

Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

Public Participation Plan



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Contents

Introduction	1
Organizational Structure	1
Figure 1 – GVMPO Organizational Chart	2
Table 1 – GVMPO Public Outreach Tools and Techniques Matrix	3
Work Products, Plans and Reports.....	7
Scope of the metropolitan transportation planning process	8
Figure 2 – Transportation Planning Region and Grand Valley MPO Planning Area	10

Introduction

This Public Participation Plan (PPP) is the foundation for a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process in the Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Area (GVMPA) and guides public participation activities conducted by the Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GVMPO). It encourages active public participation in identifying and commenting on transportation issues, plans, programs, and projects at every stage of the GVMPO's planning and project development processes. The reach of this plan also extends to the entire Grand Valley Transportation Planning Region (GVTPR), all of Mesa County. See Figure 2 on page 10 for a map of the planning areas.

The procedures for public involvement are designed to result in development and amendment of plans and programs that consider all transportation modes and that support community development and social goals. Those plans and programs will lead to the development and operation of an integrated, multimodal transportation system that facilitates the efficient and equitable movement of people and goods.

MAP-21 (<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/summaryinfo.cfm>) made a number of reforms to the metropolitan and statewide transportation planning processes, including incorporating performance goals, measures, and targets into the process of identifying needed transportation improvements and project selection.

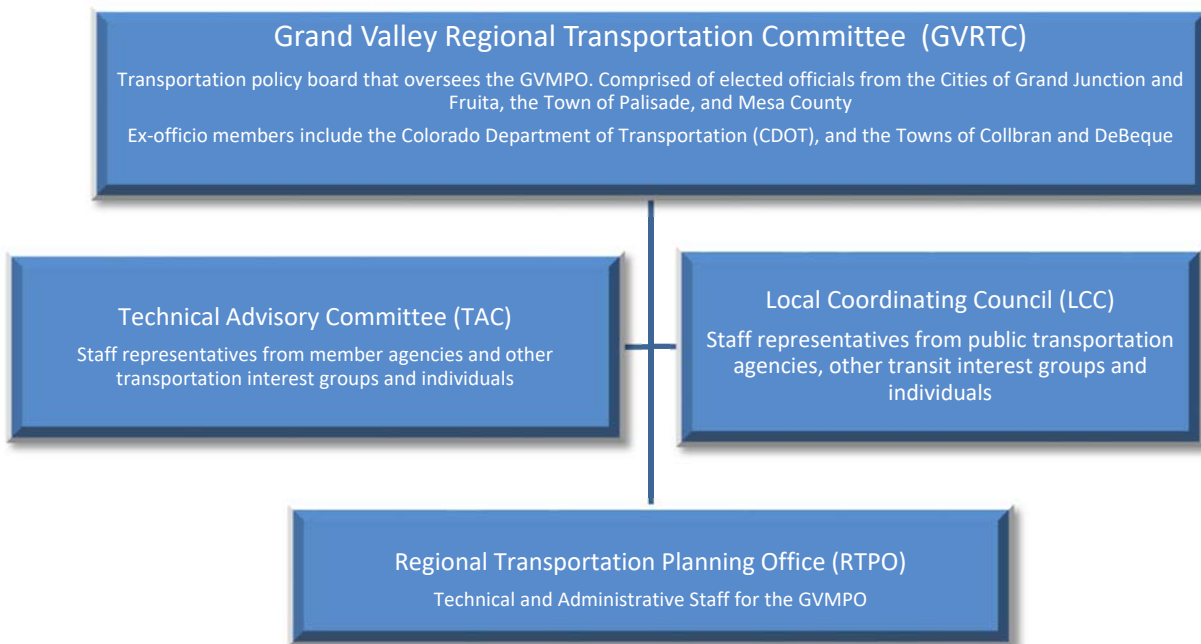
The FAST Act (<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/summary.cfm>) includes provisions to support and enhance these reforms. Public involvement remains a hallmark of the planning process.

The GVMPO strives to provide complete information, timely public notice, and full public access to key decisions by supporting early and continuing participation by the public in developing plans and programming transportation improvement funds. Citizens are encouraged to attend regular GVMPO committee meetings that are open to the public or to contact GVMPO staff to get information, provide input, and to voice concerns.

Organizational Structure

The GVMPO functions under a committee structure comprised of a transportation policy board – the Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee (GVRTC), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Local Coordinating Council (LCC), and partner agency staff.

Figure 1 – GVMPO Organizational Chart



This PPP is being developed with input from the TAC, GVRTC, and LCC. Additionally, this PPP is coordinated with Grand Valley Transit (GVT) and the transit contractor responsible for hiring and training drivers, providing safety training, and other functions required for day to day operations. GVT is overseen by the Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office. This PPP incorporates and provides additional guidance for current GVT policies pertaining to public engagement. In particular, Policies 2.0, 8.0, and 9.0 of the Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee (GVRTC) Policy and Procedures Manual.

The GVMPO and GVT, as a part of its continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning processes and regulatory compliance activities, produces numerous work products, plans and reports as shown in the left column of Table 1 – GVMPO Public Outreach Tools and Techniques Matrix. This matrix is used to consider and identify the most appropriate and feasible outreach tools and techniques for engaging the public. The work products, plans and reports are described in additional detail following the matrix in the section titled *Work Products, Plans and Reports*.

Table 1 – GVMPO Public Outreach Tools and Techniques Matrix is used to consider and identify the most appropriate and feasible outreach tools and techniques for engaging the public.

Outreach Tools and Techniques / GVMPO Activities	Regular Committee Meetings open to the public	Public Notice – publication of a legal notice or a display advertisement in the local newspaper (The Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction)	Website	Social Media	Newsletters & Flyers	Emails	Media Releases: Newspaper, Radio & Television	Booth Events & Other Pop-up Events	Surveys	Public Meetings & Public Open Houses, including Interactive Group Activities	Speakers Bureau for Presentations to Civic Groups & Chambers of Commerce	Presentations to City & Town Councils, Board of County Commissioners	Informational Postings on Buses and Transit Facilities	Additional Public Hearing Prior to Adoption
Program Administration														
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	Hold regular meetings with the TAC, to obtain their input on all documents, projects and funding determinations prior to submitting them to the Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee (GVRTC) for consideration.		Yes (1)			Yes								
Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee (GVRTC)	Hold regular public meetings with the GVRTC.		Yes (1)			Yes								
Local Coordinating Council (LCC)	Hold regular public meetings with the LCC.		Yes (1)		Optional but typical	Yes			Optional					
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)	Reviewed with TAC. Reviewed with GVRTC and adopted during public meeting.	Yes	Yes (1)	Optional	Optional	Optional								

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GVMPO Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects			Yes (1)	Optional	Optional	Optional								
Regional Transportation Planning														
Long Range Plan / Regional Transportation Plan	Reviewed with TAC. Reviewed with LCC. Reviewed with GVRTC and adopted during public meeting.	Optional	Yes (1)	Optional but typical	Optional but typical	Yes	Optional but typical	Optional but typical	Optional but typical	Yes	Optional and upon request	Optional and encouraged	Optional but typical	
Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC). Note CDOT hosts this committee meeting that is open to the public.	GVMPO staff participate and provide input on behalf of local partners and communities Mesa County-wide. The meeting is also open to public comment.		Yes (CDOT) (3)											
Statewide Transportation Plans	Reviewed with TAC and GVRTC.		Yes (CDOT) (2)	Yes	Yes			Optional but typical						

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Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)														
TIP (currently a rolling four-year TIP, updated annually)	Reviewed with TAC. Reviewed with GVRTC and adopted during public meeting.	Yes	Yes (1)	Optional but typical	Optional but typical									
TIP Amendments	Reviewed with TAC. Reviewed with GVRTC and adopted during public meeting.	Yes (for Policy Amendments)	Yes (1)	Optional but typical										
Program of Projects (POP) (transit projects as a part of the TIP)	Reviewed with TAC. Reviewed with GVRTC and adopted during public meeting.	Yes (for Policy Amendments)	Yes (1)(4)	Optional but typical	Optional but typical								Yes	Optional
Transportation, Transit, and Multimodal Planning														
Mesa County Coordinated Transit and Human Services Transportation Plan	Reviewed with TAC. Reviewed with LCC. Reviewed with GVRTC and adopted during public meeting.	Optional	Yes (1)	Optional but typical	Optional but typical	Optional but typical		Optional but typical	Optional but typical	Optional but typical			Optional but typical	
GVT Fare or Service Changes	Reviewed with TAC. Reviewed with LCC. Reviewed with GVRTC and adopted during public meeting.	Yes	Yes (1)(4)	Optional but typical	Optional but typical	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional			Yes	Yes
Title VI Plan for Mesa County as an FHWA Subrecipient	Reviewed with TAC. Approved by Mesa County Administrator.		Yes (5)											

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Title VI Plan and LEP Policy for GVT to meet FTA requirements	Reviewed with TAC. Reviewed with LCC. Reviewed with GVRTC and adopted during public meeting.	Yes	Yes (1)(4)	Optional	Optional					Yes				
Transit Asset Management Plan (TAMP)	Reviewed with TAC. Reviewed with GVRTC and adopted during public meeting.	Optional	Yes (1)	Optional	Optional									
Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASP)	Reviewed with TAC. Reviewed with GVRTC and adopted during public meeting.	Optional	Yes (1)(4)	Optional										
Strategic Plans	Reviewed with TAC. Reviewed with GVRTC and adopted during public meeting.	Optional	Yes (1)(4)	Optional	Optional	Optional			Optional	Optional but Typical	Optional and upon request	Optional and encouraged	Optional but Typical	

Websites:

- (1) <https://rtpo.mesacounty.us/>
- (2) <https://www.codot.gov/>
- (3) <https://www.codot.gov/programs/planning/planning-partners/stac.html>
- (4) <https://gvt.mesacounty.us/>
- (5) <https://www.mesacounty.us/>

Work Products, Plans and Reports

The following provides additional information for select items listed on Table 1.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The UPWP is prepared and adopted every two years, updated and amended for the second of the two years, and further amended as necessary by the GVRTC. The UPWP documents the transportation planning and related tasks to be accomplished during the coming two fiscal years. It sets the planning priorities of the GVMPO and directs the focus of staff resources. The UPWP helps assure that planning resources are allocated according to regional needs as identified by the Cities of Grand Junction and Fruita, the Town of Palisade, Mesa County, GVT, CDOT, FHWA, and FTA. The UPWP also serves as a management tool, a program budget, and includes anticipated financial resources and expenditures for the coming two fiscal years.

GVMPO Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects

Federal law, as required by MAP-21 and the FAST Act, require the GVMPO to make available for public review an annual listing of transportation projects for which federal funds have been obligated in the preceding year. This includes roadway, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit projects and operations. This document serves as a record of project delivery and as a progress report for public information and disclosure.

Regional Transportation Plan

To maintain the region's transportation system, ensure the efficient movement of people and goods, and support future growth and development, transportation services and infrastructure are planned and coordinated through a regional transportation planning process carried out by the GVMPO. The Regional Transportation Plan is required under federal regulations and is critical for the region to assess, prioritize, and fund future transportation improvements. This Plan is required to be updated every five years, in order to capture demographic, land use, technology and economic changes in the region and broader transportation industry.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The TIP is a four year capital improvement program for the urbanized area of the Grand Valley. The GVMPO is charged with carrying out comprehensive, cooperative transportation planning by:

- Coordinating projects in the urbanized area initiated by individual City, County, and State agencies;
- Defining project costs and the available financial resources;
- Prioritizing the projects to make the best use of available resources.

The TIP serves not only the need in this area for an efficient transportation system, but also satisfies regulations jointly issued by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), regarding the content and purpose of the program.

Grand Valley Transit Program of Projects (POP)

The GVT Program of Projects (POP) is the list of transit projects included in the GVMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) proposed to be funded through Federal Transit Administration grant programs. As a direct recipient of federal grants under 49 U.S. Code Section 5307, GVT will comply with the public participation requirements of Section 5307(c) (1) through (7). As the GVT Program of Projects is included in the GVMPO TIP, GVT will rely on the TIP Update or Amendment Process to meet these requirements. In the case that the typical TIP Update or Amendment Process does not meet these requirements, GVT will pursue additional measures or provide additional documentation to ensure that these requirements are fulfilled. This may include but is not limited to additional public meetings, narratives, or visualization techniques.

Mesa County Coordinated Transit and Humans Services Plan

The Mesa County Coordinated Transit and Humans Services Plan (CTHS) is a locally developed plan that coordinates public transit with other area transportation providers in the areas, particularly those that serve seniors, individuals with disabilities, and people with low incomes. Inclusion in this plan is a requirement to receive funding under the Section 5310 grant program. The CTHS Plan is typically updated alongside the GVMPO Regional Transportation Plan. The LCC members are key stakeholders in updating this plan.

Other Transit Plans

When other transit plans or programs are being developed, GVT will consult this PPP for guidance when engaging the public for these efforts. The application of public outreach tools will likely be based on similar plans or programs identified within the Public Outreach Tools and Techniques Matrix.

Scope of the metropolitan transportation planning process

- A) To accomplish the objectives in [§ 450.300](#) and [§ 450.306\(b\)](#), metropolitan planning organizations designated under [§ 450.310](#), in cooperation with the State and public transportation operators, shall develop long-range transportation plans and TIPs through a performance-driven, outcome-based approach to planning for metropolitan areas of the State.
- B) The metropolitan transportation planning process shall be continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive, and provide for consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services that will address the following factors:
1. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
 2. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
 3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
 4. Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight;

5. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
6. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
7. Promote efficient system management and operation;
8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system;
9. Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation; and
10. Enhance travel and tourism.

Figure 2 – Transportation Planning Region and Grand Valley MPO Planning Area

