Public Involvement Working Group Quarterly Webinar

April 17, 2017 at 2pm eastern time

Facilitator: Chris Ryan, Broward MPO

Attendees: Over 55 people participated in the webinar

# Welcome and Introductions

Chris Ryan opened the meeting and shared that there is a lot of interest in the working group. About sixty-seven people have signed up and there are about twenty-six people on the webinar right now. He asked attendees to quickly introduce themselves starting with states located west and moving east. Due to almost thirty additional people joining the webinar, Chris ended introductions early to ensure there would be enough time for discussion.

# Background and Purpose

-Why a public involvement working group?

-Mission and goals discussion

-Website

-Other activities related to the working group

-Determination of recurring meeting date and time

Bill thanked everyone for participating and shared background on the AMPO Public Involvement Working Group. AMPO is excited to provide an opportunity for peer exchange among MPOs and sharing of innovative work related to public involvement from around the country. Public involvement is a topic of interest at the AMPO Annual Conference and the upcoming Symposium in St. Louis. There is great positive momentum to move forward with.

Chris added that he does not want the group to be a burden to anyone. He has been asked about the level of involvement required for the group. He understands everyone is busy. Participants can be as involved as they would like. Please call the working group contacts if anyone has a particular area that they would like to be involved in.

Chris initiated a discussion on the mission and goals and asked if the group was okay with adopting them. The participants concurred. One participant tried to provide feedback, but due to static/feedback, the comment was not discernable. Chris requested the participant and if anyone else has feedback, to send it to the working group contacts after the meeting via email.

Chris explained that AMPO is setting up a website for the working group. It will include our mission and goals, working group contacts, and general resources as well as resources provided by working group members. He thanked the members who had already shared resources and requested that others share resources as well.

Chris asked Melissa to discuss the next agenda item. Melissa shared that a session entitled Public

Involvement, Title VI, Environmental Justice, and Equity in Practice would be held at the AMPO Planning Tools and Training Symposium on May 24 from 2-5pm. An attendee asked if the presentations from the session would be made available online. Melissa agreed that it would be great to share them.

Chris informed participants that the working group plans to hold quarterly webinars in March, June, September, and December. He asked participants to contact the AMPO if they are interested in presenting at an upcoming meeting. A participant asked if the meetings could be moved to January, April, July, and October to coincide with the TRB meeting in January. Chris agreed that coordination with TRB is good and shared that he and Melissa are on the TRB Public Involvement Committee. He explained, though, that due to funding limitations, it was not expected for the working group to meet in person. He also explained that October would conflict with the AMPO Annual Conference, which often features a public involvement session. An annual technical symposium is also expected each May. The proposed schedule tries to spread out the meetings.

A question was raised on the size of MPOs and workload requirements. Chris asked if the question was in reference to smaller MPOs whose staff can be stretched thin. He hopes this group will be able to provide them with resources and tools—for example, some MPOs have templates that they can share.

# Current and Emerging Issues Discussion

Chris explained that we put together a spreadsheet to track issues that are of interest to the group. The issues listed on the slides were taken from the Public Involvement Working Group discussion at the AMPO Annual Meeting and are grouped in six categories.

# Next Steps and Closing

Chris went over the next steps for the working group. AMPO will send out the link to the website with a summary of this webinar. He also asked participants to be on the lookout for the email that will schedule the June webinar.

Chris thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reminded participants to share public involvement resources from their MPO and to also let Rachel know if anyone is interested in presenting at an upcoming meeting.

# Contacts

Rachel Roper, AMPO, 202-624-3682 or rroper@ampo.org

Tiffany Currie, AMPO, 202-624-3686 or tcurrie@ampo.org

Chris Ryan, Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization

Linda Alvarado-Vela, Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Melissa Roberts, Atlanta Regional Commission

Amanda Wilson, North Central Texas Council of Governments