

Project Specific Public Participation Plan The Sioux Falls MPO “Seven Step Process”

Public involvement should not merely be conducting public meetings to meet federal regulations, but rather, public involvement should consist of providing access to information and addressing stakeholder’s concerns. Doing so may have an effect on the outcome of decisions. Therefore, prior to the development of any transportation product, staff should implement the following seven-step process, review each step’s corresponding section in the PPP, and design a public participation plan specific to the product.

Step 1 Goals: What is the public participation goal?

Inform and Understand (see pages 5-6 of the PPP).

Step 2 Stakeholders: Who are the stakeholders?

Sioux Falls MPO, Lincoln County, Lincoln County Municipalities, Lincoln County Townships, South Dakota Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, traveling public, and interested parties.

Step 3 Methods: What public participation methods for interacting with the public will be utilized?

Internet based survey to gather information regarding origin-destination, travel modes and transportation needs. Public open house/information meetings will be held to inform the overall public and gather information. A website will be developed to allow for public comment and dissemination of information.

Step 4 Notification: What notification techniques will be used to inform the public?

Direct mail out to stakeholders, news releases, presentation of updates at Lincoln County Board of Commissioners regular meetings and project website.

Step 5 Implementation: Where, when, and how will the public participation techniques be implemented?

Open house(s) and Stakeholder(s) meetings will be held for best attendance.

Step 6 Evaluation: What documentation will the plan or product include to fulfill the identified participation goals and objectives?

A public participation section will be included in the plan detailing how Steps 1-5 were completed including documentation of specific public participation techniques that have been completed.

Step 7 Incorporate: How will the participation documentation be reviewed, and how will any necessary changes to the plan or product be made?

The Study Advisory Team will analyze public participation comments and incorporate comments into the study.

Outcome or Decision: Who recommends and approves the plan or product? What is the significance of the approval of the plan or product? (Refer to Step 1)

The final report will be presented to all three Sioux Falls MPO committees. The Study Advisory Team/SDDOT will approve the final product. The final report will be utilized for the long-range planning, policies and financing of transportation needs by Lincoln County.