

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT METHODS AND PROCESSES

ODOT has developed the following public involvement methods and processes to ensure consultation with local officials in non-metropolitan areas for transportation planning programs administered by ODOT as required by federal regulation 23 CFR 450.212 (h), (i). This process is separate and discrete from transportation policy and project development in metropolitan areas of greater than 50,000 population. In metropolitan areas, transportation plan development is cooperatively administered by the Metropolitan Planning Organizations who conduct their own public involvement.

The following methods and processes also apply to the *Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)*. The STIP is a document that contains the next three (3) federal fiscal years of federally-funded projects to be undertaken by ODOT, the Metropolitan Area Planning Organizations, Indian Reservation Roads Program, and other federal transportation programs as necessary. The STIP describes specific projects, their funding, and anticipated construction let dates by county and ODOT Division. It is updated every year.

The following methods and processes apply to the *Statewide Intermodal Transportation Plan* as well. This Plan contains policies that guide transportation planning for a minimum of 20 years into the future. It is intermodal, that is, it considers policies for highways, rail, air, waterways, rural transit, and pedestrian/bicycle forms of transportation. Unlike the STIP, the Plan does not usually contain specific transportation projects; however, it may identify corridors for transportation improvements. The Plan is updated every five (5) years.

Public Involvement Methods. ODOT will use the following methods to consult, notify, solicit input, receive comments, and give notice of availability to the officials in non-metropolitan areas and for the above described planning documents. Exact methods depend on the situation and will embrace a combination, as appropriate, of the following methods:

- conducting public meetings;
- making available decision-makers, as possible and reasonable, for meetings with individuals and groups;
- using the ODOT web site (www.okladot.state.ok.us) for information notices, documents, and comment forms;
- providing telephone contacts for input and comment;
- publishing “Notices of Availability”;
- forming and using advisory groups as appropriate;
- issuing press releases;
- providing traditional and electronic informational mailings;

- providing informational pamphlets;
- advertising as appropriate;
- publishing periodic newsletters; and
- making available documents on compact discs (CDs), on the ODOT web site, and in printed form.

Process for Consultation with Local Officials in Non-Metropolitan Areas. ODOT will use the following process for consultation with local officials in non-metropolitan areas:

- ODOT will solicit the following organizations to include informational articles, solicit comments, give notice of availability, notice of public meetings, and other information as appropriate through their organization:

Oklahoma Municipal League
 Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma
 Oklahoma Department of Commerce
 Substate Planning Districts
 Other organizations as appropriate and available

- Local officials will be notified of public meetings or any other event associated with the transportation planning processes and document preparation through the appropriate “Methods” listed above.
- ODOT will provide for multiple means of input into the planning process and documents through the appropriate “Methods” listed above.
- ODOT will review and solicit comments from non-metropolitan officials on effectiveness of the consultation process within two (2) years of implementation of the plan and every five (5) years thereafter.

Process for Public Involvement on the *Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)*. ODOT will include the above process in consulting with local officials on the STIP. In addition, ODOT will undertake the following:

- The STIP public involvement process will be made available to the following through the appropriate “Methods” discussed above:
 - General public
 - Elected National Representatives
 - Elected State Representatives
 - Elected County Officials
 - Elected Municipal Officials
 - State and Federal agencies

- Tribal Governments and Tribal Transportation Officials
 - Substate planning districts
 - Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization
 - Minority and economically disadvantaged groups
 - Rural Transit Providers and Oklahoma Transit Association
 - All others interested in the statewide planning process
- A yearly meeting will be held in each ODOT Field Division Headquarters to present the existing STIP and solicit comments on the development of the next STIP. This meeting will provide for person-to-person interaction with Field Division personnel and other officials responsible for development of the STIP;
 - ODOT will advertise the availability of the STIP;
 - ODOT will provide for multiple means of input into the planning process and documents through the appropriate “Methods” listed above; and
 - ODOT will make the preliminary and final STIP available on its web site. Preliminary and final copies of the STIP will also be available through compact disc (CD) and/or printed forms.

Process for Public Involvement on the *Statewide Intermodal Transportation Plan* . ODOT will include the above process in consulting with local officials on the *Statewide Intermodal Transportation Plan* (herein referred to as “the Plan”). In addition, ODOT will undertake the following:

- The Plan’s public involvement process will be made available to the following through the appropriate “Methods” discussed above:
 - General public
 - Elected National Representatives
 - Elected State Representatives
 - Elected County Officials
 - Elected Municipal Officials
 - State and Federal agencies
 - Tribal Governments and Tribal Transportation Officials
 - Substate planning districts
 - Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization
 - Minority/economically disadvantaged groups
 - Rural Transit Providers and Oklahoma Transit Association
 - All others interested in the statewide planning process
- In conjunction with the yearly public meeting for the STIP, every five years a presentation on the Plan will be added. This addition to the public meeting will be for gathering input on revisions to the Plan currently scheduled for update every five years. This presentation will consist of making available the existing Plan,

information on the Plan update, methods for contacting the Plan update developers and comment and review methods for input on the Plan.

- ODOT will advertise the availability of the Plan;
- ODOT will provide for multiple means of input into the planning process and documents through the appropriate “Methods” listed above; and
- ODOT will make the preliminary and final Plan available on its web site. Final copies of the Plan will also be available through compact disc (CD) and/or printed forms.