeholders group. GPCOG and SMRPC will strive for broad public representation with multiple interests and professional experience.

2. Notification of meetings, status reports: All interested individual and parties will be able to receive meeting agendas and minutes via electronic or regular mailing, local media sources, and websites. Regular status reports will be distributed between meetings.

3. Press Releases: GPCOG and SMRPC will issue press releases announcing all meetings and events. All press releases will be reviewed by the MaineDOT.

4. Open Houses: Open Houses will be informative meetings open to the general public and any interested party and will have GPCOG, SMRPC, and Steering Committee members present to answer questions and give updates on the Committee work. Open Houses will not have agendas or formal presentations and will have flexible attendance time.

5. Workshops: Workshops will be conducted to educate local officials about the specifics of the MaineDOT planning and funding processes. Emphasis will be placed on MaineDOT's biennial outreach package for investment priorities and the importance of consistency between transportation project requests and local and regional land use and economic development goals.

6. Public Meetings: Public Meetings will be announced via available sources, such as media, electronic and regular mailing, GPCOG, SMRPC and MaineDOT websites, and public cable services.

7. Public Surveys: GPCOG and SMRPC staff will conduct public opinion surveys throughout the Regional Transportation Assessment process. These will include household surveys to determine travel behavior and other surveys to reach businesses and groups that do not ordinarily participate in typical evening meeting processes.

8. Web Sites GPCOG, SMRPC and MaineDOT Websites – Information on public participation opportunities and upcoming meetings and events will be available at www.gpcog.org, www.smrpc.org, and www.maine.gov/mdot/planning.

9. Dissemination of draft and final Regional Transportation Assessment document: Draft Regional Transportation Assessment documents will be available to stakeholders group at Open Houses and public meetings and hearings. The final copy of the Regional Transportation Assessment Report will be available at GPCOG website and from the MaineDOT.

For more information on public participation, contact Natalya Harkins 774-9891 nharkins@gpcog.org, or Tom Reinauer, 324-2952 treinauer@smrpc.org.