

Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Addendum #1 to the Public Participation Plan

Effective October 1, 2017

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Inside Cover Photo: Tennessee Bicentennial Mall, Max Baker, Nashville Area MPO

Addendum to the Public Participation Plan

About the Public Participation Plan

The Public Participation Plan (PPP) provides the general public and interested parties with an overview of the MPO's public involvement process. This includes information about the strategies deployed to engage the public and stakeholders, and the specific timelines and requirements for public comment during the development and adoption of the MPO's plans and programs. Public involvement is a critical element of all planning that is conducted by the MPO. Such involvement ensures that the planning process conforms to the goals, and objectives of the region. Specifically, the MPO reaches out to the community through a variety of forums with the objective of engaging a broad and diverse audience. In addition to outreach to the general public, the MPO takes steps to reach::

- Traditionally-underserved populations including the low-income, minority groups, and the disabled;
- Governmental partners including local, state, and federal agencies;
- Key transportation stakeholders including departments of transportation and public works, users and employees of public transportation, users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle facilities, and freight shippers and carriers.
- Business community including area chambers of commerce and economic developers; and
- Non-profit community including quality growth advocacy groups.

In order to engage those audiences in the most effective way, the MPO employs a variety of tools and techniques to augment the standard public workshops that are often used in public planning.

- **MPO Website:** The MPO website provides an overview of the MPO, its responsibilities, and information about staff, Policy Board leadership, regional planning efforts, regional data and forecasts, meeting information, and items for public review and comment. The website also contains a multi-media section, which houses relevant videos, PowerPoint presentations, and photo slideshows, and a public involvement section containing access to social media outlets.
- **Traditional Media:** The MPO continues to use the traditional media to communicate its proposed plans and programs and to encourage public participation at regional events and local workshops.
- **Social Media:** The MPO uses social media platforms to diversify its communication methods and broaden its reach beyond traditional media.
- **Regional Symposiums/ Summits:** The MPO hosts or co-hosts large regional summits or symposiums to educate the public and stakeholders about important regional issues including context sensitive solutions, complete streets, school-siting, regional transit development, and regional growth and development. The MPO's Annual Meeting not only allows the MPO to showcase its work and that of its members, but it also provides an important opportunity for business and community leaders to engage in the MPO's efforts.
- **Survey Research:** The MPO periodically conducts random sample surveys to measure attitudes and perceptions of transportation policy.
- **Publications and Multimedia Tools:** The MPO has invested significantly in tools to help increase the public's understanding of proposed plans and programs. Every December the MPO produces its annual report titled "State of Transportation in Middle Tennessee." Additionally, multimedia tools have been developed that help explain the MPO process and communicate its major policy initiatives and plans, both online and during presentations.

The current PPP was adopted by the MPO Executive Board on July 18, 2007 and is available online at http://nashvillempo.org/publications_docs/

- To learn more about how to get involved in the MPO planning process or to sign up for mailing lists, visit: http://www.nashvillempo.org/stay_involved/default.aspx
- To see a list of upcoming MPO meetings, visit: http://www.nashvillempo.org/public_notices/
- To view pending MPO actions available for public review and comment, visit: http://www.nashvillempo.org/public_notices/public_comment.aspx

Purpose of the Addendum

Effective October 1, 2017, the Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC) is responsible for carrying out the staffing and administrative functions of the Nashville Area MPO in accordance with the *Transportation Planning and Policy Agreement* adopted on September 20, 2017. The agreement designates the GNRC as the MPO's sponsor agency, a responsibility previously held by the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) of Nashville-Davidson County.

This change was made to account for the steady expansion of the MPO planning area outside of Davidson County that has occurred over the last three decades, and to better position the region to respond to challenges resulting from rapid economic growth and development. The integration of the MPO program into GNRC seeks to streamline and improve regional coordination among local governments across Middle Tennessee, align infrastructure planning with economic development initiatives, and bring Middle Tennessee in line with the state of practice in peer regions across the nation. Nearly 70 percent of metro areas across the U.S. with a population of one million or more people have the federally-required MPO function integrated into their regional council or its GNRC equivalent.

The purpose of this addendum is to communicate to members of the public and interested parties how the integration of the MPO and GNRC will affect the Public Participation Plan, and to make reference to federal transportation legislation enacted in 2015.

Additional information about the integration of the MPO program into GNRC can be found online at <http://COG.NashvilleMPO.org>

About the GNRC

GNRC is one of nine regional economic development districts established by the Tennessee General Assembly under the Tennessee Development District Act of 1965. GNRC is a public body corporate and politic and operates as a council of governments (COG). It is owned and operated by its municipal and county government members in order to deliver regional programs and services that are funded, in part, by state and federal grant programs.

GNRC's mission is to assist local communities and state agencies in the development of plans and programs that guide growth and development in the most desirable, efficient, and cost-effective manner, while ensuring the continued long-term livability of the region. GNRC is governed by a regional council comprised of city mayors, county mayors/executives, state legislators, appointments representing business/industry, and appointments representing minority populations and employs nearly 80 full-time staff.

Summary of Changes

Changes resulting from the MPO and GNRC integration described in this addendum:

- New office location and staff contact information as provided in Attachment B.
- References to the MPO's governing body in the adopted PPP will change, from "Executive Board" to "Transportation Policy Board," per updated MPO Organizational Bylaws amended on August 16, 2017. The change in name is intended to prevent any confusion with the pre-existing and separately functioning GNRC Executive Committee. The new name is derived from terminology used in federal regulations and planning guidance for references to MPO governing bodies.
- New federal transportation legislation has been enacted since the PPP was last updated. The FAST Act supersedes the SAFETEA-LU legislation referenced in the document.

Items unaffected by the MPO and GNRC integration described in this addendum:

- MPO's planning area or governing board membership,
- MPO governing board's decision-making authority,
- MPO's public review and comment period timelines or public participation process,
- MPO's PPP development, adoption, and update process, and
- Any other items included in the current PPP that are not specifically identified on the list of changes.

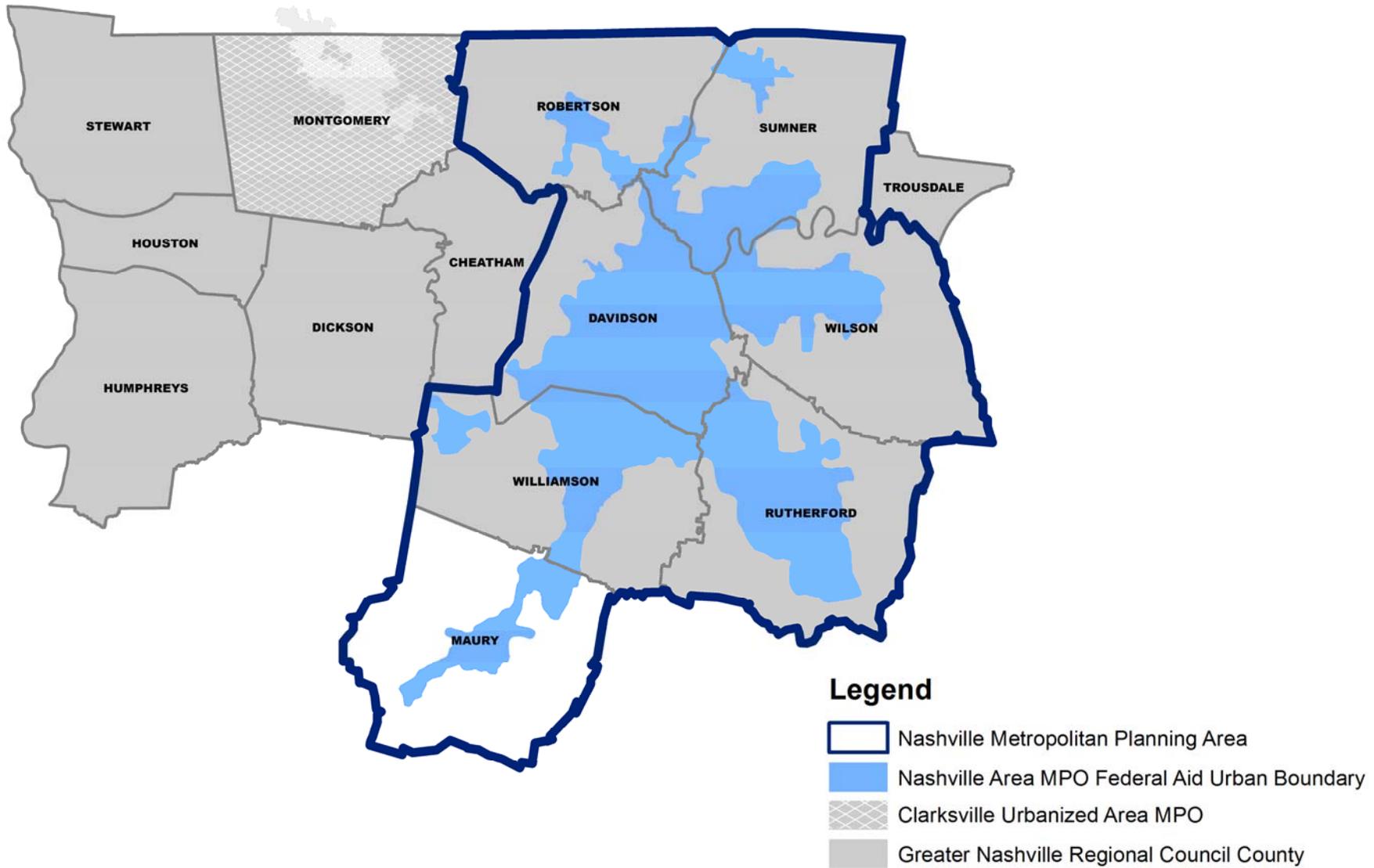
Next Scheduled Update

Under current federal law, the MPO's Public Participation Plan should be updated periodically to reflect changes in the MPO's outreach methods or plan adoption procedures, or to account for changes in federal law that regulates or guides the MPO planning process.

Beginning in October 2017, the MPO will coordinate a major update of the PPP with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and other federal, state, and local agencies. This update will include an evaluation of the techniques and methods used to engage the public and interested stakeholders, and of the formal procedures used to adopt and amend MPO plans and programs. The adoption process for will include a federally-required 45-day public review and comment period. The draft plan will be publicly noticed in area newspapers, and made available in libraries and on the MPO's website at the following link.

http://www.nashvillempo.org/public_notices/public_comment.aspx

Attachment A. Map of the MPO Planning Area



Attachment B. Office Locations and Key Contact Information

Office Location and Hours

GNRC offices for MPO and transportation planning program staff are located on the third floor of 138 Second Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37201. GNRC administrative offices are located on the sixth floor of 501 Union Street, TN 37219. Offices are open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on holidays.

Telephone/ Fax Numbers

- GNRC Main Number: 615-862-8828
- GNRC Fax Number: 615-862-8840
- MPO/ Transportation Planning Section: 615-862-7204

Websites

- Main GNRC Website: <http://www.GNRC.org>
- MPO/ Transportation Planning Website: <http://www.NashvilleMPO.org>
- Online Database for MPO's Transportation Improvement Program: <http://TIP.NashvilleMPO.org>

Key Staff Contacts*

- MPO Coordinator, Michelle Lacewell, mlacewell@gnrc.org
- Transportation Improvement Programming, Anna Emerson, aemerson@gnrc.org
- Research and Data, Max Baker, mbaker@gnrc.org
- Policy and Legislation, Peter Westerholm, pwesterholm@gnrc.org
- GNRC Finance Director, Gayle Wilson, gwilson@gnrc.org
- GNRC Executive Director, Michael Skipper, mkipper@gnrc.org

*Emails sent to the old NashvilleMPO.org address will be automatically forwarded to GNRC.org addresses for all current GNRC staff who previously had a NashvilleMPO.org email address. In the meantime, please note the change in email addresses.



Livability. Sustainability. Prosperity. Diversity.