

From: [Joel Fitzpatrick](#)
To: [Brian Mulnix](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment Opportunity at Transportation Planning Meeting
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 10:35:58 AM

From: Joel Fitzpatrick
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2021 8:24 AM
To: canter2000@aol.com
Cc: Brian Mulnix (WMSRDC) <bmulnix@wmsrdc.org>; Erin Kuhn (WMSRDC) <ekuhn@wmsrdc.org>; Amy Haack <ahaack@wmsrdc.org>
Subject: RE: Public Comment Opportunity at Transportation Planning Meeting

Darma,

Thank you for your recent comments. We will make sure to include them in the next Tech and Policy packets. Please note that the MPO committees do not typically meet during the month of July so the next meetings will most likely take place during August. Please feel free to recruit anyone you would like to attend meetings. Members of the public have two opportunities to participate during each meeting. Also, if you will forward the names and emails of these interested individuals, we will make sure that they are included on the transportation stakeholder list to receive public notices going forward.

Joel Fitzpatrick
Transportation Planning Director
West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission
316 Morris Ave, Suite 340
Muskegon MI 49440

(231) 722-7878 ext. 160

From: canter2000@aol.com <canter2000@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 1:33 PM
To: Amy Haack <ahaack@wmsrdc.org>; Brian Mulnix <bmulnix@wmsrdc.org>; Joel Fitzpatrick <jfitzpatrick@wmsrdc.org>
Cc: ken.johnson@shorelinecity.com; marciawright@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Public Comment Opportunity at Transportation Planning Meeting

WMSRDC / MPO
Public Comment June 16, 2021

It is hard for me to get my mind around the purpose of this committee and the definition of "economic development." It seems like your interpretation is economic expansion and maintenance. I can't see your method for measuring the projects' impact on economic development, and I can't see how the MPO planning impacts the residents. Clearly the MDOT contract promotes environment justice and prohibits

disparate impact in order to protect the interests of minority communities; POC, Seniors, the Disabled, and segregated inner-city neighborhoods. I wonder about the efficacy of using census data to measure social justice outcomes.

I suspect the WMSRDC public participation plan is a failure because the commenters and their material isn't discussed, accepted, denied or responded to. The Public Participation Plan makes an odd gesture to minority communities by soliciting corporations as representatives. This actually excludes the knowledge and experiences of individuals by asking publicly funded service providers what their clients need and want. This application creates representation by people who are paid to participate and ignores the important information about the impact of your decisions on the quality of life. Seniors, the disabled, low-income families don't need someone to speak for them. They do need WMSRDC to support them with appropriate LEP documents and reports.

My purpose in participating as a senior resident with a disability is to assure my community is well-served by your decisions allocating our taxpayer dollars. There are many other people who have specialized knowledge you need to maintain our independent lives. For many seniors and people with disabilities our lives are not expanding but shrinking and narrowing. Transportation systems can increase our independence and self-sufficiency for a population that can no longer drive safely. You seem on the verge of abandoning this segment of the population and I urge you to seek out their advice and guidance for planning publicly funded transportation projects.

Again, I will assist WMSRDC to identify and support a panel of people with information critical to successful community development.

I hope to have your reply soon,
Darma J Canter

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Haack <ahaack@wmsrdc.org>

To: Amy Haack <ahaack@wmsrdc.org>

Sent: Wed, Jun 9, 2021 2:02 pm

Subject: Public Comment Opportunity at Transportation Planning Meeting

Public Comment Sought at Transportation Committee Meeting on June 16, 2021

The Muskegon and Northern Ottawa County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which is responsible for transportation planning in the area, is seeking public comment on the transportation planning process. The planning process includes the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the Fiscal Year 2020 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Program of Projects (POP), and other agenda items.

The TIP is developed in a cooperative effort between federal, state, and local officials and serves as the final link in the transportation planning process. Its primary purpose is to identify transportation programs and projects to be funded with federal aid in accordance with federal law and regulations. This plan is an outline of the transportation needs of Muskegon County and Northern Ottawa County for the next four years. The LRTP is a look at the MPO's future transportation network and is to be used as a guideline for transportation investment. The FTA POP includes 5307 and 5308 funds for the Muskegon Area Transit System and Harbor Transit. Recommendations for new construction, safety improvements, congestion (traffic) management, air quality, non-motorized, transit, planning, etc. will be accepted.

A public comment period is scheduled at the Policy Committee Meeting on June 16, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting is being held virtually using a video and telephone call in format. As in an in person meeting, the public will be given an opportunity to make public comment during the established agenda items at the beginning and end of the meeting. If possible, please mute your phone and only unmute to make a public comment during the established times. Thank you. Information to join the meeting by video or telephone and meeting materials will be available on the event calendar at www.wmsrdc.org.

You are receiving this correspondence because you, your agency, and/or organization are considered important in the transportation planning process. For more information or to view a hard copy of the meeting materials, contact Joel Fitzpatrick, Transportation Planning Director, WMSRDC, 316 Morris Avenue Suite 340, P.O. Box 387, Muskegon Michigan 49443-0387, (231) 722-7878 ext. 160, or by email at jfitzpatrick@wmsrdc.org. To garner additional outreach, please post this notice on public information boards if applicable.