

## **Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission**

### **Policy Statement Supporting Adoption of Public Participation Plan Pursuant to the Metropolitan Planning Regulations specified in Section 23 U.S.C. 134.**

The Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC) is charged with the authority and responsibilities of a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) by order of the Governor of the State of Ohio. And as the MPO for the Lima Urbanized Area, the agency is required to undertake and maintain the 3C planning, including continuing, cooperative, and communication processes. The MPO's goal is to place the people first in all its local transportation planning endeavors. Consistent with this goal, it is the policy of the MPO to support proactive public involvement at all stages of planning and project development. To develop effective public involvement processes that are custom-tailored to local conditions, the MPO will work with Federal, State and local stakeholders, including citizens, elected officials, affected public agencies, freight shippers and providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, as well as representatives of employees and users of public transportation, users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, in addition to the disabled, minority, and low income populations, and other interested parties. The performance standards for these proactive public involvement processes include early and continuous involvement; reasonable public availability of technical and other information; collaborative input on alternatives, evaluation criteria, and mitigation needs; open public meetings where matters related to federal-aid highway and transit programs are being considered; and open access to the decision-making process prior to closure.

To achieve these objectives, the LACRPC, as the MPO, commits to:

- Promote an active role for the public in the development of transportation plans, programs, and projects from the early stages of the planning process through detailed project development;
- Promote the shared obligation of the public and decision makers to define goals and objectives for the metropolitan transportation system, to identify transportation and related problems, to develop alternatives to address the problems, and to evaluate the alternatives on the basis of collaboratively identified criteria;
- Ensure that the public is actively involved in the development of public involvement procedures themselves in ways that go beyond commenting on drafts;
- Encourage local units of government and transportation service providers to seek to identify and involve the affected and interested public, including those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems and facilities; and
- Evaluate public involvement processes and procedures to assess their success at meeting the performance requirements specified in the appropriate regulations during Long Range Transportation Plan certification reviews, metropolitan planning and conformity findings, transportation improvement program (TIP) approvals and project oversight.

ADOPTED this 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2021

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Steve Ewing, Chair, Transportation Coordinating Committee, MPO  
Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission

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Attest: Brion Rhodes, President  
Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission