
STAFF REPORT

Date: April 17, 2024
To: TMPO Governing Board
From: TRPA/TMPO Staff
Subject: Adoption of the 2024 Public Participation Plan for TMPO Planning and Programming Actions

Summary and Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO) Governing Board adopt the 2024 Public Participation Plan.

Required Motions:

In order to adopt the Public Participation Plan, the Board must make the following motion, based on the staff report:

- 1) A motion to adopt the final Public Participation Plan.

In order for motion(s) to pass, an affirmative vote of any eight Board members is required.

Tahoe Transportation Commission Recommendation:

On April 3, 2024, the Tahoe Transportation Commission (TTC) recommended TMPO approval of the 2024 Public Participation Plan.

Project Description/Background:

TRPA, serving as the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Lake Tahoe Region, has updated its Public Participation Plan to ensure public involvement and opportunities for engagement are the foundation of the transportation planning processes. Per Title 23, CFR Part 450.316, MPOs must develop and use a public participation plan that defines a protocol for providing opportunities for all parties to comment and be involved in the transportation planning process. The plan outlines strategies for continuing, comprehensive, and coordinated transportation planning processes that considers all transportation modes, provides a forum for public input, and supports social and economic vitality. The Public Participation Plan must be updated and adopted prior to development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

The updated Public Participation Plan includes new equity-based engagement policies that were endorsed by the TRPA Governing Board through the Transportation Equity Study in 2023. The new policies provide guidance to improve TRPA's public outreach and engagement with a focus on targeting efforts towards underrepresented and underserved populations while ensuring community engagement processes are not burdensome. The new policies also set standards for TRPA and agencies receiving

funds through the MPO to commit to allocating a minimum of 30 percent of all outreach efforts to socio-economically disadvantaged populations and Community Priority Zones.

In addition to the new policies, the 2024 Public Participation Plan summarizes outreach efforts conducted by TRPA staff in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, including an assessment of performance measures and targets set in the 2019 Public Participation Plan. As TRPA moves to a greater focus on quality engagement over quantity, including allocating more resources towards place-based engagement, bilingual engagement, and reaching transportation disadvantaged populations, the updated Public Participation Plan shifts away from target setting. TRPA will continue to track outreach activities and will summarize outreach achievements on the following metrics in future updates of the plan:

- **Metric 1:** Total number of public participants reached through proactive outreach.
- **Metric 2:** Total number of public participants reached through quantitative methods.
- **Metric 3:** Distribution of public participants who are full-time residents, seasonal residents, visitors, and commuters.
- **Metric 4:** Total number of primarily Spanish-speaking residents reached through proactive and quantitative outreach methods.
- **Metric 5:** Distribution of outreach activities targeted towards identified transportation disadvantaged populations or within Community Priority Zones.
 - **Target:** Ensure that a minimum of 30% of outreach activities are targeted towards transportation disadvantaged populations or Community Priority Zones.
- **Metric 6:** Distribution of in-person, virtual, and hybrid engagement activities.

Tracking these metrics will enable TRPA to assess yearly outreach tactics and adjust accordingly to best meet the needs of Lake Tahoe's communities.

The 2024 Public Participation Plan is available for review at: <https://www.trpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024-Public-Participation-Plan-FINAL-April-2024.pdf>

Public Comment:

The draft Public Participation Plan was released on February 20, 2024 for a 45-day public comment period that closed on April 5, 2024. A public hearing was held at the Tahoe Transportation Commission Board (TTC) on April 3, 2024.

TRPA received only one comment on the draft Public Participation Plan, which encouraged additional focused outreach in Incline Village and suggested staff track the distribution of outreach events around the Lake. TRPA's outreach tracking will include location tracking moving forward so that staff may ensure outreach activities are equitably distributed around the region.

Regional Plan Compliance:

The 2024 Public Participation Plan complies with all requirements of federal funding recipients and are consistent with the TRPA Regional Plan and supports goals and policies to implement the Regional Plan. The plan also supports the objectives of the Regional Transportation Plan and associated goals and policies.

Contact Information:

For questions regarding this agenda item, please contact Kira Richardson at (775) 589-5236 or krichardson@trpa.gov.

To submit a written public comment, email publiccomment@trpa.gov with the appropriate agenda item in the subject line. Written comments received by 4 p.m. the day before a scheduled public meeting will be distributed and posted to the TRPA website before the meeting begins. TRPA does not guarantee written comments received after 4 p.m. the day before a meeting will be distributed and posted in time for the meeting.