

APPENDIX C

Pasco County MPO's Public Involvement Plan Addendum

Identification of Changes to Ensure Compliance with SAFETEA-LU

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PASCO COUNTY MPO PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN ADDENDUM

Identification of Changes to Ensure Compliance with SAFETEA-LU

The Pasco County MPO currently develops a stand-alone Public Involvement Plan (PIP) that outlines the public involvement strategies and processes to be followed during the preparation of all MPO planning projects and plans. The public involvement process outlined in the PIP affords all interested parties the opportunity to be involved in the MPO's planning process. As a result of the compliance review previously described in Sections 1 and 2 of this document, several changes are required to the MPO's PIP to ensure that this document is compliant with SAFETEA-LU. This addendum provides those changes to the PIP as previously described in Section 2. In addition to the changes identified below, it is recommended that the MPO update all references from TEA-21 in the PIP to SAFETEA-LU. Also, in accordance with SAFETEA-LU, the discussion of the triennial certification process required under TEA-21 found on page 5 of the PIP should be updated to reflect the change to a quadrennial certification process under SAFETEA-LU.

SAFETEA-LU Compliance Issue #5: MPO Consultation with State and Local Agencies

Under SAFETEA-LU, the LRTP should include a textual provision for consulting with state and federal environmental protection, tribal government, wildlife management, land management, and historic preservation agencies, as appropriate. The consultation shall involve: 1) a comparison of the LRTP with state conservation plans or maps, if available, or 2) comparison of the LRTP with inventories of natural or historic resources, if available.

To ensure compliance with SAFETEA-LU, the MPO shall develop a brief narrative expressing the process for consultation as discussed above to be incorporated into the MPO's existing Public Involvement Plan (PIP) by July 1, 2007. This narrative should be added to page 5 of the MPO's PIP. This additional narrative to be added to the PIP is provided below.

Consultation with State and Local Officials

As part of the public involvement process for the Long Range Transportation Plan, the MPO shall coordinate between appropriate federal agencies, as well as FDOT, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), and the State's Bureau of Historic Preservation. The consultation shall involve: 1) a comparison

of the LRTP with state conservation plans or maps, if available, or 2) comparison of the LRTP with inventories of natural or historic resources, if available.

SAFETEA-LU Compliance Issue #10: Employment of Visualization Techniques and Availability of Electronic Documents via the Internet

By July 1, 2007, the MPO shall add narrative to the PIP specifically addressing the use of visualization techniques as part of the MPO’s public involvement process. Although the MPO has traditionally used visualization techniques, such as large maps and PowerPoint presentations at public workshops and events, this additional narrative should be added to page 9 of the MPO’s PIP to ensure compliance with SAFETEA-LU. The narrative to be added to the PIP is provided below.

Visualization Techniques

The MPO is committed to providing visual aids, such as large maps, informational handouts, PowerPoint presentations, etc., at public workshops, public hearings, and other meetings as appropriate, as part of the public involvement process.

In addition, Table 1 (Public Involvement Strategies) of the MPO’s PIP also should be updated by July 1, 2007, to reflect coordination with appropriate officials and the use of visualization techniques as strategies employed during the public involvement process. Changes to this table, which is provided below, are reflected in bold.

**Table C-1
(Table 1 Revised from the Pasco County Public Involvement Plan)
Public Involvement Strategies**

Public Involvement Strategy	Purpose	Elements
Public Workshops and Transportation Fairs	Inform the general public of the nature of regular transportation activities and to solicit public feedback of current county processes and procedures.	An informal meeting held to educate the public why specific projects are undertaken and how these projects will benefit the Pasco County citizens and the community at large.
Public Hearings	Allow, through public participation, early and continuing public involvement; formally present the plan or project to the public.	Generally held by the MPO Board prior to the adoption of an MPO transportation related work product; public input used to develop finalized documents.
MPO Board	MPO Board meetings, open to the public, provide a forum for discussion of transportation plans and programs.	The MPO Board meets on a monthly basis on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 am.

Table C-1 (continued)
(Table 1 Revised from the Pasco County Public Involvement Plan)
Public Involvement Strategies

Citizens' Advisory Committee	The CAC is comprised of a diverse group of individuals representing varied communities in the area in order to encourage a wide range of views and ideas on plans and projects; early involvement in development of the TIP, UPWP, and the LRTP.	The CAC meets on the Wednesday before the MPO Board meeting at 1:30 pm; a CAC subcommittee was formed for the purpose of transportation plan development.
Technical Advisory Committee	Appointed by the MPO Board, the TAC consists of professional and technical planners, engineers, and other disciplines; created to provide interagency coordination between the MPO, FDOT, County, and Local governments; reviews and makes recommendations concerning transportation plans and programs.	The TAC meets on the Monday before the MPO Board meeting at 1:30 pm; a TAC subcommittee was formed for the purpose of transportation plan development.
Public Involvement Process Mailing List	Serves to inform the community of various transportation planning activities undertaken by the MPO, such as the Long Range Transportation Plan; CAC, TAC, and MPO Board meetings; and future public workshops and hearings.	List includes civic associations, clubs, and organizations, municipal governments, newspapers, and concerned citizens.
MPO Publications	Documents used to inform the general public about the transportation planning activities and projects being accomplished by the MPO.	Includes summary information, newsletters and brochures; also includes an executive summary of the LRTP, highlighting the development process.
Public Media Coverage	Inform all members of the public, including those traditionally underserved, so that they are aware of hearings and workshops and can provide input on transportation planning issues and the LRTP.	Includes use of public access cable TV, advertising in major and local newspaper, and direct mailings.
Public Surveys/Comment Forms	To solicit citizen input on various topics concerning the transportation planning process.	Sent to random members of the public and those traditionally underserved.

Table C-1 (continued)
(Table 1 Revised from the Pasco County Public Involvement Plan)
Public Involvement Strategies

County Website	To provide fast and efficient updates on projects or transportation plans and provide documents or other information out to the general public for their input.	Provides information on MPO activities, meetings and members; downloadable plans; interactive maps of transportation projects; and opportunities to provide feedback on transportation issues.
Visualization Techniques	To visually convey the information provided in the MPO's planning documents, including the LRTP	Includes the use of visualization techniques to engage the public, such as large maps, PowerPoint presentations, brochures, and informational packets at public workshops and other public events.
Special Efforts for Underserved/ Underrepresented	Measures taken to involve population segments that are traditionally underserved/underrepresented in Pasco County, as recommended by the U.S. Department of Transportation's order on environmental justice (Title VI requirements)	Focus on geographic locations with a high concentration of underserved and underrepresented.
Efficient Transportation Decision-Making Process	To provide the public access to project plans and information regarding potential effects of transportation projects on natural and human environments.	Internet application provides access to project information so the public can formulate commentary about potential socio-cultural effects.
Coordination Strategies with State and Local Officials	To involve state and federal environmental protection, tribal government, wildlife management, land management, and historic preservation agencies, as appropriate in the development of the LRTP.	The consultation shall involve: 1) a comparison of the LRTP with state conservation plans or maps, if available, or 2) comparison of the LRTP with inventories of natural or historic resources, if available.

Table 2 (Public Involvement Process) of the MPO's PIP also should be updated by July 1, 2007, to reflect the use of coordination with appropriate officials and visualization techniques as strategies employed during the public involvement process. Changes to this table, which is provided below, are reflected in bold.

Table C-2
(Table 2 Revised from the Pasco County Public Involvement Plan)
Public Involvement Process

Public Involvement Strategies	TIP	UPWP	Transportation Plan Development and Process	MMS	TDP	Special Projects	Quadrennial Certification Process
Public Workshops	R	O	R	R	R	O	O
Public Hearings	R	R	R	N/A	R	O	R
MPO Board	R	R	R	R	R	O	R
CAC	R	R	R	R	R	O	R
TAC	R	R	R	R	R	O	R
Public Involvement Process Mailing List	O	O	R	R	R	O	O
MPO Publications	R	R	R	O	R	O	O
Public Media Coverage	O	O	R	O	O	O	O
Public Surveys/ Comment Forms	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Special Efforts of Underserved/ Underrepresented	R	R	R	R	R	O	R
County Website	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process	R	N/A	R	O	O	O	O
Visualization Techniques	R	O	R	O	O	O	O
Consultation with State and Local Officials	O	O	R	O	O	O	O

R = Required

O = Optional

N/A = Not Applicable